

Edition 2

Summer 2015

- **Introduction from Lead Officer of Youth Services & Community Learning**

Welcome to the second edition of the Youth Services Partnership Newsletter. I hope that you find this edition valuable and enlightening on aspects of youth work in the Vale of Glamorgan.

The Youth Service has provided information on approaches to partnership working and collaboration within the Local Authority and other partners.

The Vale Youth Service have been part in the staff briefing sessions for re-shaping services and are actively engaged in the reshaping agenda. Staff are looking at ways forward to make youth services cost effective and better value for money in delivering the best service to young people. We would welcome input from our partners and colleagues in the youth sector on how we might accomplish this.

If you have any views or comments on the newsletter please let us know.

Andrew Borsden

Lead Officer Youth & Community Learning

- **Youth Engagement & Progression Framework (YEPF)**

The Local Authority was visited by Teresa Holdsworth Deputy Director of the Youth Engagement and Employment to see what we have achieved over the year. The Local Authority has been held as an example of good practice in some areas of the implementation of the Framework. A formative evaluation of the Youth Engagement Progression Framework will be released towards the end of July.

Some of our achievements so far:

- Implementation of the Early Identification tool in all comprehensive schools, with a 35% reduction in high risk young people at becoming NEET across all schools.
- The brokerage system has allowed appropriate provision to be targeted in some schools such as Guidance to Engagement programme providing youth work support to cohorts of high risk young people.
- We have set up a Lead Worker Network consisting of school representatives, training providers, Communities First, JCP, Careers Wales, Glamorgan Voluntary Service.
- We are working jointly with the Education department in school panels to discuss provision for high risk NEET young people.
- Concentrated one to one youth worker support targeted at high risk NEET young people through the YEPF, progressing young people into education, volunteering or training.

For more information please contact Nisha Shukla on 01446 709457 or email

NShukla@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

- **Targeted Services**

Guidance to Engagement Programme (G2E)

G2E Schools has been working hard with young people throughout the county. The focus of our work has been with year 11 students on completing their accreditations before the summer holidays. The Programme has been working with various year groups towards BTEC Level 1 and Level 2 SWEET courses, and with all groups to achieve a variety of accreditations before the end of the academic year.

For more information please contact Dewi Thomas Flexible Learning Officer on 01446 738667 or email DThomas@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

The Pulse Detached Youth Work team

The Pulse Detached Youth Work Team are continuing to work across the Vale of Glamorgan with young people in their communities, recently the team have been nominated along with local partners for the Police & Crime Commissioner Partnership Award; This showcases how the project has successfully worked with partners and agencies to develop confidence and respect in the community by completing a Holton Road clean up; we cleaned up graffiti, painted over areas of vandalism, swept lanes, got rid of tipped waste and general brightening up of the area.



The Pulse Detached Youth Work team



As part of the Holton road project the Pulse Detached Youth Work Team have also worked with professionals to develop and support an Art Mural project to try and combat issues of graffiti and vandalism in the main lane behind King Square. Working with an artist we have supported young people to take ownership and gain respect of the area by contributing time and effort to pain the art murals and to gain some new skills. Over the half term young people attended the Castleand Community Centre to take part. This was a fun project and we can't wait to be part of the opening and launch of the art itself.

V-Pod Mobile Provision

Most people know that in December 2014 we lost one of our biggest partners 'Vibe Experience'. The Mobile Provision 'V-Pod' has since been used internally within the Local Council Youth Services. The mobile provision is being used in the evenings, weekends and during school holidays to engage young people in the community. The V Pod is a great resource that the Vale Youth Service is looking to hire out to partners/businesses for local events, the bus includes resources on board. Alternatively, we are able to create individual packages for agencies or services that require additional items or resources.



For further information on how to hire the V-pod or to discuss your needs please contact the Targeted and Inclusion Projects manager- Rhys Jones by email at rhejones@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or telephone 01446 709373

Welsh Language Youth Project in the Vale

The Welsh language youth project is a partnership between Urdd Gobaith Cymru, Vale Youth Service and the Vale Voluntary Action Scheme.

A Welsh Language Youth Worker is based in Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg providing various opportunities for young people to develop skills through the medium of Welsh.

Over 100 young people have gained accreditation through the project, including the following courses:

- Junior Youth Leadership OCN
- Sports Leaders OCN
- Cake Decoration – Agored Cymru
- Team Building OCN

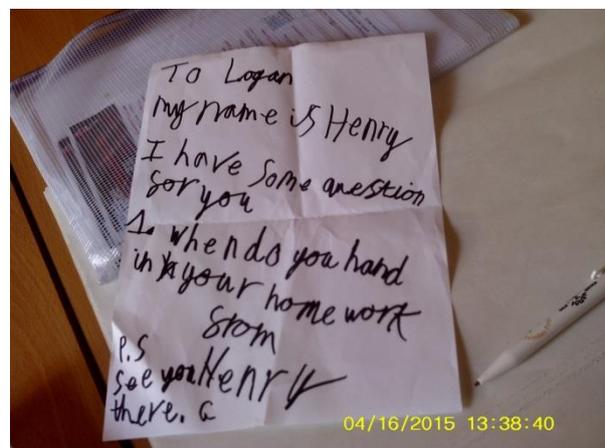
Other activities include helping young people to organise Welsh music projects, support the school radio and celebrating the achievements of young people learning the language.

In Barry, a Welsh language youth club hosts over 30 young people weekly. The youth club provides various activities such as CV writing, cooking workshops, graffiti workshops, sport sessions and much more.

For more information, please contact Sion Summer by e-mail on sion@urdd.org or telephone 07768 333 120

Schools Transition Programme

Schools Transition Officers have been working with vulnerable groups and individuals from primary schools across the Vale of Glamorgan since January, preparing them for their transfer into secondary school. Young people were encouraged to explore their feelings and share their concerns about the transition and sessions were tailored to meet the needs of the group or individual. Visits to secondary





schools were planned and organised and young people were fully involved in this process. During visits, young people were given opportunities to meet key members of staff, ask current year seven pupils questions as well as have a tour of their new school visiting teachers and classes. This helps young people to become more familiar with the environment, whilst Transition Officers helped to alleviate any misconceptions and concerns.

Communication with all agencies has been constant, with a view to ensuring a successful transition for the young people.

Parents and carers of young people on the transition programme have been invited to events across secondary schools, where they will have the opportunity to meet Transition Officers (if they have not already done so) and key members of staff at schools to ask questions, share concerns and this hopes to encourage good communications between schools and parents/carers in readiness for September.

For more information please contact Kate Welsh on 01446 709401 or email kwelsh@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or Derryn Gibbon on dlgibbon@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

- **Universal Services & Curriculum**

The Vale Youth Service hosted a Youth Awards event celebrating the achievements of young people from across the Vale. This event recognised the progress and accomplishments of young people in relation to personal development, contribution to their local communities and participation in accredited opportunities such as Duke of Edinburgh and Agored Cymru courses. The event was funded by the Children and Young People’s Partnership Board and was attended by young people and the organisations supporting them. Some local young people performed at the Youth Award event and the night was an overall successful with fantastic feedback from all that attended.



For more information please contact Kim Wagstaff Curriculum and Attainment Officer on 01446 792141 or email KLWagstaff@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

- **Participation**

Youth Cabinet

Members of the Youth Cabinet recently received recognition for their volunteer hours at the recent Vale Youth Service Presentation evening where they received 50, 100 and 200 hour certificates accredited by Millennium Volunteers.



The Youth Cabinet are currently collecting the views of young people who use school transport in the Vale. After several issues were raised at the Vale Youth Forum meetings, the Youth Cabinet has created a survey looking into young people's opinions and experiences of school transport. The survey is available online at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VOGYCschooltransport>. Once all the information has been

collected the Youth Cabinet will put a report together for the School Transport Department and make recommendations.

Members of the Vale Youth Forum and Youth Cabinet have also been working with the National Assembly for Wales and Cardiff Youth Council to plan a Youth Conference on Wednesday 15th July. Members have designed the event which will include a launch of the Votes@16 consultation report, a Q&A session with the main political party leaders, interactive workshops and guest speakers. Members will be giving speeches on the day as well as helping facilitate the event.

For more information or if you would like to contact the youth cabinet please email: valeyouthcabinet@gmail.com.

Youth Service's Rights Ambassadors achievements recognised

Young people from the Rights Ambassadors project were proud to be presented with awards at the recent Vale Youth Service Presentation Evening. The young people, aged between eleven and twenty-five, were presented with certificates for Level 2 accredited awards in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) unit.

The Rights Ambassadors project is run by the Vale of Glamorgan Youth Service and financed by the Children and Young People's Partnership. The project enables young people from across the county to help fulfil the Welsh Government's key aim of raising awareness of the UNCRC amongst children, young people and adults. During the project's first year the young



volunteers participated in extensive training, developed and delivered five workshops and have achieved twenty-seven accredited outcomes between them.

Over the next twelve months the young people plan to deliver a further fifteen workshops to schools, youth organisations and town councils, recruit more young volunteers, and create a Training Conference for the Children's Commissioner for Wales' Super Ambassadors, who are pupils from primary schools.

For more information, or if you would like to contact the Rights Ambassadors project, please email thepoint@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Achievements of young people from Youth Service's Youth Action Groups recognised

Young people from Penarth Youth Action and Llantwit Youth Council were proud to be presented with awards at the recent Vale Youth Service Presentation Evening. The young people, aged between eleven and eighteen, received accredited Millennium Volunteers Awards in recognition of their volunteering.

Youth Action Groups are partnership projects between the Vale of Glamorgan Youth Service and town councils in Penarth, Llantwit Major and Barry. The original youth action group in Penarth has now been running six years and has been described by Councillor Lis Burnett as a “beacon of youth participation in Wales”. Penarth Youth Action has recently been involved in developing a consultation about youth provision in



Penarth, the town council’s Biodiversity project and the Welsh Government’s Local Government consultation. Penarth Youth Action’s participation on the town’s Interim Momentum Group, where they work with groups and individuals in the town to develop and implement the Penarth Town Plan, has recently been praised by Councillor Neil Thomas.



Llantwit Youth Council, which was established two years ago, has recently finished running a Primary School competition to name a local park and been involved in the consultation about the future of Llantwit Major Youth Centre, taken action to reduce dog fouling on pavements in the town, and provided feedback to the Welsh Government’s Votes for 16 Year Olds consultation. Llantwit Youth Council members also delivered a workshop to

town councillors on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The newest Youth Action Group is in Barry where the youth councillors have recently completed extensive training in which they created a code of conduct, explored the role of youth action groups, created role descriptions and a Terms of Reference, learnt about town and county councils, and developed an understanding of participation structures and representation.

For more information or to contact one of the youth action groups, please email valeyouthaction@gmail.com

For more information on please contact Participation Officer Van de Voorde on 029 20701254 or email VVanDeVoorde@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk