

Edition 1

Spring 2015

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

Welcome to the first edition of the Vale Youth Services Partnership Newsletter.

This newsletter presents an opportunity to readers to know more about the positive and constructive partnership work being undertaken, including the achievements of young people, and the recent activities and projects provided to young people across the Vale.

It is important to be aware of how Youth Services are structured and fits into the Vale of Glamorgan, Local Authority, and as part of a wider Youth Support Service context.

Currently the Youth Services Team is located centrally in the Civic Offices, with some key colleagues in Provincial House and the Vale Youth HUB. Youth Services are structured into 2 parts *Targeted Services* and *Universal Curriculum Services*. The service is established to meet the agenda of Extending Entitlement, the Youth Work Strategy for Wales and the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework. The services provided are also cross cutting between Youth Services and Local Authority Education School Improvement and Inclusion service, and one of our goals is to reduce young people at risk of becoming or are Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET) but also to enable young people to reach their full potential in the transition into adulthood.

I hope the first edition proves to be informative, if you have any views or comments on this newsletter please let us know.

Andrew Borsden  
Lead Youth Services  
Vale of Glamorgan Council

- **Youth Engagement & Progression Framework**

### **Implementation Plan and Strategy**

Welsh Government launched the YEPF in 2013 to reduce the number of young people Not in Education Employment or Training, targets are set to reduce:-  
Number of NEETs aged 16-18 to 9% in Wales as a whole by 2017; and a reduce the proportion of young people aged 19-24 who are NEET in Wales relative to the UK as a whole by 2017.

The YEPF plan has been submitted to Welsh Government and approved for 2015/16. The plan covers 6 elements of the framework to reduce the number of NEET young people, work will be focused on:-

1. Early identification of young people at risk of becoming NEET
2. Brokerage of provision and coordinated support to young person through a lead worker role
3. Tracking of a young person through better monitoring and evaluation of support
4. Increase provision of education, employment and training opportunities to meet the youth guarantee and existing offers
5. Employability - better engagement between learning providers and employers to ensure young people have the skills for sustained employment
6. Local Authority are accountable for the strategic and operational lead for the implementation of the YEPF

As a result of the YEPF the Vale has reduced its NEETs figures from 3.8% in 2013 to 2.7% in 2014.

### **Lead Worker Guidance and Directory**

There are two offers to young people through the YEPF:

- 1) Allocation of a Lead Worker role to young people at high risk of becoming NEET or are already NEET to meet their needs
- 2) Youth Guarantee to ensure every young person has access to a suitable place of learning post 16

The directory for lead workers can be found on the Vale of Glamorgan Council Website

[http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/working/education\\_and\\_skills/Youth-Engagement-Guidance-and-Directory/Youth-Engagement-Directory.aspx](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/working/education_and_skills/Youth-Engagement-Guidance-and-Directory/Youth-Engagement-Directory.aspx)

**For more information please contact Nisha Shukla on 01446 709457 or email [NShukla@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:NShukla@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)**

- **Targeted Services**

### **The Vale Youth Street Team**

The Vale Youth Street Team is a small team of youth support workers responsible for delivering activities to young people within the local community using the V-Pod Mobile Youth Provision, the Rollers Project and the Pulse Team.

#### *The V-Pod*

The V-Pod is a Mobile Youth Centre converted from a bus, and is fitted with an array of media equipment to provide young people with opportunities to learn new skills. Equipment include Apple iMacs and MacBooks, iPads, video and stills cameras, music production equipment, DJ decks and a satellite providing an internet connection. The V-Pod also holds two PlayStation 4's, and Xbox One and a Nintendo Wii along with various resources used for educational use and leisure. By large the provision is used to prevent youth crime and anti-social behaviour, and to prevent young people becoming Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) through intervention work, signposting and referrals. The V-Pod was recently used to support the Safer Vale Partnership in a community clean-up of a lane running adjacent to Holton Road and is also being used to support Communities First in the consultation of redeveloping the George Street play area.

#### *The Rollers Project*

The Rollers project is a facility of mobile ramps that can be used for skating, cycling and use of scooters which can be used to form a small skate park within local communities or be used to enhance fixed skate parks throughout the authority. The ramps are transported using the Rollers van, or can be used by partner agencies following training and can be transported using a trailer.

#### *Pulse Team*

The Pulse team consists of youth workers funded through the Youth Crime Prevention Fund delivering detached youth work to young people and a one-to-one mentoring programme for young people at risk of youth offending. Working in partnership with the Safer Vale Partnership and South Wales Police, the team work in youth hot-spot areas to engage with young people and provide interventions, information and advice along with diversionary activities. This work has contributed to a dramatic decrease youth crime and anti-social behaviour over the past year with some areas seeing a 50% reduction. The team also have two mentoring workers that work with young people referred from the Youth Offending Service, FACT and Education to provide intensive one-to-one support programmes over 12 weeks to prevent those young people from becoming first time entrants into the criminal justice system and where applicable keep them in education.

**For more information please contact Jason Harvey Community Cohesion Officer by telephone on 01446 745820 or email [jharvey@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:jharvey@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk) or Rhys Jones Targeted and Inclusion Manager [rhejones@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:rhejones@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)**

### **Guidance to Engagement Programme (G2E)**

The Guidance 2 Engagement programme is a training provider run by the Vale of Glamorgan Youth Service. Young people are referred to the programme after becoming permanently excluded from main stream Education for a variety of different reasons. 5 Qualified Youth Workers and a Flexible Learning officer oversee the day to day running of the programme.

The programme aims to improve young people's attendance by offering transport to and from the programme each day. Young people take part in a set curriculum that is designed to improve their essential skills, understanding of emotional responses, behaviour management and help prepare them for work. Young people gain qualifications that are recognised on the National Framework ranging from entry Level, Level 1-2 and Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Silver depending on ability.

G2E has successfully delivered 365 sessions and engaged and progressed young people with the following outcomes:-

No of Achievements in soft outcomes	539
No of Local Accredited outcomes	136
No of National Accredited Outcomes	116

**For more information please contact Dewi Thomas Flexible Learning Officer on 01446 738667 or email [DThomas@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:DThomas@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)**

### **G2E Schools**

The G2E Schools project is a programme that is organised and facilitated by the Vale of Glamorgan Youth Service. The project works with groups of young people, within secondary schools, who are at risk of becoming disengaged or who are already disengaged from education. The project employs youth workers who provide focussed, and bespoke sessions, around accreditation and attainment opportunities for example, Agored Cymru Units (ACUs) and the SWEET\* BTEC in Personal and Social Development. The team, now standing at four members of staff has been working in partnership with Barry Comprehensive School, Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School, St. Richard Gwyn R. C. High School and also Cardiff and Vale College.

Since September, the G2E Schools project has undertaken over 450 sessions with young people and has worked with a total of 196 individual young people, with the total number of

contacts with young people across the sessions being 2728. As part of the work that is being done across the schools and CAVC, there have been 32 young people registered on the Level 1 SWEET\* course, and 15 young people registered on the Level 2 SWEET\* course

**For more information please contact Peter Williams Youth Worker in Charge 01446 709308 or email [pjwilliams@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:pjwilliams@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)**

### **Emojis Project**

The Emoji's project is a Families first funded provision. The young people who attend the project have been referred by FACT (Families Achieving Change Together) for varying reasons. The project runs over a 10 week period aiming to empower the young people to express themselves and to build their confidence and self-esteem levels.

The project helps young people to express their feelings in a safe manner and enable them to form better relationships with peers and families. Staff members are fully qualified youth workers with specialism's in health, understanding relationships and emotional responses.

The young people take part in a wide range of activities during their time on the project all with the aim of improving their confidence, self-esteem, communication skills and emotional understanding. Young people have also achieved 41 Local accreditation outcomes to date. The course has led young people being nominated for the Vale Youth Service's Young Achievers award.

**For more information please contact Dewi Thomas Youth Worker In Charge on 01446 738667 or email [DThomas@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:DThomas@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)**

### **School Transitions Programme**

School Transition programme is delivered in all primary schools and Llantwit Youth Café and offers support to a young person using a multi-agency approach as they move from primary to secondary school. The programme ensures that all young people and their parents or carers who may have concerns, experience support and success as they transfer between the two schools. Young people are supported according to their need from year 5/6 all the way to year 8. The programme enables young people to help build confidence and resilience of young people to reach their potential as they enter and progress through secondary school. In 2014/15 the project helped 366 young people through transitions.

This project also includes identified vulnerable individuals within the Communities First Cluster by offering one-to-one support to look at any issues that may affect their success in secondary school.

**For more information please contact Kate Welsh on 01446 709401 or email [kwelsh@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:kwelsh@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk) or Derryn Gibbon on [dlgibbon@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:dlgibbon@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)**

- **Vale Participation**

The Vale Youth Service Participation Team works with young people in the Vale to get their voices heard. The team work with young people on local to county wide issues. There are various projects including Youth Action Groups, the Vale Youth Forum, Vale Youth Cabinet and projects designed to raise awareness of Children’s Rights, the UNCRC and democracy.

Congratulations to Adam Hughes who has been involved in multiple Participation projects over the last couple of years and has recently found employment with Vale of Glamorgan Council as a Foundation Modern Apprentice.

Adam has been a dedicated member of the Vale Youth Forum who represented Vale People First during his time on the Forum. He has also been part of the Young Inspector’s project and been part of a team who inspected and awarded several schools and youth organisations the Participation Standards Kitemark. Adam also became part of the Young People’s recruitment and selection panel interviewing several members of the Youth Service.



The Vale Youth Service Participation Team would like to thank Adam for all his hard work and commitment over the years and wish him every success for the future.

### **Rights Ambassadors project**

Eleven young people from across the Vale of Glamorgan volunteered last November to be part of a brand new youth service initiative called Rights Ambassadors. As part of the project young people have completed their Level 2 ACU on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child from Agored Cymru, and developed workshops that they are now delivering to children, young people and adults across the county. Raising awareness of the UNCRC



was one of the sixteen key points raised by the United Nations in its previous Concluding Observations for Wales.

The wide range of activities employed by the Vale Youth Service in the delivery of the course also supported young people's development of key transferable skills. Rights Ambassadors have also been able to accumulate substantial hours towards Millennium Volunteer Certificates

**For more information please contact Van de Voorde on 029 20701254 or email [VVanDeVoorde@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:VVanDeVoorde@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)**

- **Universal Services & Curriculum**

It has been a busy term for Vale Youth Service youth clubs across the Vale. Since January 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 we have made contact with 531 individuals, delivered 260 sessions Vale wide and made 3456 contacts with individuals through session delivery. We have worked in partnership with Llandough Out Loud to develop and deliver the LOL youth club in Penarth. We have also developed the Elfed Youth Club provision and work closely with Elfed Avenue Church in offering this facility to young people.

#### **Curriculum**

A unique and diverse curriculum is being delivered with in youth club across the Vale. Since January we have worked closely with numerous organisations to deliver sessions on important and diverse topics. Ash Wales have delivered sessions in all 12 of our youth clubs to raise awareness around smoking and to tackle tobacco use and to give advice to young people on giving up smoking. Some young people who took part in these sessions have filmed a short film with Ash Wales, aimed at their peers to persuade them not to smoke. These young people are currently editing their films with youth workers in club, in order that they can submit these to the Cut Films Wales 2015 competition.

#### **Show Racism the Red Card**

The educational charity Show Racism the Red Card have delivered sessions to young people in 6 of our youth clubs to raise awareness around racism and to tackle racism with in society. The feedback from young people regarding these session have been very positive.

## **Sexual Health**

The Vale Youth Service has also worked closely with international students from Atlantic College who have been attending youth clubs across the Vale to deliver sessions on LGBT. The aim of these sessions has been to work with young people and staff to increase awareness of LGBT and to reduce stereotyping and discrimination.

## **Vale Youth Clubs**

There have been many accreditation and attainment opportunities for young people to take part in when attending youth clubs. There are currently Agored taster course being delivered around music, media and crafts as well as Bronze and Silver Youth Inspire Awards and DofE. This term we have had 33 young people complete their Bronze DofE in youth clubs.

Vale Youth Clubs continue to deliver a range of sessions and a diverse curriculum that provides opportunities for young people to gain attainment, develop as individuals and as members of the wider community.

**For more information please contact Kim Wagstaff Curriculum and Attainment Officer on 01446 792141 or email [KLWagstaff@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:KLWagstaff@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk) or Nadia Stanton Universal Curriculum Services Manager [NJStanton@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:NJStanton@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)**