



# What's been going on?

## April – August 2016

Created by VYF members



### Message from the Vale Youth Forum Chair – Erin Jay Jennings

It's been another busy term for the VYF. We've elected a new and passionate Youth Cabinet; we've helped the Council make a digital animation about the work they do; some members attended the Youth Excellence awards in Llandudno where the Youth Cabinet were awarded for their school transport report; and we've also held our AGM. On top of that, members have supported the Youth Mayor fundraiser and taken part in the Members of UK Youth Parliament, Don't Hate Educate workshop. As chair I've also had the opportunity to attend a youth camp in Belgium to meet other youth councils from towns twinned with the Vale.



### Going digital

This term we had a really good opportunity to work with a digital animation company and help design the Council's first digital animation. The video gives an overview of the Council's priorities which are highlighted in the Corporate Plan called Strong Communities with a Bright Future. The video explains what the Council wants to achieve in the next couple of years and how they will provide services to all the different residents in the Vale. The animation was launched at our AGM by the Operations Manager for Performance and Policy. You can watch the video on the Council's YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4lEmv9K6us>.



Your Assembly @yourassembly · Jun 16  
BLOG: @vysvale representatives @AssemblyWales Official Opening of the Fifth Assembly ow.ly/EYwc301jHy9

### The Royal Opening

On 07.06.16, VYF members along with representatives from Barry Youth Action, Penarth Youth Action and Llantwit Youth Council travelled to Cardiff Bay. Why? It was for an extremely important event that only occurs every five years and we got to attend and represent young people from the Vale. It was the Royal Opening of the National Assembly for Wales, attended by none other than Her Majesty, the Queen! The Duchess of Cornwall greeted us, accompanied by Prince Charles, who took Daley's eagerly offered flag. There were gunshots fired and a gun salute. The Queen declared the new First Minister and the Senedd was officially opened ready for business.

### Not the Usual Hustings

In April, some members attended the 'Not the Usual Hustings' event at Infinity Trampoline Park in Cardiff. We had the opportunity to speak to politicians from different political parties and we questioned them on housing, youth services, drug use and education. We'd like to thank the Boys and Girls Club of Wales for putting on the event. It was a great opportunity to learn more about politics ahead of the Welsh Assembly Elections and we got to go on the trampolines too.



### Young Wales

Members have still been attending the Young Wales Anti-Bullying & Hate Crime Network run by Children in Wales. They are currently working on creating a national consultation for young people and professionals.

CardiffYouthCouncil @CardiffYC · Jul 7  
Great Grand Council event thanks to all Cardiff schools and youth forums from across South Wales who attended

### Our new Member of UK Youth Parliament is ...

Congratulations to our new Member of UK Youth Parliament, Charlotte, and Deputy Bronwen. Both were elected and will be co-ordinating the Make Your Make campaign 2016 and taking forward to new UKYP campaign in 2017. Charlotte attended a training day in Cardiff run by Cardiff Youth Council and Children in Wales in preparation for her new role and the UKYP annual sitting which will take place in the House of Commons in November 2016.



## Fforwm Ieuenctid y Fro

Ers Ebrill rydan ni wedi cael tymor hynnod o frydur yn y Fforwm gan fod ein holl aelodau wedi bod yn gweithio'n galed ar sawl prosiect wahanol trwy'r misoedd. I ddechrau cafon ni etholiad ar gyfer ein Gabinet Ieuenctid newydd, a chafodd Daniel, Niclas, Tom, Rhys, Daley a Bronwen eu hethol. Hefyd, cafodd aelodau newydd o'r Llywodraeth Ifanc Prydeinig eu hethol, Charlotte fel yr aelod, a Bronwen fel yr is aelod. Yn ychwanegol, cododd y Maer Ieuenctid - Dan, £308.73 ar gyfer y Fforwm trwy bacio bagiau a gweithio'n galed fel grwp. Yn olaf, cawsom ein Gyfarfod Gyffredinol Blyneddol ym mis Gorffennaf, ble trafodwn gydag aelodau o'r Cabinet a phobl pwysig ar gyfer pobl ifanc yn y Fro megis Jane Hutt. Yn ogystal a hynny, siarodd Emily a Bronwen am yr ymgyrch 'Don't Hate Educate' gyda Llywodraeth Ifanc Prydain, er mwyn trafod hiliaeth am bobl o'r crefyddau Islam ac Iddewiaeth. Roedd hyn yn hynnod o ddiddorol ac yn llawn gwybodaeth newydd i bawb. Rydan ni i gyd yn edrych ymael at y dyfodol!



### Having Our Say

Members have taken part in consultation workshops this term to ensure young people influence different levels of decision making.



National Outcomes Framework for Youth Work - members took part in a workshop to give their views on the Youth Work Charter.



Members were able to give their opinions on how youth work should support young people and what opportunities should be on offer.



Our scrutiny rep has continued to attend the Vale Council Learning and Culture committee to give his views on all agenda items.



### Don't Hate Educate!

This year the MYPs for 2015-16, Emily and Bronwen, have supported the Don't Hate Educate campaign to tackle racism and religious discrimination in our communities. At the last meeting of the term, they delivered a workshop to raise awareness of the campaign and education members about Islam and Judaism which is what the campaign focussed on. Every member made a pledge to tackle racism and religious discrimination in their own way and we created a display board to show our commitment.

### Our Annual General Meeting

In July we held our Annual General Meeting and it was great to see so many of the trustees and members there together. We'd also like to thank the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Eddie Williams for attending. This was a great opportunity to showcase what we have achieved since our last AGM and discuss what we want to work on in the future. The meeting was chaired by Erin and Ellis and they did a great job. One of our members gave a really important presentation about being a young carer and we have agreed to help young carers in the next term. Sadly the chair of the trustees, Jane Hutt AM stepped down from her position as chair but we'd like to thank her for all her support over the years.

### Twinning

As the chair of the VYF I attended a youth camp with members of the youth cabinet this summer. The youth camp was supported by the Vale Twinning Association and the Youth Service. We met youth councils from Mouscron, Fecamp and Rheinfelden, the towns twinned with the Vale. We learnt about their history and traditions and how their youth council works. It was a great week!



### Youth Mayor Fundraiser

This year the Youth Mayor, Daniel Marshall, decided to raise money for the VYF. He arranged a bag-packing event at Asda in Barry on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July. We spent the day packing people's bags and informing them about the work we do. In total, £308.73 was raised and we plan to spend it on promotion and recruitment of new members.

**For more detail please contact [valeyouthforum@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:valeyouthforum@hotmail.co.uk)  
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