

Scrutiny Committee



Scrutiny Review

Youth Provision in the Vale of Glamorgan

Members Report

February 2006

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The Vale of Glamorgan Council
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FOREWORD



Chairman Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Chris P. Franks

I am pleased to present Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee's Report on Youth Provision in the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

The decision to scrutinise how the Council contributes to the provision of youth activities was taken following member engagement that highlighted this as a key priority for both the Council and Government.

The Council's priorities that link to youth provision through addressing partnership working, learning, safety, health and enjoyment are provided below:

Community Leadership - 'To work with partners from the voluntary, public, private and other sectors to deliver the shared vision for the future of the Vale and to ensure a coordinated approach to realising that vision'.

Lifelong Learning - 'To provide high quality, accessible learning opportunities which meet the needs of learners of all ages and to develop and promote a culture of lifelong learning for all.'

Community Wellbeing - 'To make the Vale a safe, healthy and enjoyable place in which individuals, children and families can live their lives to the full.'

The review considered the provision currently in place for our youths. This is principally provided through the Council's Learning and Development and Community Wellbeing Directorates and through the support the Council receives from its partners in the Voluntary Sector. Existing notable practice implemented by other councils was considered and informed the review and its recommendations.

I would like to thank the officers that contributed to the review for providing their full help and assistance and my colleagues on the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee for the effective way in which they have carried out their discussions with officers on what has proved to be a positive review for this Committee.

I hope that Members and the public will be reassured by this report and the recommendations of this Scrutiny Committee.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee has a responsibility to examine the work of the Council and its partners in the provision of services in the areas of Schools, Access and Inclusion, Lifelong Learning and Libraries, within the Vale of Glamorgan. Its task is to challenge, actively promote improvement and as appropriate, recommend ways in which greater benefit may be obtained for the community as a whole.

The review considered the Council's current management and organisational arrangements and how the council addresses young people issues through the engagement of the Vale Statutory Youth Service (SYS) and its partner organisations across the Vale.

There is an enormous and disparate range of funding sources available to the voluntary sector and where the Council's Youth Service works in partnership with other sectors. The time and bureaucracy challenges faced by youth workers from both the Council and the voluntary sector in meeting the conditions required to access the grants to run youth projects is acknowledged in the report.

The SYS has a duty to provide a youth work curriculum that includes educational, expressive, empowering and participative opportunities to young people rather than focusing on a supervisory/policing role. Opportunities do exist for young people to participate in activities during the weekends, but both the SYS and voluntary sector find it difficult and expensive to recruit qualified staff to work every weekend. However, consultation has identified weekends to be a time when many young people need activities to divert them from the risk factors that exist.

The SYS is making good progress in meeting its aim of; "Develop and implement a strategy for youth service provision that addresses known areas of service deficiency". It is achieving this through progress against its objectives. The report demonstrates that it works in partnership with other services and organisations to provide learning opportunities and information resources for individuals and groups. The performance information demonstrates it is widening participation in lifelong learning and in so doing it develops progression routes from learning that enhance further learning and employment opportunities through promoting higher standards of literacy, numeracy and information skills.

However, a low level of facilities and limited accommodation in Barry, Penarth and Dinas Powys is highlighted, especially with the closures of key centres in these areas, with few identified replacements available. Area 41 is a well-used facility that is run in partnership (SYS, Vibe Experience and the Youth Forum). The demand for this provision far exceeds the space available. Holm View is a shared facility with limited opportunities to meet the extra demands of the young people. The YMCA "Hub" is an impressive facility but there has to date been little consultation about the involvement of young people in the future development of this facility.

It is acknowledged that the SYS has started a fundamental review of its resources and such an audit of premises and existing resource allocation is welcomed to ensure that future provision for young people reflects multiple indices of deprivation and demographic needs.

A number of recommendations have been made in response to the key findings of the review:

- R1. The SYS review of its current resource allocation should be reported to Scrutiny by June 2006. To better reflect multiple deprivation and offending status and to resource current youth needs the findings of this review should inform a rationalisation of buildings, budgets and youth provision. (Page 16)
- R2. The SYS should attend the Strategic Planning Group to ensure the needs of the youth population are considered in Section 106 agreements. (Page 16)
- R3. It is recommended that the Council confirm its intent to meet the proposed Wales National Standard 6 core-funding of £100 per head for each 11-25 year old by 2009-10. (Page 16)
- R4. The funding requirements of those voluntary youth organisations that work in partnership with the SYS should be supported by the Council through developing their capacity to participate more effectively in the grant application process in order to provide enhanced services to hard to reach groups. (Page 23)
- R5. SYS and VYS should develop further partnerships increasing their effectiveness to maximise the limited resource available. (Page 23)
- R6. The Council actively supports enhanced accommodation that better meets the over demand for Area 41 and the Penarth Information Shop. (Page 23)
- R7. The YPP should develop “SMART” bid templates that better address sustainable issues, require specific and measurable outcomes and provide clear methodologies for follow-up evaluations and on-going support. (Page 24)
- R8. Through the YPP an all-sector audit of youth-related resources and capacity should be undertaken to minimise duplication and deliver services on a needs basis. (Page 24)
- R9. The YPP should enhance existing communication channels between the partnerships and other providers to raise awareness of issues across sectors and identify crosscutting priorities. (Page 24)
- R10. The Council should develop, with young people, a youth participation strategy/policy that is driven corporately, supported by the SYS and other directorates and is funded so that it can be effective. (Page 26)
- R11. The Council through the YPP should support activities that extend youth activities to Friday and Saturday nights especially in the “at risk” areas where there is problematic behaviour. (Page 28)
- R12. The SYS needs to expand and further develop the number of positive diversionary activities that are targeted at reducing anti-social behaviour, drug use and binge drinking. (Page 28)
- R13. YPP needs to ensure that partners commit to the prioritisation of the three shared priorities, and ensure that these three priorities shape and influence future decisions regarding to funding of YPP projects. (Page 28)
- R14. To further improve the provision of service to young people mobile provision resourced in partnership with the SYS and the VYS and supported by outreach/detached teams should be introduced by March 2007. (Page 28)

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CONTENTS

FOREWORD	1
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
CONTENTS	4
INTRODUCTION	4
THE SCOPE OF THE REVIEW	4
BACKGROUND TO YOUTH WORK	4
The Welsh Context.....	4
CURRENT SITUATION	4
Cross Cutting Issues	4
The Council’s Youth Service (SYS)	4
Performance Analysis	4
Youth Service Funding.....	4
Voluntary Youth Service (VYS).....	4
Professional Vale Based Youth Providers (PVBYP)	4
Professional External Organisations to the Vale (PE)	4
Community Based Providers (CBP)	4
Church Groups (CG).....	4
Uniformed Youth Provision (UYP).....	4
Specialist Group Youth Provision	4
Inclusive Youth Provision	4
Support Groups	4
Independent Unregulated Youth Provision	4
Partnership Coordination.....	4
Young People and Democracy	4
Consulting Young People	4
NOTABLE PRACTICE IN ENGLAND AND WALES	4
GLOSSARY OF TERMS	4

INTRODUCTION

1. A key role for Scrutiny Committees is to help improve the Council's performance through monitoring and review. It achieves this by looking at decisions made by the Cabinet, helping to develop emerging policies and monitoring performance of the existing policies / strategies and services of the Council to ensure that they remain relevant and meet the changing needs of the community of the Vale of Glamorgan.
2. The Scrutiny process provides opportunities for non-Executive Members of the Council to examine the services provided, and to ask questions on how decisions have been made, to consider whether service improvements can or should be put in place and to make recommendations. Scrutiny Committees report annually to Full Council on their current work programmes and make recommendations for future work programmes.
3. Provision for young people contributes to social inclusion and community safety. The 2005/2006 Lifelong Learning Scrutiny work programme included a review of "Youth Provision" to review how the council addresses young people issues through the positive engagement of the Council's Youth Service and its partner organisations.

THE SCOPE OF THE REVIEW

4. The review of youth provision within the Vale of Glamorgan forms part of the 2005/06 planned work programme of the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee. The Committee agreed the review scope earlier this year and officers from the Improvement and Development Team, Democratic Services the Learning and Development Directorate and the Voluntary sector provided support to the review process. Appendix 1 of this report provides the scoping document that outlines the objectives and purpose of carrying out the review including the desired outcomes.

BACKGROUND TO YOUTH WORK

5. The Council has a statutory requirement to deliver youth services as identified in the Education Acts from 1944 to present and the Learning and Skills Act 2000. "Extending Entitlement - Supporting young people in Wales" informs the WAG's policies for young people, and supports the implementation of their new powers that support young people as contained in the Learning and Skills Act (2000). The service is also under scrutiny from ESTYN and the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG).
6. The role of youth work can be summarised as follows:
 - it assists young people's personal and social development through informal education and seeks to engage them in lifelong learning
 - it supports other agencies in developing styles of work which are effective with young people
 - it enables young people to have a voice and influence in the services provided for them and in wider policy developments
 - it aims to provide a bridge between young people's priorities and the aspirations of public policy.

7. Diversity of provision is a youth work sector strength. Young people can participate and achieve in different ways through different styles of provision. The work of many of the voluntary sector organisations is supported through a number of WAG and Council budgets - both for core and project funding.
8. The learning and Skills Act requires that every young person has the same right or entitlement to every public service. The focus on targeted youth work, to prevent social exclusion, offending and other problems has increased with a reduced emphasis on open access work. The Wales Youth Agency has led work to improve the contribution of partnerships to youth work and to support the voluntary youth sector through the Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services. The youth work sector in Wales has developed a stronger focus on informal learning based on the Youth Work Curriculum Statement for Wales. A full appraisal of the background to youth work is available at Appendix 2 of this report.

The Welsh Context

9. In the mid-1990s between 16% and 23% of 16-17 year olds were not in education, training or work, and had been in that position for more than 6-months. To increase youth participation through outreach and delivery all-Wales initiatives such as Youth Access and Youth Gateway were introduced. Increasing participation was part of the agenda of the Education and Training Action Plan 1999.
10. Youth policy has been influenced through a number of strands; regeneration and tackling social inclusion; economy and business; attendance and behaviour at school; education and training post-16; Better Wales; children in need; strategy for children and young people; problem behaviour. Appendix 3 provides more detail on the Welsh context.

Youth Work Curriculum Statement for Wales - 4 Pillars

11. Within the Youth Work Sector in Wales, there has been greater emphasis on the provision of informal learning opportunities. This has led to the development of a Youth Work Curriculum Statement for Wales, which identified 4 core themes or pillars of effective youth work. These pillars are opportunities that are educative, participative, empowering and expressive and upon which all Statutory Youth Service (SYS) youth provision is based.
12. For youth work to be effective and add value to the lives of young people, it is important that provision can be classified under at least one of these pillars. The provision needs to be delivered in the context of equal opportunity and in an environment of social inclusion. Such activities should promote greater cultural diversity. Under the umbrella of these four pillars a variety of activities are delivered that involve young people in:
 - discussing health and relationships;
 - becoming sensitive to community, culture and heritage;
 - achieving through adventure and challenge;
 - receiving information and advice;
 - developing sporting and expressive skills; and
 - travelling and hosting international visitors.

13. The Youth Work Curriculum Statement provides a blueprint on which the SYS plans, develops and delivers services for young people in partnership with other agencies. The SYS provides a variety of activities that respond to identified needs. Below is a definition of each of the four pillars. Examples of youth service projects/activities that embrace the four-pillar model is provided at Appendix 4.
- **Educative** - enabling young people to gain the skills, knowledge and attitudes needed to identify, advocate and pursue their rights and responsibilities as individuals and as members of groups and communities, locally, nationally and internationally.
 - **Participative** - Where young people are fundamental to the learning processes and the decision making structures which affect their own and other people's lives and environments.
 - **Empowering** - encourage and enable young people to understand their rights and responsibilities and be able to act on the personal, social and political issues which affect their lives, the lives of others; and the communities of which they are a part.
 - **Expressive** - encourage and enable young people to express themselves, their emotions and aspirations, through creative and challenging opportunities raising awareness of; Cultural identity; Value of their own language; Heritage; Respect for diversity.

CURRENT SITUATION

Cross Cutting Issues

14. The Wales Audit Office (WAO) improvement study of regeneration reflects both the challenges and the progress that is being made in the area of "social regeneration"; Appendix 5 provides extracts from this report. The Council has responded to the study's recommendations, with the launch of the Community Development Network and a Technical Officer Team has been established to provide multi-service information and guidance to the Barry Regeneration Partnership Board, this team has cross Council, WDA and key stakeholder representation. Grantfinder software has been purchased for a three-year period and access is available for over 60 members of staff. The Grants (Officer) Network meets on a quarterly basis.

The Council's Youth Service (SYS)

15. Young people issues are included in the Vale of Glamorgan's Community Strategy, the Council's Corporate and Service Plans and its Education Strategic Plan. Appendix 6 provides further information on strategic links.
16. The Council's SYS provides informal education activities that encourage young people aged 11-25 to reach their full potential and mature into confident, responsible citizens who can make a positive contribution to life.
17. In keeping with the Youth Curriculum Statement for Wales guidance, the SYS prioritises a service to youths aged between 13–19 years and directs resources to young people who have the least opportunity to reach their potential, the disadvantaged and those in danger of exclusion from activities such as work, education, training, community and family life. The SYS works closely with agencies and partners in the voluntary and independent sector to

contribute to the achievement of the 10 Entitlements in the “Extending Entitlement – Supporting Young People in Wales” guidance as they affect 13 –19 year old young people.

18. The SYS works with young people on social skill issues, accredits young people for engagement, and uses specialist skills to engage and keep young people engaged. The SYS delivers its services in the following ways:
 - Youth centres providing young people with social meeting and personal development opportunities based on historical provision. Many buildings are jointly used with other groups and are not youth specific.
 - Street based youth work projects - youth workers contact young people on the streets at targeted youth annoyance hotspots and develop supportive programmes with them.
 - Provision of information, advice, counselling and mentoring services focused on individuals.
 - Through projects that give young people a voice in planning and developing youth provision, and provide consultative mechanisms for the SYS and other agencies through for example youth committees at youth centres.
 - Partnerships with voluntary and independent sectors by grant-aid arrangements with voluntary organisations to provide additional provision, e.g. the Halloween Disco that the Police confirm reduced crime by 30%.
19. The SYS has four full-time centres and eleven part-time centres. Each centre is run differently, many being council owned and either run through Lifelong Learning, jointly run and rented or seasonally purchased from community groups who control a council or privately owned building. The existing service is based on historic provision rather than current need e.g. the SYS supports voluntary provision in Peterston-super-Ely. An analysis of the current youth activity, resource and usage by youth premise is shown at Appendix 7.

Other Council Provision

20. The Leisure and Tourism Service oversees 12 community buildings that are leased to community groups. These buildings are often in poor condition and are not ideal for young people activities, however a small variety of SYS provision is delivered at these buildings. Barry Island Community Centre is used as a youth venue run through a community group. Not all community buildings are willing or able to make provision for young people. The SYS hires Leisure Centre facilities to provide physical activities supervised by SYS youth workers.
21. Libraries recently completed a community group/organisation audit that informed an extensive database of all voluntary community-based groups/organisations within the Vale.

Changes in Youth Premise Availability

22. In 2003, the Area 41 building in Barry was added to the SYS building stock. The Youth Forum and Vibe are co-located within Area 41 operating as registered charities. Funding restraints have left the Youth Forum without paid

staff and therefore, unable to operate. A bid is due to go to Council to establish funds to reinstate and further redevelop the Youth Forum into a Youth Council.

23. A full-time Penarth Youth Centre at Stanwell School was demolished when the school became grant maintained in the early 1990s. Since this time, youth provision has transferred to Byrd Crescent Penarth, and the full-time provision has reduced to part-time provision of 3-nights per week.
24. A full time Barry Youth Centre based at the then Barry Boys School was deemed unsafe during the late 1990s and the centre moved to the Boiler House in Skomer Road. Subsequently the Boiler House was made available to the Surestart initiative during 2000 and the youth centre relocated to Home View becoming a part time provision of 2 nights per week.
25. Cadoxton House provided art classes 1 night per week, but was closed during July 2005 to secure financial savings; this art class provision has not relocated and has ceased.
26. Wesley Court (Dinas Powys) was a full time youth centre and base for alternative curriculum that closed in July 2005 due to the Methodist Church selling the property. The youth centre has relocated to Murchfield Community Centre, whilst the alternative curriculum programme has relocated to the Penarth Info Shop and Byrd Crescent Community Centre, Penarth.

SYS Programme and Activities

27. The SYS delivers a curriculum-based programme to young people through a variety of activities and projects. This provision is compiled into a curriculum document that was endorsed by Estyn in 2003, and is due to be accredited by the Education and Training Standards Committee for Wales. Issue-based work includes sexual health, substance misuse healthy eating, housing, money, peer pressure, and bullying. Sports include; pool, table tennis, football and ice-skating. Through partnerships SYS, Vibe, Major Music and Community Music Wales youth arts provision includes: DJ skills, bands, singing, dancing, film productions and DVDs. Outdoor education includes; hill-walking, camping and climbing. Other activities include information and international projects. Projects focus on providing impartial information, advice and guidance with a particular focus on awareness raising and peer led education. As young people become older, they are encouraged to lead activities within the service and become leaders of the future. To support young people development there is an extensive accredited programme available that includes: Open College Network (OCN), Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme (DOE), and Youth Achievement Awards Scheme. The SYS facilitates joint events with the voluntary sector and with schools such as the Halloween Disco and Communities that Care, a survey which evidenced the risk factors that over 4,000 young people experience.
28. The Council's SYS has achieved several national and international awards over the last three-years including one at this years Wales Youth Excellence Awards. In addressing their youth issues, neighbouring councils seek input from the Vale of Glamorgan's SYS youth workers.
29. The SYS is recognised through awards and by partners to be a quality service. It has a committed and enthusiastic staff both full and part-time and

places great emphasis on its Staff Development Policy, which is currently in the process of accreditation with the Education and Training Standards Committee for Wales. Staff are encouraged and supported to carry out at least one training programme per year.

30. Full-time youth workers are either qualified or are working towards a nationally recognised qualification in Youth Work and part-time staff are required to gain the Foundation Course in Youth and Community work, a nationally recognised qualification, within 2 years of commencement of work. At present 82% of part-time staff are qualified, the second highest rate in Wales. A comprehensive programme of accredited training is run throughout the year in order to keep staff abreast of new development and skills e.g., Midas mini bus training, sexual health, substance misuse, child protection, DOE Award Scheme leader training and the introduction to Youth Work. The courses are offered to partner and voluntary organisations that work with young people. Courses are free to participants funded through an annual WAG grant.

Youth Population

31. Estimates for the 2006 youth population for 11-25 and 13-19 year olds is presented in the table below; Plymouth and St Augustine's figures for 13-19 year olds were unavailable, instead they are provided combined in Alexandra:

Vale of Glamorgan Ward Estimate Youth Population 2006

	11-25 yr olds	13-19 yr olds		11-25 yr olds	13-19 yr olds
Baruc	995	414	Llandow/Ewenny	476	310
Buttrills	1,199	516	Llantwit Major	2,266	1,004
Cadoc	1,685	892	Peterstone-super-Ely	348	187
Castleland	777	403	Plymouth	799	*
Cornerswell	994	483	Rhose	961	411
Court	1,049	548	St. Athan	875	501
Cowbridge	983	478	St. Augustine's	849	*
Dinas Powys	1,356	839	St. Bride's Major	452	242
Dyfan	940	531	Stanwell	794	376
Gibbonsdown	1,237	753	Sully	711	391
Illtyd	1,511	667	Wenvoe	399	201
Llandough	322	142	Alexandra		924
			Total	21,978	11,213

Performance Analysis

32. Identifying gaps in provision is complex because the aim of youth work is a flexible response in proportion to the needs of young people, starting with universal entitlement with intensive support where needed.
33. Transforming Youth Work – Resourcing Excellent Youth Services (2002) published by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) in England set out for the first time the Government's specification for an 'Excellent Youth Service'. In England, there are 10 Objectives for the youth service with 22 related youth standards. Key indicators provide targets to meet on the quantity, quality, accessibility and inclusiveness of services and include SYS spending target of £100 per head of population aged 13 – 19 years (with additional funding for intensive work and disadvantage, including scarcity)".

34. In Wales, no such formal standards are in place. A “National Standards for the Youth Service in Wales” document has been produced by the Principal Youth Officers in Wales (a sub-group of the Association of Directors of Education in Wales ADEW), with the support of the Wales Youth Agency, and is with the WLGA awaiting publication. It identifies an agreed set of 14 standards for youth service provision in Wales designed to promote young people’s social development and personal achievement within the economic and social policy agenda for the WAG. The SYS achieve 8 of the 14 standards.
35. The following section assesses performance using the Service Self-Assessment 2004–2005 report; Extending Entitlement; Performance Indicators and Youth Standards.

Service Self Assessment

36. The service developed an approach to self-assessment based on the Estyn framework for common inspection guidance; Appendix 8 provides more detail.
37. The first self-assessment was completed for 2004/05 and improvements are being implemented via the personal development and review system (PDRS2) and in both team and service plans. Various actions have been developed from the self-assessment:
 - Meet with Mentrau Iaith in order to develop partnerships and initiatives to address the lack of opportunities for bilingual provision
 - Develop strategies and initiatives, which will promote positive images of young people
 - Address equal opportunities issues of disability, gender, race and access raised during the self-assessment process
 - Expand the range of training opportunities available to meet the identified needs, and ensure these opportunities are accessible to partner agencies
 - Review and update the Service’s policies and procedures
 - Identify funding to resource a detached/outreach team to work with young people on the streets
 - Improve systems for the collection and analysis of data
 - Develop methods of measuring ‘distance travelled’ as a means of assessing young people’s achievements
 - Seek alternative sources of funding to address issues of resources, buildings and equipment
38. The YPP is completing its first self-assessment for 2006 supported by the SYS.

Youth Service Performance Indicators

39. There are currently no national youth service performance indicators in place. As part of a review of the national performance measurement framework in Wales, youth service provision measures are currently being developed. The indicators come into force from 1 April 2007.
40. There are currently three local indicators relating to youth work, one of which is a Policy Agreement indicator. Only one other council in Wales (Neath Port Talbot) has a Policy Agreement indicator relating to increasing the numbers of young people involved in youth service projects.

41. Indicators reported by the Vale SYS are as follows:

Indicator Description	Performance		Target	
	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
(PA22) Participation in the Youth Service: Percentage of the youth population aged 11-25 years in the Vale of Glamorgan who make contact with the Youth Service during the year.	20%	21%	22%	23%
(L82) Gender balance proportion of males/females attending Youth Service activities.	56/44	55/45	55/45	Not set
(L270) Customer satisfaction with youth: Youth Services	92%	93%	94%	95%
Youth Service access	92%	93%	94%	95%

42. The Vale SYS also sets local targets to monitor its performance. These are detailed below:

Target Description	Performance		Target	
	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
To increase the number of contacts with young people.	115,581	118,000	120,000	120,000
Percentage of workforce qualified at an appropriate level as defined by the JNC qualification matrix.	72%	75%	80%	85%
The percentage of young people in contact with youth service provision aged 11-25: 80% within priority age range of 13-19.	20%	23%	24%	25%
Amount of Youth Service budget allocated to training.	3.9%	2%	4%	5%
Access to up-to-date relevant and well-presented information services for a minimum of 2 hours a week at youth provision.	-	75%	78%	80%
Youth Service spending per head of population for 13-19 year olds (core budget)	£72.29 12 th Wales	£80	£90	£100
Youth Service spending per head of population for 13-19 year olds (total income)	£89.42 16 th Wales	£95	£105	£115
Number of accreditation opportunities available to young people	20	30	40	50

43. The following outcomes were achieved by the SYS last year:

- All year-11 youths leaving the Youth Access scheme (alternative curriculum) went into further education, training or employment.
- Over 26% of youths, aged 11-19, used the youth service during the year.
- Good DOE award scheme retention rates of 435 participants (175 bronze, 88 silver, 73 gold).
- The open access service provision meets with the proposed national standards for the maintained youth service in Wales by working with over 21% of the total youth population aged 11-25, 80% of whom must be within the priority age range 13-19.
- Last year, 71% (this year 82%) of part-time SYS, youth workers are qualified at foundation level (against national average 42%) .
- Basic staff training covers child protection issues, confidentiality, health and safety (risk assessment), ethics, inclusion and status, and legislation.
- 26.1% up-take of services by young people in the area aged 11-19 years.
- 78% of core budget is delegated to the 4 area youth development officers to decide on priorities of needs for young people in their areas.

Youth Service Funding

44. Full-time SYS employees state they experience increasing pressure to spend a greater proportion of their time completing and supporting applications for grants as opposed to delivering front-line youth provision. The grant applications are for youth projects and may be for; the SYS itself; a joint application for the SYS/voluntary organisation or provision of support to a voluntary organisation’s funding application.

Capital Funding for Services to Young People

45. To provide new and improved facilities for young people, the Council has made a substantial contribution to the Hub, a partnership project in Barry.
46. The Council can secure from developer’s sums of money, via Section 106 agreements. This is referred to as “planning gain” and can be used to fund capital projects for specified community facilities such as youth facilities, community centres and green spaces. Should capital funding be secured through planning gain additional revenue funding must be secured to run new facilities.
47. The Council’s Planning Department has established a Strategic Planning Group to consider projects that may benefit from these opportunities. No designated Youth Service representative participates in this group to identify the needs of the youth population.

Revenue Funding

48. The total funding for the SYS over the past three years has increased from £922k to £980k. The increase from 2003/04 was £30k (3.2%) and from 2004/05 to 2005/06 £24k (2.5%). The core funding has increased from £850k in 2004/05 to £869k in 2005/06 an increase of £19k of (2.3%)
49. The SYS central charges budget for the last three years are presented in the table below:

Lifelong Learning – Youth Service Central Charges (L4469 & L4204)	Original Budgets		
	2003/4	2004/5	2005/6
Asset Rents	26,897	27,802	27,305
Staffing costs (Vale Wide - Principal Youth Officer, Youth Service Trainees & Outreach)	136,291	143,476	137,257
Central Department Recharges (HR, Legal, Finance, etc) *	98,276	103,092	112,596
Central Lifelong Learning Staff (Including Head of Lifelong Learning) *	106,088	112,131	122,815
FRS 17 Adjustment *	-20,003	-44,726	-44,726
Recharge to schools	19,000	19,345	19,345
Materials etc.	14,190	18,000	11,792
Pension/Insurance	18,455	19,022	19,697
Travel	4,827	13,230	13,815
TOTAL	404,021	411,372	419,896

* SYS responsible for 84.22% of total for Adult & Youth Service expenditure

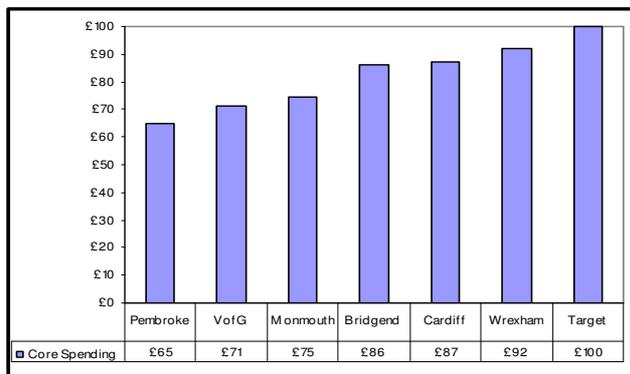
The above table shows that the central charges budget has increased by £15,875 (4%) over the 3-years. The SYS has historically been responsible for over 80%* of Adult and Youth Service overhead expenditure (£190,685) in 2005/06. This apportionment inflates the per head expenditure on young people, which is already one of the lowest in Wales.

50. For 2004-05 of the 18 councils that provided Youth Agency audit 2004-05 (draft figures), the SYS was the 4th lowest funded (core and grant funded) service in Wales. Based on these figures the Council's performance compared to other similar councils in Wales is presented in the table below:

Draft Wales Youth Agency Revenue Figures by Council	Population 13-19#	Core Budget/head 13-19 spend	Total Budget/head 13-19 spend	Population 11-25 #	*Core Budget/head 11-25 spend	*Total Budget/head 11-25 spend
Vale of Glamorgan	11,900	£71.39	£82.37	23,000	£36.94	£42.62
Monmouthshire	7,900	£74.72	£131.85	14,500	£40.71	£71.84
Wrexham	11,700	£92.17	£138.73	24,900	£43.31	£65.19
Bridgend	12,100	£85.91	£143.62	23,700	£43.33	£72.43
Cardiff	31,700	£87.32	£114.50	79,300	£34.90	£45.77
Pembrokeshire	10,500	£64.90	£173.07	20,500	£33.24	£88.65

Source: # Office for National Statistics mid-year estimates for Wales by Unitary Authority

51. The revenue budget spend on the 13-19 age group in the above table are presented in the graph below:



52. In keeping with guidance (Youth Work Curriculum Statement), the Council has prioritised provision at the 13 - 19 age group; this group totalled 11,662 young people in 2004/05. The Council's core budget and total budget expenditure for 2004-05 is presented below:

Council Youth Service Actual Budget 2004 – 2005

Age Groups	Population	Core Budget Spend		Total Budget Spend	
		Total £'000	Per Head	Total £'000	Per Head
11 – 25	23,624	£849.57	£35.96	£980.16	£41.49
13 – 19	11,662	£849.57	£72.85	£980.16	£84.05

53. The proposed Wales Youth Standard 6 sets a target of at least £100 per annum for SYS core spending per head of population aged 11-25 years. Using the proposed £100 per head for 11-25 year old youths, the Council's performance for 2004/05 and 2005/06 is presented below:

Year	11-25 Year Old Population	Core Budget Spend		
		Target £'000	Actual £'000	Shortfall £'000
2004/05	23,624	£2,362.4	£849.57	-£1,512.8
2005/06	21,978	£2,197.8	£868.96	-£1,328.8

54. Compared to the proposed core spending on youth provision for the 11-25 age group, the Council has a potential deficit of £1,513k for 2004/05; this decreased in 2005/06 by £184k to a potential deficit of £1,329k.

Vale of Glamorgan Youth Service Spend by Area

AREA *	2005-2006 Spending/head 11 – 25 year olds	2005-2006 Revised budget 11 – 25 year olds
Llantwit Major	£32.91	£103,377
Cowbridge	£52.84	£100,996
Barry	£16.44	£170,264
Penarth / Dinas Powys	£24.72	£153,891

* Definitions of Areas are indicated on Maps Appendix 9

55. The above table shows that of the total core budget Barry has 32%, Penarth 29%, Llantwit Major 20% and Cowbridge 19%. However the analysis of spend per head (11-25 year old) shows that Barry spends the lowest (£16) per head whereas the highest spend (£52) is in Cowbridge. An analysis prepared by the youth service is presented in maps at Appendix 9.
56. The SYS is currently undertaking an internal review of its resource allocation, based on building location and fitness for purpose. The SYS will report the conclusions and recommendations by May 2006 to the senior management team. The main areas of concern about the budget identified to date are:
- Funding to each area is based on an historical formula related to buildings and not the number of young people and their needs.
 - The need to develop a formula to allocate funding on a fairer basis for example based on weightings such as, population, rural nature, disability, multiple deprivation and youth annoyance.
 - Allocation of central recharges and budgets in relation to the Youth Service and Lifelong Learning Service as a whole.
 - The potential failure to meet the proposed Youth Service Standard 6 target for SYS spending per head of population aged 11-25 of £100 (currently £35.96).

Key Findings – SYS

- KF 1. The SYS prioritises a service to youths aged between 13–19 years and works closely with other sectors to contribute to the achievement of Government targets for that age range. (Par17)
- KF 2. The Police confirm that targeted partnership events such as the Halloween Disco have reduced crime. (Par18)
- KF 3. The SYS resources and delivers its service from historically situated buildings that are often not fit for purpose, suitable for, or situated in, the current areas of need. (Par19/56)
- KF 4. The SYS has in place an Estyn endorsed curriculum document and has implemented self-assessment that informs its performance management arrangements. (Par27/36/37)
- KF 5. Current performance and future performance targets evidence an increase in participation in youth service activities. (Par41/42/43)

KF 6. SYS are under increasing pressure to devote a greater proportion of their time to completing grant applications for themselves and their partners. (Par44)

KF 7. The Youth Service is not represented on the Strategic Planning Group (Par46/47).

KF 8. For 2004-05 of the 18 councils that provided draft figures, the SYS was the 4th lowest funded (core and grant funded) service in Wales. The current core funding does not meet the proposed Wales National Standard 6 of £100 per head for each 11-25 year-old. (Par50/53/54)

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Recommendations – SYS

R1. The SYS review of its current resource allocation should be reported to Scrutiny by June 2006. To better reflect multiple deprivation and offending status and to resource current youth needs the findings of this review should inform a rationalisation of buildings, budgets and youth provision. (Key finding: 3)

R2. The SYS should attend the Strategic Planning Group to ensure the needs of the youth population are considered in Section 106 agreements. (Key Finding: 7)

R3. It is recommended that the Council confirm its intent to meet the proposed Wales National Standard 6 core-funding of £100 per head for each 11-25 year old by 2009-10. (Key finding: 8)

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Voluntary Youth Service (VYS)

Resources

57. Funding streams are more readily available to voluntary sector organisations and can be accessed through the Children and Young People's Partnerships (CYPP). WAG provides funding outside of the traditional funding streams i.e. Penarth Info Shop received £250,000. The voluntary sector may request a letter from the CYPP or YPP in support of WAG and/or Big Lottery funds for projects, but access grants without this support, making youth provision less strategic where grant funds may be allocated to lower priority activities.

58. The allocation of money to projects by the WAG is on a priority basis, e.g. Vibe were commissioned to develop a DVD to raise awareness of young peoples 10 entitlements called 'Sofa Surfing' which enabled young people to share their views, likes and dislikes about the area in which they live. Both the above organisations work closely with the SYS and these partnerships are interdependent in gaining external funding.

59. The SYS does not formally allocate funds from its budget to voluntary organisations. However, the Council contributes to such organisations via initiatives e.g. the Voluntary Action Scheme and Grants to Voluntary Bodies.

60. The voluntary sector can access funding streams that are not available to the SYS, key voluntary sector partners include:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ◆ Amelia Trust Farm | ◆ Vibe | ◆ NCH |
| ◆ Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme | ◆ Surestart | ◆ VCVS |
| ◆ Barry Community Arts | ◆ Inroads | ◆ Youth Cymru |
| ◆ Penarth Youth Project | ◆ Vale Learning Network | ◆ Boys & Girls Clubs of Wales |
| ◆ Major Music | ◆ Community Safety Partnership | ◆ Llamau Housing |

61. The above organisations deliver various projects in partnership with the Council, many resourced by joint-funding applications. Council officers through the SYS, Policy Officer European Affairs, and Sports Development Team provide support to voluntary organisations through the grant application process. This can include gathering evidence, preparing bids and attendance at partnership meetings.
62. The SYS can access funds in partnership with the voluntary sector from Cymorth. It has limited access to Big Lottery, and Community Safety Partnership funds. During 2005/06, the Community Safety Partnership provided grants of £7,000 for a Halloween youth event, a £28,000 grant for a Vibe co-ordination post at Area 41, and a £11,800 grant to work with young women in danger of offending in Barry. A recent application was secured by Vibe during December 2005 for an ERDF grant of £103,433 towards a £207,998 media-based project for young people at risk of offending; this was supported by in kind match funding from the SYS. Further details provided at Appendix 10.
63. Additional funding is available from Charitable Trusts such as; Tudor Trust, Rowntree Trust, Prince's Trust, and from other groups such as; Community Safety Partnership, Youth Issues Task Group, and Big Lottery.

Voluntary Provision

64. The WAG provides YPP guidelines for the statutory role of the Council however no guidance is available for the roles and responsibilities of partners from other sectors. The VYS within the Vale is dependent upon individuals, their personal desire to work with young people and their willingness to give of their time. VYS can be divided into sectors as follows:
 - Professional VYS (voluntary sector employees that are paid a salary) both internal and external to the Vale,
 - Church based,
 - Community based,
 - Uniformed and
 - Interest groups

Professional Vale Based Youth Providers (PVBYP)

The YMCA

65. Community consultation identified the need for extending and upgrading the current YMCA provision to enhance the provision of sports and leisure activities, lifelong learning opportunities, play, childcare and youth activities, Information Technology and community and performing arts. The YMCA and Council worked in partnership to access funds and develop the innovative expansion of the Barry YMCA called the Hub. This community facility provides a wide range of diverse activities ranging from sports, educational and personal services for people of all ages. The Hub will expand the provision of young people's activities in partnership with Community Dance Wales, Area 41, The Vibe, DOE award, Play Development and the SYS. The aim of such extensive partnerships is to develop activities and opportunities to empower young people and realise their full potential in a safe and accessible environment.

66. The YMCA caters for both the community and for young people. It provides a range of sports based activities; a breakdown for participation in such activities by age-range per week is shown in the table below:

Activity	11-14 yrs	14-16 yrs	16-19 yrs	19-25 yrs
Gymnastics	70	35	6	0
Dance	20	15	10	10
Martial Arts	60	30	20	20

The Penarth Youth Project (PYP)

67. The SYS and PYP have a Service Level Agreement (SLA). The Information Shop has operated for over 8 years consulting with young people on a range of issues in an open and non-bureaucratic way. The shop is supported by professional staff and is currently managing 10 projects for young people. Typical provision includes an information service based on extending entitlement, counselling services, computer homework club, career development advice, volunteer projects and health promotion. The SYS rents space within the Penarth Information Shop and provides youth worker support to maximise the opening hours of the shop, which is popular and well used. The Shop provided youth provision during half term and piloted an outreach programme in Penarth to engage hard to reach groups.

Major Music

68. Major Music links closely with Llantwit Youth Centre and has access to their premises and other suitable venues to deliver weekly workshops that create, play and perform music. Other centres are used for larger events. A number of part-time staff work across both organisations.

Vibe Experience (Vibe)

69. Vibe is a voluntary youth organisation managed by an independent board of trustees and is located in the Area 41 youth facility; the capacity of which restricts its availability to the 900 registered members, a third of young people in Barry. Vibe has an SLA and works in partnership with the SYS to develop new projects and seek out potential funding. Both partners work effectively together on fund-raising activities and to deliver projects such as music, film workshops and events.
70. Like other voluntary organisations, the Vibe does not receive core-funding from the Council, and is reliant on funding accessed for individual projects. The fund application process is time-consuming. Short-term funding impacts on job security and creates difficulties for recruitment and retention.
71. Vibe has historically employed one full-time co-ordinator, however in 2006, Vibe secured European Objective 2 & 3 funding for 4 full-time project staff, requiring match funding (50%), see Appendix 10. Part-time youth workers are also employed by Vibe and SYS to help facilitate the delivery of large projects and to maximise provision. Vibe offers a variety of activities to young people informed by consultation and engagement of young people including film production and music, which are very popular and have been funded by both the Arts Council and European Funding. Other projects are funded by the YPP and WAG; these include films on drug misuse and a new web site for the YPP (www.valeypp.org). Vibe Music Workshops are delivered in parks during the summer, and the Police confirm that these have contributed to a reduction

in crime. Vibe works with the SYS to take information and workshops into schools. It holds monthly, large-scale, self-funded youth events at the Memorial Hall attracting over 800 young people and provides each of its 900 registered members with a free newsletter and membership card. The Community Safety Partnership provides funding for a Halloween event in partnership with the Police and has successfully reduced reported crime by 30% and firework incidents by 50%. Vibe has an SLA with the Youth Offending Team (YOT) and operates part of their Intensive Surveillance and Supervision programme.

Amelia Farm Trust (AFT)

72. The AFT provides a number of specialist placements for young people funded through the Council's Youth Access Programme. The farm is used by the SYS for the Duke of Edinburgh Award, the Road Runner and other projects.

Ogmore Centre Trust (OCT)

73. The OCT is a self-contained youth provision offering specialised projects aimed to encourage young people in arts, sports, curriculum, out-door pursuits as well as residential-based programmes. Although, the centre is based within the Vale, it also caters for young people across Wales and the rest of the UK. Part-time youth provision has been attempted but to date has not been successful.

Professional External Organisations to the Vale (PE)

74. Organisations external to the Vale carry out work within the Vale boundaries for a specified project. Professional bodies include: Prince's Trust, Promo Cymru, Weston Spirit, Terrance Higgins Trust, and Walkways.
75. Working in partnership with the SYS these bodies can access funds unavailable to the SYS and can undertake specialist work on behalf of the YPP.
76. While they provide specialist skills, these organisations are costly as their survival is dependent on the level of funding they generate. To deliver their service, external professional organisations require funds to maintain their infrastructure.

Community Based Providers (CBP)

77. A number of community-based centres exist and some deliver youth provision. Many provide a variety of leisure activities (i.e. Karate). The SYS offers non-chargeable support to these organisations in the form of Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checks, training and mentoring.
78. These services are provided at a minimal cost to the Council in community-based buildings. Because this provision is community based it has close working relationship with local committees and is a valuable community resource.

Church Groups (CG)

79. Levels of interaction exist between these groups and the SYS vary, although the SYS does offer support through CRB's checks and training. These groups

include the Methodist Church which covers large areas of the Vale, the Salvation Army and Boys and Girls brigades (attached to churches). Their volunteers are enthusiastic and offer a wide level of youth provision within the Vale. Parish boundaries or faith may restrict some young people's access.

80. Church groups use their own premises and supply a much-needed service in areas of limited youth provision. Services are delivered free at point of contact and projects are often integrated well within the community whilst still making the links with the SYS. Their outreach work has been successful and carried out in specific areas such as Penarth where street work is done in collaboration with the SYS. The Salvation Army undertake work in Gibbonsdown for example undertaking a mass clear up project in conjunction with their local community.

Uniformed Youth Provision (UYP)

81. A large number of uniformed groups exist within the Vale these include Army Cadets, Air Cadets, St Johns Ambulance, Young Fire Fighters, Scouting including Explorer Scouts and Network Scouts, Sea Scouts and Guides including Rangers and the Boys and Girls brigades. This provision generally works from their own buildings, occasionally using community buildings. Generally, they do not directly link with the SYS, although a SYS youth worker works with the Young Fire Fighters. Most UYP maintain tentative links with SYS and young people may well attend both types of provision. Due to the nature of their role volunteers work set evenings and or weekends in addition to their normal employment. They link with specialist trained workers who offer support or key services such as the DOE programme where the Youth Service DoE Co-ordinator assists with planning assessment etc.
82. UYP is a much-needed resource with direct progression offering a range of activities that link well with elements of the SYS. Volunteers are highly committed, CRB checked and all staff are trained internally and expected to work to set standards. Young people receive rewards/accreditation for participation and a progression ladder exists.

Specialist Group Youth Provision

83. A large number of specialist youth groups operate both within the Vale and externally to which young people travel. Interaction between specialist voluntary bodies and SYS varies considerably.
84. Groups include Gymnastic clubs, musical bands (i.e. brass), martial arts (i.e. judo, karate, boxing etc) Basketball clubs, Yachting, Football, Rugby, Golf, Tennis, Drama clubs etc. These are generally open access and can be attended at a minimal cost.
85. Some of these groups are affiliated to the SYS. Sport related groups are likely to interact with the Council's sports development team who assist specialist clubs in finding and accessing fund streams, such as community chest funding and voluntary organisation funds. The sports development team also helps to develop inclusive plans, share good practice, train volunteers, and promote the club.
86. These clubs offer a wide range of youth opportunities often accessible by all with their own reward and accreditation programmes. Specialist groups have

the ability to access special grants and other funds that are inaccessible to other groups e.g. Sports Council.

Inclusive Youth Provision

87. Young people with special needs are able to, and do, access all SYS provision and the majority of VYS. However, access to all buildings is not always adequate. A small number of projects are run specifically for young people with additional needs. One is run by the SYS at Maes Dyfan School and a few others by voluntary bodies.
88. The SYS provides staff salaries to two organisations that provide services to young people with additional needs:
 - Penarth Gymnastics Club (PGC) provides tuition and support for those with learning needs but also encourages integration in its sessions for all. The club is located in the Penarth Pier and has tried for many years to obtain its own building. The SYS supports the provision by supplying some salary costs. The provision is a specialist area and all coaches and mentors are given training from the British Gymnastics Association. The club has a huge membership and its attendance is very high. The SYS has provided the PGC support in training and child protection issues. All PGC adults have completed a CRB check.
 - Maes Dyfan Youth Club (MDYC) operates from Maes Dyfan School. The club offers a range of activities that include IT, sports, art, games, participation, and encourages integration. The MDYC benefits from SYS support that includes salaries, equipment and training. The Youth Workers are experienced and are specialist in the needs of the MDYC, with the club being well attended.
89. All groups encourage open access to young people of all abilities although they do have a specific focus of those with special needs. Other examples of youth providers that specifically support young people with additional needs include: the Penarth Physical Handicapped and Able Bodied (PHAB) club in Penarth and MIND. The PHAB Club is well attended by young people and housed in the Albert Road Methodist Church building. It receives support from the SYS and is involved in events and training courses. The Vale Disability Team ran a pilot scheme during the summer providing film and music workshops for disabled young people. These clubs encourage and acknowledge that all young people should have access to services.
90. The alternative curriculum programme is delivered through the SYS for young people excluded from school in partnership with providers that include; Barry College; Amelia Trust Farm; Careers Wales; and SYS. The Youth Offending Team has links with Alternative Education and an SLA with the Vibe Experience. Both support the YOT with reparations and in project work that may lead to awards such as DOE Award and Youth Achievement Awards.
91. Other agencies have been involved in Youth Service projects and initiatives that support young people for example Young Carers, Headlands School, and Sure Start and recently the participation project and environmental projects in Penarth Youth Project.

92. Saturday Morning Club (SMC) Llantwit Major and Penarth provide a “Teen” scheme that is an inclusive service and includes young people with disabilities.

Support Groups

93. A number of voluntary youth support groups offer advice, develop courses and work closely with both SYS and VYS across the Vale of Glamorgan and Wales these include Boy’s and Girls clubs of Wales, Wales Youth Agency and Youth Cymru and URDD.
94. These organisations provide advice, access to funds, and independent and extra youth support, particularly in areas where there is limited provision especially in more rural parts of the Vale. It is difficult to recruit local trained youth workers and recruiting further afield is costly therefore many voluntary organisations rely on unpaid volunteers (often parents). However, it is reported that a challenge facing some rural areas, like Wick, is that young people feel uncomfortable attending youth groups where their own parents are volunteers.

Independent Unregulated Youth Provision

95. A small number of independent (unregulated) bodies do exist within the Vale; generally established by well-meaning individuals; many link in with the SYS and other voluntary bodies, and can be occasionally connected to community groups and or church groups. These organisations tend to follow more structured formats. A small number are totally independent.
96. These bodies may lack formal training and appropriate skills, be unaware of the risks of working with young people and may not be appropriately checked (CRB). Volunteers could have inappropriate agendas, may give inappropriate advice, and are not obliged to take up youth training. The SYS has no influence over these centres that are not obliged to comply with youth standards. Provision may not be sustainable in the long term.

Key Findings – Voluntary Youth Sector

- KF 9.** The voluntary sector organisations can access funds from sources unavailable to the SYS. The SYS and voluntary sector generally work closely, effectively and complement rather than duplicate youth service activities, and can jointly access grant funding not usually available to statutory bodies. (Par57/60/62/75/86)
- KF 10.** The voluntary sector develops specialist youth provision skills and capacities that enable them to effectively deliver projects with for example hard to reach groups. (Par62/76)
- KF 11.** Whilst the Council has WAG guidance for its statutory role, no guidance is available for other sectors. (Par64)
- KF 12.** The Area 41 building has limited capacity to provide a service for all of the Vibe Experience registered members. Similarly, the Penarth Info shop is well used. (P67/69)
- KF 13.** Because the voluntary sector is not statutory, it can access Council grant funding, but does not receive core funding. (Par70)

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KF 14. The voluntary sector continually seeks funding to remain financially viable. Accessing long-term grant funding is generally problematic and can result in unsustainable projects and impacts on job security and creates difficulties in the recruitment and retention of skilled staff. The strategic approach to youth provision is limited by the short-term grant funding that dictates the projects or work voluntary sector bodies can undertake and can result in some needs based projects not being pursued. (P70/76)

KF 15. The VYS supply a service often in areas of limited youth provision, and their projects are generally integrated well within the community. Working with the SYS young people considered hard to reach and requiring additional support can be engaged. (P80/88/89)

KF 16. Access to buildings is not always adequate for young people with additional needs. (P87)

KF 17. Independent (unregulated) bodies may lack formal training and can be unaware of the risks of working with young people. (P95)

Recommendations - Voluntary Sector

R4. The funding requirements of those voluntary youth organisations that work in partnership with the SYS should be supported by the Council through developing their capacity to participate more effectively in the grant application process in order to provide enhanced services to hard to reach groups. (Key findings: 9, 13, 14, 15)

R5. SYS and VYS should develop further partnerships in line with identified youth needs to maximise the limited resource available. (Key findings: 9, 10, 14, 15)

R6. The Council actively supports enhanced accommodation to better meet the over demand for Area 41 and the Penarth Information Shop. (Key finding: 12)

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Partnership Coordination

97. The Council as a community leader facilitates effective partnerships in the Vale of Glamorgan. The Children and Young People's Framework Partnership (CYPP) is the strategic decision making body to which the more operational Children's Partnership (CP) and Young Peoples Partnership (YPP) report. It oversees Cymorth funding, a WAG initiative providing funding proportioned between children and young people, to provide a network of targeted support for these groups within a framework of universal provision, in order to improve the life chances of children and young people from disadvantaged families. Cymorth funding promotes inclusion and user involvement, adding value to mainstream services, and is based on early preventative intervention. The Cymorth fund bid template provides the opportunity to influence the projects it funds. However, the guidance for Cymorth funding does not focus on sustainable provision and therefore limits what can be measured as outcomes and what impact it has had. Typically, completed bids have been process orientated with limited post-course/project evaluation to assess the impact of funding. The new commissioning process will retarget/ refocus the bidding process while the introduction of CYPF team project officers will help develop mechanisms to measure the impact of the currently funded projects.

98. There is limited co-ordination of the voluntary youth sector hence there is limited mapping of provision. Joint working across all voluntary groups varies.

99. The YPP does not engage with all voluntary sector provision, similarly not all of this sector works strategically with the YPP. The YPP has attempted to match entitlements to existing service provision and to highlight gaps, so that new developments add value rather than repeat what is already being delivered. Youth issues identified at recent planning workshops fell into the following categories and are being prioritised:
- Information and communication.
 - Extending existing provision and ensuring that existing provision is accessible and services are available when and where needed.
 - Resources.
 - Transport: Affordable safe transport, especially in rural areas. Extended services, later hours, reduced taxi fares. Free young persons bus pass.
 - Education, training and employment: Access to learning opportunities.
 - Accessible provision to all 11 - 25 year olds: quality work placements for young people.
 - Health: Young people, during school time, need off school access and confidentiality guarantee to sexual health and wellbeing services.
 - Monitoring of actions will be recorded and gaps in services identified and addressed during the course of the strategy.
100. Not all VYS provision is represented or participates in the YPP strategic development. Within the above sectors, there exist levels of interaction and crossover with the SYS. The level of interaction and crossover is dependent upon the extent to which an organisation wants to interact with SYS. SLAs currently exist with the voluntary sector with the following organisations; Penarth Info shop; Vibe Experience; Murchfield Community Association.

Key Findings - Voluntary Youth Provision and the Council's Interaction

- KF 18.** Cymorth fund bid templates do not fully focus on sustainable provision, meaningful outcomes and post project support. Typically, completed bids lack details of outcomes, and there is limited follow-up or post-course/project evaluation to assess the impact of funding. (Par97)
- KF 19.** There is limited coordination of the voluntary youth sector and to date there has been little mapping of all-sector youth provision within the Vale to strategically plan future provision. (Par98/99/100)
- KF 20.** Not all VYS provision is represented or participates in the YPP strategic development. (Par100)

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Recommendation - Youth Interaction

- R7.** The YPP should develop "SMART" bid templates that better address sustainable issues, require specific and measurable outcomes and provide clear methodologies for follow-up evaluations and on-going support (Key finding: 18).
- R8.** Through the YPP an all-sector audit of youth-related resources and capacity should be undertaken to minimise duplication and deliver services on a needs basis (Key finding: 19).
- R9.** The YPP should enhance existing communication channels between the partnerships and other providers to raise awareness of issues across sectors and identify crosscutting priorities (Key findings: 19, 20).

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Young People and Democracy

Participation

101. Notable practice suggests that for youth participation to be effective, a corporate youth participation strategy to which all directorates engage and that is supported by the SYS should be embedded in the Council's culture. Currently, no corporate youth participation strategy is in place.

Youth Forum and Youth Council

102. The Youth Forum was established in 1996, and was at that time considered a pioneering model of youth participation and engagement in Wales. It is a registered charity and the structure included a board of trustees, a youth forum co-ordinator, management team as well as local area teams. The management team represented young people in the Vale whilst the co-ordinator took responsibility for the day-to-day running of the forum. The current databases holds over 600 members who are interested in engaging in Youth Forum activities and events. This information has not been updated since the previous co-ordinator left in April 2005.
103. The primary focus of the forum is as a consultation tool for young people and the promotion of youth participation. The forum now faces a number of critical challenges:
- The departure of the Youth Forum Co-ordinator with no replacement since April 2005;
 - Engagement of the Youth Forum with School Councils is underdeveloped;
 - Uncertainty in relation to the future role and funding of the forum.
104. In response to these challenges, a working group was established to consider how the Youth Forum could be rejuvenated or replaced by a more sustainable and up-to-date participation model. The working group identified two options:
- enhance the development and sustainability of the youth forum;
 - support the development of a dual model involving a youth forum and a youth council.
105. As part of option 1, trustees agreed a Youth Forum Business Plan. This identified the priority areas and a new strategic direction for the forum. Option 2 introducing a youth council builds in democratic processes enabling young people to engage in the decision-making processes of the council.
106. To date, the working group has presented both models to the board of trustees representing the youth forum. The board welcomed both models, but requested that a third option be also considered which is now developed for presentation to the Trustees.
107. The final stage will be to present the proposals to Council, requesting members to endorse one of the options and commit a budget to support the proposal. Further detail is available at Appendix 11.
108. A Youth State of the Area Debate was held, young people were invited to the Civic Offices to question Cabinet Members on a variety of youth issues. Young people highlighted a series of concerns around healthy eating, their emotional wellbeing, safety at night, escalating house prices, lack of careers

information, lack of information about youth events and youth benefits. Prior to the event, a short consultation was conducted with young people from schools and youth forums to identify issues that young people were interested in and potential topics for debate. One of the key outcomes of the event was the establishment of a working group to consider the feasibility of setting up a Youth Council to improve participation opportunities.

Key Findings Young People and Democracy

KF 21. The Council does not have a corporate youth participation strategy (P101).

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KF 22. There are limited mechanisms in the Vale for young people to participate in the decision making processes (P101/102/108)

Recommendations – Young People and Democracy

R10. The Council should develop, with young people, a youth participation strategy/policy that is driven corporately, supported by the SYS and other directorates and is funded so that it can be effective. (Key finding: 21, 22).

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Consulting Young People

109. A full summary of consultation activity is available in the evidence files.
110. The extending entitlement document emphasised that every young person in Wales has 'the right to be consulted, to participate in decision-making, and to be heard on all matters which concern them or have an impact on their lives'. In response, the Vale SYS is committed to engaging with and consulting young people on a variety of issues. The SYS uses consultation and other appropriate research, its partner's expertise and knowledge to identify the issues, trends, views and needs of young people to inform the delivery of youth services in the Vale.
111. The SYS consults to address the needs of the community and young people. This is achieved through for example:
 - Analysis of local intelligence from community groups, residents, police, and young people.
 - Consultation and engagement of young people perceived to be the problem.
 - Surveys of the community to identify likely causal issues and possible solutions.
112. At a strategic level, the YPP and SYS take part, addressing needs using national, regional and local studies and research. Local research included the Rural Vale Survey and the Communities that Care survey. Operationally, the SYS involves young people in the running of its centre-based provision. The Vibe has an Ambassadors Group, and Penarth Youth Project has a Voice Group. These bodies of young people are empowered to assist in the planning and implementation of activities and events.
113. A variety of consultation work was undertaken with young people across the Vale throughout 2004 and 2005; below is a summary of these activities:
 - A youth annoyance survey was conducted between November 2004 and January 2005 to identify the 'risk' areas where there has been problematic behaviour and identified young people's attitudes and views towards

current youth provision in these areas. The main reasons for not accessing youth provision was that young people felt too old for the current provision and that it was perceived to be boring. The need for provision to be extended to Friday and Saturday nights due to a rise in young people visiting the “at risk areas” was highlighted. Evidence was provided for more detached street work and a mobile youth provision, especially in the ‘at risk’ areas with positive diversionary activities targeted at reducing anti-social behaviour, drug use and binge drinking.

- The 2004 Communities that Care survey commissioned by the YPP gathered information of young peoples lives in the Vale that could be used by all partnership agencies to further develop and improve services for young people. It evidenced that young people in the Vale drink alcohol significantly more than their counterparts elsewhere in the UK and were less likely to become involved in youth crime or anti-social behaviour but more likely to be arrested by the police. From these findings 10 risk factors were identified that can be associated with four core themes individual/peer group, family, school and community.
114. Following consultation, a “breaking the cycle” conference was held by the YPP. The conference required partners to identify from the 10 risk factors, 3 shared priorities that will form the partnership’s priorities over the next 3 years. The 3 priorities for improvement were highlighted as; easy access to drugs and alcohol; personal attitudes and condoning problem behaviour; poor parental attitude, supervision and discipline.
115. The aim is to encourage partners to focus on these 3 key priorities. The YPP has held an annual youth consultation day event since 2003 as an opportunity for young people to express their views, opinions and experiences of youth provision. Key issues emerged as; mental health, education and training, council services, empowerment and citizenship, housing and homelessness, and community safety. The service needs of young people include; access to information, more opportunities for young people to express their views and the creation of additional safe “designated spaces” such as “Youth Shelters”.

Findings Consultation

KF 23. The SYS and voluntary sector encourage young people to participate in decision-making. (Par111/112/113/115)

KF 24. The SYS and its partners have effectively utilised consultation methods to identify the youth annoyance hot spots and in the process have been able to address young people’s attitudes and views towards current youth provision in these areas. (Par113)

KF 25. Some young people identify that they feel ‘too old’ and that current provision is “boring” as reasons for not accessing youth provision. (Par113)

KF 26. The Youth Annoyance Survey provided evidence that there is a rise in young people visiting the “at risk areas” on Friday and Saturday nights and for more outreach/detached youth work activities and the implementation of a mobile provision to provide diversionary activities in these areas. (Par113)

KF 27. The Youth Annoyance Survey identified the most prolific issues in the “at risk” areas to be; anti-social behaviour, binge drinking and drug use. (Par113)

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KF 28. The “Breaking the Cycle” conference agreed 3 priorities to which the partnerships under the Vale Partnership are encouraged to align their improvements. (Par114)

KF 29. A growing list of young people’s needs has emerged that includes; health, emotional, physical, mental, employment and educational needs. (Par114/115)

Recommendations - Consultation

R11. The Council through the YPP should support activities that extend youth activities to Friday and Saturday nights especially in the “at risk” areas where there is problematic behaviour (Key finding: 26).

R12. The SYS needs to expand and further develop the number of positive diversionary activities that are targeted at reducing anti-social behaviour, drug use and binge drinking (Key finding: 26, 27).

R13. YPP needs to ensure that partners commit to the prioritisation of the three shared priorities, and ensure that these three priorities shape and influence future decisions regarding to funding of YPP projects (Key finding: 28).

R14. To further improve the provision of service to young people mobile provision resourced in partnership with the SYS and the VYS and supported by outreach/detached teams should be introduced by March 2007 (Key finding: 25,26,27).

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NOTABLE PRACTICE IN ENGLAND AND WALES

116. As part of the review, research was conducted to highlight areas of notable practice implemented by Councils within Wales and England.

117. Notable practice can be grouped according to 8 core themes. These themes are summarised below with examples of how the Vale of Glamorgan’s SYS with its partners facilitated or implemented similar practice.

Social Inclusion

118. Tackling social exclusion is a prime concern of youth services. Programmes can be aimed at improving educational achievement at school, reducing exclusions and empowering young people and to raise their aspirations. Such approaches have included activity away days, using mentors, work experience opportunities, a young tenants housing information service, basic skills and personal development programmes, film making opportunities and training courses with free child care facilities and detached youth work with young Asian women.

119 The Vale SYS provides an alternative education programme for young people who are excluded from Secondary Schools. All young people involved in this programme have progressed to further learning or employment.

Hard to reach Groups

120. Recently, there has a drive towards more targeted youth work particularly focused on socially excluded young people and hard to reach groups. Projects may involve raising awareness of cultures, faiths, disability, poverty etc.

121. The Vale's SYS delivered a project to aggressive young women entitled "How To Manage" that was recognised through a Youth Work Excellence award.

Prevention and Early Intervention Initiatives

122. Preventative and early intervention measures are highly effective and linked to tackling social exclusion amongst young people. The purpose of these projects has been to facilitate peer-learning, to tailor services to the needs of young people at risk of becoming socially excluded and implement measures to provide advice and guidance so young people make informed decisions. Innovative practice includes; video/film production project, one-stop-shop for substance misusers, training and development programme for young women at risk of sexual exploitation, sexual health clinics, and housing clinic providing housing advice and support.
123. The Vale's SYS provide information packs on health issues to all Vale Secondary Schools and Vale SYS workers provide sexual health information at Cardiff Wales Airport during the summer period.

Personal Career Development

124. These initiatives play an important part in empowerment and building the self-esteem of young people, and contribute towards tackling social exclusion. Projects focus on promoting participation, teamwork, raising expectations and developing a skill base as well as providing career development guidance and support. Typical projects include team enterprise activities, ASDAN award schemes, motorcycle safety workshops, public services diploma and accredited training for youth workers.
125. The Vale's SYS delivers the "Passport To Life" programme that develops the self-esteem and confidence of targeted young people. The "Roadrunners" programme provides skills and understanding of driving and of road safety issues. The Vale's SYS and Vibe Experience successfully deliver the nationally recognised Youth Achievement Awards.

Detached and Mobile Provision

126. There has been a shift from youth centre based work to detached and mobile provision. This approach particularly suits the geography of Wales, where large parts are considered more remote and isolated from youth services. Greater emphasis on mobile provision enables youth services to better plan and target youth services to areas of need. Mobile provision can be in the form of a bus with interactive workshops and technology, information boxes located in youth centres and community centres and other places where young people congregate and targeted detached work where youth workers can target hot-spot areas and schools.
127. The Vale's SYS has prepared a "Big Lottery" bid for a team of detached youth workers to build on the success of the research project with detached youth workers at Romilly Park.

Empowerment and Participation

128. Empowerment and participation are identified as two core pillars of effective youth work, and is a focus of notable practice in Wales. Empowering young people and encouraging them to participate in planning activities enables

young people to take responsibility for projects and their actions, and involves them in decision-making processes. Notable projects include: involving young people in the inspection of youth service quality standards, youth councils, a youth run radio project, fundraising community projects and small-scale business ventures.

129. The Vale's SYS is recognised for encouraging young people to participate through consultation and the Youth Achievement Award projects that require evidence of participation in planning and delivery of activities.

Information Projects

130. These projects provide impartial advice and guidance, and enable young people to feel able to make informed decisions. Greater emphasis is placed on peer education that enables young people to engage and participate in the planning and delivery of information projects and become youth mentors. This enables the young mentors to develop new skills but is an effective way of communicating advice and guidance to young people. Typical projects include Oasis information shop run in schools and a health issues peer education and training group.
131. The Vale's SYS provides extending entitlement information and resources in all Secondary Schools and Youth Centres. Young people, supported by the SYS, produced a CD "Most Wanted CD ROM".

Effective Partnership Working

132. Through partnerships, resources and capacity can be pooled to deliver youth projects and activities that are more responsive to young people's needs. Partnership working has been used to improve community facilities, to tackle anti-social behaviour and improve learning opportunities for young people. Innovative partnership projects include; multi-agency task groups, outreach projects in collaboration with neighbouring councils, support grants, drama projects, learning programmes for young women, and young mother's training programme.
133. The Vale's SYS has effective partnerships with some voluntary organisations and continues to develop further partnerships with other organisations.

Voluntary Sector Initiatives

134. Voluntary initiatives such as volunteer mentor schemes and community resource loan schemes have helped improve community facilities for young people as well as projects targeted at harder to reach groups.
135. To enhance activities for young people in areas that have limited provision e.g. at Wick, Peterstone-super-Ely and Dinas Powys the Vale's SYS works with community associations to enhance young people activities.

Transport Initiatives

136. Young people, particularly in rural areas, can find it difficult to access youth services, social activities and employment. A number of projects make transport for young people more affordable and accessible, for example hiring out mopeds to young people. Other projects have involved adopting a multi-agency approach to pilot late-night bus routes.

Community Cohesion

137. Councils have a duty to promote community cohesion and encouraging a sense of belonging and citizenship. Projects build relations between young people and the community as a whole and include community garden projects, international community projects, exploration of other cultures and youth-led community consultations.
138. To develop and encourage active citizenship the Community Garden at Byrd Crescent Community Centre was developed by young people supported by the Vale's SYS. Youth Question Time (Youth State of the Area Debate) provides the opportunity for young people to participate in the democratic process.

Consultation

139. Effective consultation projects engage young people in the decision-making processes, and enables service providers to identify areas of need and target scarce resources more effectively.
140. The Vale's SYS has successfully facilitated annual conferences where young people have the opportunity to express their views opinions and aspirations; the outcomes are built into the Youth Service's planning processes.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

AFT	Amelia Farm Trust
CBP	Community Based Providers
CG	Church Groups
CP	Children's Partnership
CRB	Criminal Record Bureau
CYPP	Children and Young People's Partnerships
DfES	Department for Education and Skills
DOE	Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
MDYC	Maes Dyfan Youth Club
OCN	Open College Network
OCT	Ogmore Centre Trust
PDRS2	Personal Development and Review System
PE	Professional External Organisations to the Vale
PGC	Penarth Gymnastics Club
PHAB	Penarth Physical Handicapped and Able Bodied
PVBYP	Professional Vale Based Youth Providers
PYP	The Penarth Youth Project
SLA	Service Level Agreement
SMC	Saturday Morning Club
SYS	Statutory Youth Service
UYP	Uniformed Youth Provision
Vibe	Vibe Experience
VYS	Voluntary Youth Service
WAG	Welsh Assembly Government
WAO	Wales Audit Office
YOT	Youth Offending Team
YPP	Young Peoples Partnership

Review Scope

Scrutiny Review	Youth Service Provision
Scrutiny Committee	Lifelong learning
Scrutiny Chairman	Councillor Chris Franks
1	<p>Review Focus</p> <p>To review current youth provision services provided by the Local Authority within the Vale of Glamorgan</p>
2	<p>Objectives and Purpose of the Review</p> <p>Assess the progress the service is making against the Council's Corporate aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement a strategy for youth service provision that addresses known areas of service deficiency. <p>Assess the meeting of the Service's objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To work in partnership with other services and organisations to provide quality learning opportunities and information resources that meets the needs of individuals and groups. • To widen participation in lifelong learning • To develop clear progression routes from learning that enhance further learning and employment opportunities. • To promote higher standards of literacy, numeracy and information skills in communities throughout the Vale of Glamorgan in order to encourage and enable enterprise, economic regeneration and prosperity.
3	<p>Desired Outcomes of the Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify gaps in service provision and investigate the extent of these problems • Identify good practice and how this can be implemented
4	<p>Information Required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National statistics on youth demographics. Local statistics e.g. demographic statistics on young people, statistics on the uptakes of youth services within the Vale • Performance data-from youth provision PIs • The numbers of youth service premises in the Vale, including the opening times and ownership/lease costs. • The number of full-time staff employed within the youth service in the Vale, as well as youth work volunteers and the type of training and support available to volunteers. • Information on the target age-range of youth services compared with the age-range that currently accesses these services as well as a comparison of youth provision by geographical area with particular focus on the poorer wards. • Investigate the existence of Service Level Agreements between the Council and other agencies as well as information on the type of youth provision for excluded children and any links the council has with alternative curriculum providers. • Audit of the use of community halls and facilities for young people • Information on the role the youth service plays with regard to educating and promoting health and wellbeing amongst young people.
5	<p>Format of Evidence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline report (to include background information). • Presentation on main findings/recommendations – final report.

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Scrutiny Review	Youth Service Provision
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses to members' questions. • Verbal/written evidence (Interviews, external witnesses and focus groups) • Site visits – to be considered.
6	<p>Methods to be Employed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research analysis – performance of youth provision compared with other authorities. • Literature review youth provision best practice research. • Interview internal officers (LL) external agencies and service • External witnesses • Consultation-review any past consultation activities • Quantitative data (local statistics) on youth provision in the Vale.
7	<p>External Witnesses and Council officers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Lifelong Learning – Dave Prosser • Principal Youth Officer - Bob Fussell • Area Youth Officer - Sy Joshua • CYPF Coordinator - Val Lewis • YPP Co-ordinator - Mark Davies • Area Youth Development Officer - Andy Borsden <p>External Witnesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barry YMCA Youth Development Worker - Bronwen Brooks • VCVS - Clive Curtis • Service User and Trainee Youth Worker - Jason Harvey • Vibe Manager - Mike Bendell • Canllaw Online Mobile Youth Provision - Mick Conroy • Youth worker for Wick Youth Club - Conway Hawkins • Penarth Info Shop - Lisa Nelmes • Bridgend Youth Participation Officer - Mary Hughes
8	<p>Co-options to Review Body (if any) Mark Davies (YPP coordinator)</p>
9	<p>Timescales (including start and finish dates)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review start date: 1 September 2005. • Review finish date: 31st December 2005. • Reporting: January 2006.
10	<p>Responsible Officers (insert names)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gareth Cole - IDT Team Leader. • Julia Davies – IDT Scrutiny Research Assistant. • Chris Hope – Democratic Services Officer LL.
11	<p>Resources and Budget No budget required – existing staff time (Council Officers).</p>
12	<p>Final Report Full report to Scrutiny Committee (to be submitted to Scrutiny Chair).</p>

Background to Youth Work

The Council has a statutory requirement to deliver youth services as identified in legislation incorporated within the Learning and Skills Act 2000. The service is also under scrutiny from ESTYN and the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG). Youth provision is based on developing projects and initiatives, in a variety of safe and secure settings that are innovative, positive and responsive to the ever-changing needs of young people. The Youth Service offers social and informal educational opportunities for young people in the age range of 11 to 25, with priority given to the age group 13-19.

The key legislative and statutory requirements are included in the Education Acts from 1944 to present and the Learning And Skills Act 2000; United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (ratified by the UK Government 1991); Making the Connections: Delivering Better Services for Wales.

“Extending Entitlement - Supporting young people in Wales” informs the WAG’s policies for young people, and supports the implementation of their new powers that support young people as contained in the Learning and Skills Act (2000). Other key guidance includes; Education and Training Action Plan 1999; Estyn Quality Standards Framework; The Learning Country; Learning Pathways 14-19; National Council for Education and Training in Wales; Extending entitlement: supporting young people in Wales; Basic Skills Strategy; BetterWales.com; Curriculum Statement for Youth Work in Wales. The role of youth work can be summarised as follows:

- it assists young people’s personal and social development through informal education and seeks to engage them in lifelong learning
- it supports other agencies in developing styles of work which are effective with young people
- it enables young people to have a voice and influence in the services provided for them and in wider policy developments
- it aims to provide a bridge between young people’s priorities and the aspirations of public policy.

Recently, there have been a number of key developments as summarised below:

- the core maintained youth service has been reduced significantly in real terms over the past decade as councils responded to other pressures, including the requirement on Local Education Authorities (LEAs) to maximise investment in schools and minimise overheads - which normally include the youth service;
- funding for projects including youth work has been increased by a number of Welsh Office and (WAG) initiatives including the Cymorth Fund and the Youth Work and Schools Partnership programme;
- there has been an increased focus on targeted youth work, aimed at preventing social exclusion, offending and other problems, with a reduced emphasis on open access work;
- the Wales Youth Agency has led work to improve the contribution of youth work to a range of partnerships and to support the voluntary youth sector through the Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services;
- the youth work sector in Wales has developed a stronger focus on informal learning with the development of practice based on the Youth Work Curriculum Statement for Wales, delivered in a wide range of settings often with partners including schools, colleges, social services, probation and the police;
- the requirements of the Learning and Skills Act that every young person has the same rights or entitlements to services.

The Welsh Context

Youth policy has been influenced through a number of strands; regeneration and tackling social inclusion; economy and business; attendance and behaviour at school; education and training post-16; Better Wales; children in need; strategy for children and young people; problem behaviour. A number of initiatives to increase participation through outreach and delivery that is more flexible; this includes the introduction of all-Wales initiatives such as Youth Access and Youth Gateway. Increasing participation was part of the agenda of the Education and Training Action Plan 1999.

The document Better Wales included specific youth support and participation objectives to achieve increased young people engagement in the life of our communities and the development of a new framework to tackle youth exclusion through an integrated approach of support and engagement as citizens. Benchmarks to achieve by 2010 were identified:

- Development of a strong extra-curricular prospectus for every child covering cultural, volunteering and enterprise activity.
- Councils and the voluntary sector to have integrated and well developed youth services.
- Markedly increase access to, and participation in, education and training.
- Provide better leisure facilities for children and young people, especially in deprived areas.
- A more prosperous Wales that allows more young people to secure a reasonable choice of rewarding work close to their communities.
- People accept even greater responsibility for their own health and lifestyles are healthier, especially in the poorest communities.

The strategy for Children and Young People from 0-25 years addresses the needs of young people and their families from a broad social perspective. The main strands include:

- Establishing a strategic framework to improve coherence and focus of legislation, policy and delivered services.
- Improve children's and young people's services planning
- Promote the participation of children and young people in the planning and delivery of services informed by principles of Article 12 of the UN convention of the rights of the child.

Project	Description	Evidence of Four Pillars
Road Runners Project	Introduces young people to the benefits and risks of the driving experience. A variety of workshops are run on car insurance, highway code, road safety, alcohol and drug intake, purchasing a car and a practical driving session.	<p><i>Educative-</i> Increases knowledge base of young people and provides a clear insight into what young people can expect from driving.</p> <p><i>Participative-</i>workshops are fully inclusive and all young people are expected to contribute to the programme.</p> <p><i>Empowering-</i>It gives young people the experience of driving a car with qualified instructor and gives them an a sense of responsibility.</p> <p><i>Expressive-</i> Enables them to contribute their views regarding driving responsibly and encourages young people take a part in activities.</p>
World Aids Day Event delivered in partnership (Vibe experience and SYS)	Girls from 'How to Manage' responsibility and anger management project (Won a Youth Work in Wales Excellence Award) organised a world aids day event. The event promoted awareness and knowledge of aids and its effects. Project targeted at young people. Workshops based on sexual health, drug awareness and binge drinking.	<p><i>Educative-</i> It gave young people a knowledge and awareness of the disease and how to prevent it.</p> <p><i>Participative-</i> Young women prepared and delivered sessions.</p> <p><i>Empowering-</i> Young people felt empowered as they gained knowledge and skills to deliver workshops.</p> <p><i>Expressive-</i> The event enabled young people to express their views and explore them in a series of workshops. The young women organising the event effectively expressed themselves during workshop exercises.</p>
ASBO DVD	Young people produced a DVD to highlight the issues around Anti-social behaviour. This project won a national home office award in 2004.	<p><i>Educative-</i> Young people researched information on anti-social behaviour.</p> <p><i>Participative-</i> The project involved young people in all aspects of making the DVD production including script writing, filming, editing, acting etc.</p> <p><i>Empowering-</i> The project empowered young people, by enabling them to develop new and specialised skills and to take and challenged them to take on new roles they would not have engaged in before.</p> <p><i>Expressive-</i>Young people had the opportunity to air their views throughout the production of the DVD and provide feedback at the end.</p>
Beach Clean Up Project	Young People participated in a National Scheme to highlight dangers of rubbish on beaches. Recording information about the type of rubbish and tidied up.	<p><i>Educative-</i> Young people learnt of the dangers of waste materials on beaches.</p> <p><i>Participative-</i> Young people recorded information and cleaned the beach.</p> <p><i>Empowering-</i> Enabled young people to develop a knowledge of the key environmental issues and to effectively present their findings in a report and gain recognition for their hard work.</p> <p><i>Expressive-</i> All young people contributed to the development of scheme and the written report at the end.</p>
Youth Awards Night delivered in partnership (Vibe experience and SYS)	A celebration of young people's success and involvement in projects. Awards were also received for accredited schemes. Over 250 attended from a variety of agencies (including the Youth Service) providing youth provision.	<p><i>Educative-</i>Young people were trained and supported as presenters for the awards night.</p> <p><i>Participative-</i> Young were involved in the successful organisation of the awards night. Over 250 people attended. And 25 young people performed on stage live music, dance and plays.</p> <p><i>Empowering-</i>The young people performed and presented the evening. The awards ceremony was empowering for young people, as they received recognition for their achievements.</p> <p><i>Expressive-</i>25 young people performed on stage a variety of pieces including live music, dance and performed a play. This enabled them all to express themselves through choreography, organising and planning and choreograph the evening's entertainment.</p>

Extracts taken from the WAO Improvement Study - Regeneration February 2005

Within the Corporate Plan the regeneration priority relating to youth provision is “youth development work and related projects, such as Area 41 in Barry”. Area 41 is a converted shop in the centre of Barry, which provides a base for youth workers and young people to meet. It has been used to find out the views of young people and to provide help and training

Many Corporate priorities have been driven by availability of funding.

The Council is now starting to work more closely with the local community and voluntary groups. We visited an example of this, the ‘Area 41’ youth project in Barry, where the Council is so successful that it is having to turn people away because of health and safety restrictions within the building.

The staff who are involved in community regeneration are spread across a number of different services. We found that the overall co-ordination of this activity is not clear and the Council should review whether its existing management and organisational arrangements are the best way to maximise the use of its limited resources.

KR1 Clear and measurable outcomes that indicate what success would look like should be produced as the existing strategic plans are reviewed by the Council.

KR2 With the Council’s developing role in community regeneration an overview of all the Council’s regeneration activities should be prepared, to communicate more clearly the Council’s priorities for environmental, economic and social regeneration and the responsibilities for these.

KR3 The Council should review whether its existing management and organisational arrangements for those staff involved in community regeneration are appropriate to maximise the use of its limited resources.

KR4 The Council should co-ordinate a major review of its approach to the regeneration of Barry, completing the task started with ‘New Vision: New Barry’, with the Council playing a more leading role in:

- identifying the key private, public and voluntary stakeholders who could deliver such an initiative;
- establishing a multi-service view of the environmental, economic and social issues that need to be tackled;
- formulating the key outcomes that are desired;
- identifying the actions that will deliver these; and
- the organisational and financial arrangements that would be acceptable to the key partners.

KR5 An inventory should be carried out of the knowledge held by staff on different grant regimes and this information should be placed on the Council’s website. Such staff should meet regularly to share experiences and to act as a conduit to their service of the opportunities that may be available.

KR6 The Council should raise awareness of the Rural Partnership, its role, its objectives and how Council services and the community can contribute to these.

KR7 With regard to the Project Management Unit the Council should:

- make clearer the roles and responsibilities, especially between client and major project manager;
- take on board the Council’s new project management corporate guidelines, and
- introduce more quality procedures to ensure greater consistency in the approach of those involved in delivering regeneration projects.

Vale Youth Provision - Strategic Links

Community Strategy

Young people issues are included in the following areas; Lifelong Learning within schools and post-16 education and training; Community Safety linked to crime and disorder, and accidents and injuries; Health and Wellbeing linked to the Children and Young People's Framework Partnership; Economic Regeneration linked to raising skill levels and removing barriers to learning.

Corporate Plan

The main Corporate Priorities that link to youth provision through addressing partnership working, learning, safety, health and enjoyment are defined below:

- Community Leadership - 'To work with partners from the voluntary, public, private and other sectors to deliver the shared vision for the future of the Vale and to ensure a coordinated approach to realising that vision'.
- Lifelong Learning - 'To provide high quality, accessible learning opportunities which meet the needs of learners of all ages and to develop and promote a culture of lifelong learning for all.'
- Community Wellbeing - 'To make the Vale a safe, healthy and enjoyable place in which individuals, children and families can live their lives to the full.'

The Council in its Corporate Plan has set a key target to "Increase the percentage of the youth population aged 11-25 years who make contact with the Youth Service during the year"; and an action to "develop and implement a strategy for youth service provision that addresses known areas of service deficiency. (2006)".

Education Strategic Plan

Raising educational standards and tackling underachievement is a key objective of the Education Strategic Plan.

Service Plans

Through its Learning and Development Directorate, the Council provides direct support and contributes to multi-agency youth provision initiatives.

The Directorate's Lifelong Learning Service objectives are in place to support youth provision:

- To work in partnership with other services and organisations to provide quality learning opportunities and information resources that meet the needs of individuals and groups.
- To widen participation in lifelong learning.
- To develop clear progression routes from learning that enhance further learning and employment opportunities.
- To promote higher standards of literacy, numeracy and information skills in communities throughout the Vale of Glamorgan in order to encourage and enable enterprise, economic regeneration and prosperity

The Directorates "Access and Inclusion" Service Plan identifies the following service objectives:

- Ensure an appropriate education for age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs.
- Offset disadvantage and maximise potential.

The Community Wellbeing Directorate, Children Services Service Plan includes the service objective that links to youth provision: "To maximise the life chances of children and young people".

Main Premises

* Includes - Rental costs and running costs based on 2005/06 Budget

Youth Facility	Ward	Opening		Council Owned	Rental/ Lease Cost to Council	Premise Cost*	Salary Expenses Cost to SYS	Number of Youth Workers				No. of Young People Attending	No. of Young People Contacts
		Hours	Weeks					F/T	P/T	FTE	Vol		
Cowbridge Youth Centre	Cowbridge	19	42	Youth Service		£18,200	£69,663	1	11	0.82%	2	310	5304
Colwinston Youth Club	Llandow/Ewenny	3	39	Community Council	Rental	£350	£4,575	0	3	0.20%	1	56	990
Wick Youth Club	St Bride's Major	3	39	Community Council	Rental	£253	£3,140	0	2	0.13%	12	52	1401
St Brides Youth Club	St Bride's Major	2	39	Community Council	Rental	£308	£2,335	0	2	0.09%	0	42	766
Llantwit Major Youth Centre	Llantwit Major	50	44	Youth Service		£21,067	£75,999	2	11	1.30%	6	443	15290
St Athan Youth Club	St Athan	3	39	Community Council	Rental	£510	£2,600	0	3	0.17%	0	76	598
Barry Youth Centre	Gibbonsdown	6	39	Leisure Service	Rental	£10,155	£55,206	1	6	0.69%	0	605	2523
Maes Dyfan Youth Club	Gibbonsdown	4	38	School	Rental	£1,888	£5,980	0	3	0.29%	0	43	1004
Rhose Youth Club	Rhose	3	39	Community Council	Rental	£700	£3,304	0	3	0.18%	0	64	738
Area 41 Youth Centre	Buttrills	52	42		Leased	£24,952	£64,763	2	11	0.99%	4	826	4351
Murchfield Youth Club	Dinas Powys	6	39	Community Council	Rental	£4,500	£10,857	0	5	0.31%	0	43	not known
Byrd Crescent Youth Club	Plymouth	8	39	Community Council	Rental	£2,214	£12,121	0.7	10	0.55%	1	66	5086
Sully Youth Club	Sully	6	39	Community Council	Rental	£630	£6,109	0	4	0.28%	0	82	2588
Wenvoe Youth Club	Wenvoe	3	39	Community Council	Rental	£1,567	£2,392	0	2	0.12%	0	77	2177
Penarth Information Shop	Stanwell	18	44		Leased	£20,000	£97,138	2	7	1.57%	6	325	4395
Duke of Edinburgh Scheme	Vale-wide		46			£0	£32,886	1	0	0.00%			4924
Alternative Curriculum	Vale-wide	30	39			Grant	Grant	0	7	4.93%	0	22	8462
Projects held at the above centres:-													
Llantwit Major Brass Band	Llantwit Major	3	36									22	450
Llantwit Major Young Firefighters	Llantwit Major	3	36									12	400
Major Music Project	Llantwit Major	3	44									90	4395
Vibe (see Area 41)	Vale		44									850	13724
TOTAL						£107,294	£449,068	9.7	90	12.62%	32	4106	79566

OTHER COSTS (not included in the above table)	
Asset Rents	£27,305
Central Departments Recharges	£112,596
Staffing Costs (Vale wide)	£215,346
Recharge to schools	£19,345
Materials etc	£11,792
Pension/Insurance	£19,697
Travel	£13,815
Total Other Costs	£419,896

The age breakdown of young people attendees

	Usage by age		
	11-14	15-18	19+
Llantwit Major Premises			
Llantwit Major Youth Centre	246	181	16
Llantwit Major Brass Band	13	7	2
Llantwit Major Young Fire Fighters	2	10	0
Barry Premises			
Barry Youth Centre	323	264	18
Maes Dyfan Youth Club	22	19	2
Area 41 Holton Road	568	240	18
Vibe	457	347	46
Cowbridge Premises			
Cowbridge Youth Centre	168	142	0
Rural Vale Premises			
Wick Youth Centre	34	18	0
St Brides Youth Centre (was Ogmores Youth Centre)	29	13	0
Colwinston Youth Centre	33	23	0
Dinas Powys Premises			
Murchfield Youth Centre	26	17	0
Penarth Premises			
Byrd Crescent Youth Centre	29	36	1
Penarth Info Shop	111	182	32
Other Premises			
St Athan Youth Centre	36	36	4
Wenvoe Youth Centre	74	3	0
Sully Youth Centre	59	23	0

Service Self Assessment

The service developed their approach to self-assessment based on the Estyn framework for common inspection guidance.

The self-assessment report is based on an analysis of self-assessment information prepared by individual members of staff on their work, the use of the annual audit of provision, peer assessment visits reports, the service improvement diagnostic and the collection of data, all contributed to the process. To discuss, review and compile the information into one document a whole-service meeting was held. The self-assessment highlights good practice and identifies areas of work in need of further development. To involve partners in the self-assessment process the Service consulted the Young People's Partnership (YPP) on the evidence, draft findings and improvements.

The first self-assessment was completed for 2004/05 and improvements are being implemented via the Councils Performance Management Framework i.e. the personal development and review system (PDRS2) and as appropriate both the team and service planning systems. In this way, the identified areas for improvement are agreed with appropriate teams and individuals and monitored through these systems.

The following list provides a summary of the actions developed from the self-assessment:

- Meet with Mentrau Iaith in order to develop partnerships and initiatives to address the lack of opportunities for bilingual provision
- Develop strategies and initiatives, which will promote positive images of young people
- Address equal opportunities issues of disability, gender, race and access raised during the self-assessment process
- Expand the range of training opportunities available to meet the identified needs, and ensure these opportunities are accessible to partner agencies
- Review and update the Service's policies and procedures
- Identify funding to resource a detached/outreach team to work with young people on the streets
- Improve systems for the collection and analysis of data
- Develop methods of measuring 'distance travelled' as a means of assessing young people's achievements
- Seek alternative sources of funding to address issues of resources, buildings and equipment

The YPP has adopted the SYS template and are completing their first self-assessment for 2006.

Resource Allocation Maps

For ease of printing, these are attached at the end of the document following Appendix 11.

Vibe Experience Project Synopsis:

The project provides media-based activities for young people at risk of offending in the Castleland, Cadoc, Buttrills and Court Wards.

The media activities will focus on areas such as Web Site design, mixing, recording and singing.

These activities are attractive to young people and help develop a wide range of social / learning and practical skills.

Project Approval date 23rd December 2005
Project Completion: September 2007

Total Project Cost: £207,998 (To be invested on Area 41)
ERDF Grant (capital funding): £103,433

Targets set for the project:

Number of Community Groups assisted	9
Number of community services provided	1
Number of capacity building projects supported	1
Number of gross jobs created	3.5
Number of community groups assisted, expected to be active after 2 years	9

Young People and Democracy - Youth Forum and Youth Council

The Youth Forum was established in 1996, and was considered a pioneering model of youth participation and engagement in Wales. The current databases holds over 600 members who are interested in engaging in Youth Forum activities and events. The primary focus of the forum is as a consultation tool for young people and the promotion of youth participation. It is reported that for participation to be effective the Council should develop a youth participation strategy/policy that is driven corporately and supported by the SYS and other directorates.

The forum now faces a number of critical challenges:

- The departure of the Youth Forum Co-ordinator with no replacement;
- Lack of resources prevents the Youth Forum expanding its services further into the Eastern and Western parts of the Vale and its rural communities;
- Engagement of the Youth Forum with school councils is underdeveloped; and
- Uncertainty in relation to the future funding of the forum.

In response to these challenges, a working group was established to consider how the Youth Forum could be rejuvenated or replaced by a more sustainable and up-to-date participation model. The working group identified two options:

- enhance the development and sustainability of the youth forum;
- support the development of a dual model involving a youth forum and a youth council.

Key features of option 1: developing and sustaining a youth forum include:

- establishment of a full-time Youth Participation Officer (JNC Scale 13-16);
- developing and sustaining the links between school councils, youth organisations and the forum to expand participation and consultation projects to eastern, western and rural parts of the Vale;
- fortnightly youth forum meetings attended by young people representative of all youth groups and schools;
- planning and conducting consultation activities;
- planning and conducting peer training;
- the establishment of a Youth Forum Development Officer post at a later date whose focus it will be to increase access to external funding and develop an interactive website and e-forum for young people.

Option 2 key features: supporting the development of a youth forum and council include:

- a two-tiered structure supporting the co-existence of both a youth forum and youth council;
- the establishment of a new Youth Participation Officer post (JNC scale 13-16) responsible for the budgets and administration of both the youth forum and council;
- a youth council that consists of democratically elected young people representative of all youth organisations in the Vale in contrast young people can continue to opt themselves onto the forum;
- a Youth Forum that acts in a support role to the youth Council with the power to scrutinise the youth council's functions and decisions;
- a Cabinet member appointed as a youth champion with the responsibility to attend youth council meeting and feedback decisions to cabinet;

To date, the working group has presented both models to the board of trustees representing the youth forum. The board welcomed both models, but requested that a third option be also considered. The working group is now developing a third option, which will be presented to all the trustees and the Leader. In the New Year, the working group will meet with the Leader to consider all three options. The final stage will be to present the proposals to Cabinet, requesting members to endorse one of the options and commit a budget to support the proposal.

