

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING



The nature of learning will be transformed in this new century and information age. Instant access to global information and knowledge will influence not only learning in schools and in further and higher education, but also learning in the community, in the use of leisure time, in skills training and in the expectations and opportunities for citizens.

Quality learning, cultural and leisure experiences, accessible to all, have the potential to enhance and change the quality of life of people in Neath Port Talbot.

Active citizenship, empowered communities, economic regeneration and the encouragement of healthy lifestyles can be developed and sustained through the widest participation in education, leisure and lifelong learning. It is recognised that Neath Port Talbot is made up of many diverse communities and cultures; both provision and access should reflect this.

Lifelong learning must be within the reach of everyone and this Community Plan promotes access to

education, training and up-skilling within all parts of our communities where there are potential learners. This includes links with employers and business, with community-based organisations, youth groups and those who are increasingly discovering the experience of learning in their third age, as well as links with traditional providers of education, leisure and lifelong learning.

Some of the specific targets, many of them reflecting the national agenda, are derived from Neath Port Talbot's Education Strategic Plan, Behaviour Support Plan and Lifelong Learning Strategy and are intended to equip future generations to contribute more effectively to their own and community improvement. Some of the headline targets are amplified in the Education Strategic Plan, and in the business plans of partner organisations and will be further developed and implemented through borough-wide strategies for lifelong learning, youth, culture and leisure.

Significant progress has been made since 2002 in terms of meeting and in many cases exceeding the specific targets within the Education and Lifelong Learning part of the Community Plan.

Overall we have developed tangible partnerships, which have helped move forward the vision of Neath Port Talbot as a "Learning Borough." We have real multi-agency participation in terms of planning and delivery of service, which in turn is helping to deliver community and citizen ownership of learning and training. We will build on that base to deliver innovative and challenging initiatives and projects, which the citizens of Neath Port Talbot can be proud of.

Partnership engagement and review of this theme is undertaken with: -

- Neath Port Talbot Community Consortium for Education and Training (CCET)
- Neath Afan Association of Secondary Heads (NAASH)
- Association of Primary Heads (LLAN)
- Children and Young People's Framework Partnership, Young People's Partnership and Children's Partnership
- 14-19 Learning Network
- New Learning Network Strategy Group
- Health, Social Care and Well-being Project Group

- Neath Port Talbot Youth Council and Youth Providers Network
- Communities First Partnerships

KEY PARTNERS

Schools and Governing Bodies
Teachers and Lecturers
Pupils, Students and Parents
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Neath Port Talbot College
ELWa
Careers Wales West
Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Service
Neath Port Talbot Local Health Board
Job Centre Plus
Celtic Community Leisure
South Wales Police
University of Wales Swansea

Key partners in this "cradle to grave" challenge also include young people's organisations, a number of voluntary sector partners and a wide range of business, training, cultural and environmental agencies and networks.

OUR VISION

By 2015, we will have:

- Sustained and enhanced educational achievement and have made measurable progress to becoming a vibrant “Learning County Borough”.
- Increased access to, and take up of, opportunities for education, culture, leisure, lifelong learning, and skills training with a visible impact on the capacity of communities to secure and sustain economic regeneration through “local jobs for local people,” in a safe and improving environment.



Students at ITEC NPT

OUR AIMS

This is what we wish to do together:

1. Ensure that education provision recognises and promotes the importance of effective continuity and progression within the wider context of lifelong learning and ongoing self-evaluation and development.
2. Enhance the role of education in family and community life by developing excellence from pre-school provision through the national curriculum key stages and beyond, including meeting the needs of adult returners and the third age and the fostering of active links between schools, colleges, their communities and other centres of learning.
3. Improve opportunities for disadvantaged citizens, particularly the socially excluded and young people, to maximise access to learning by addressing the issues of economic and practical support, in partnership with representative bodies and individuals.
4. Ensure that all citizens have access to impartial information, advice and guidance to overcome the barriers to learning and encourage confidence in their own value as learners, with aspirations and learning goals in place.
5. Provide opportunities for access to, and training in, new technologies to prepare all citizens for the information age.

OUR AIMS (continued)



6. Develop the local skills base in line with local needs and the priorities of “Future Skills Wales” and “The Regional Statement of Needs and Priorities” and assist employers to up-skill their workforce.
7. Actively promote an entrepreneurial and aspirational learning culture within the communities of Neath Port Talbot.
8. Promote active citizenship by creating opportunities for enterprise and the development of social skills thereby building community and individual capacity.
9. Involve local communities in planning for the provision and development of accessible lifelong learning, social and cultural, opportunities for all.
10. Further develop the National Childcare Strategy and support coherent developments, which aim to improve the services for, and life chances of, children, young people, and their families.

We want to ensure a good start in life and provide a secure place for children and young people in our communities and support parents and carers.

11. Make full use of the training and learning opportunities provided by European and other funding.
12. Support schools in promoting their role within communities through the development of community partnerships, particularly in wards targeted through the Communities First programme.
13. Enhance the vocational learning partnership with schools to develop and sustain an inclusive curriculum for all pupils, using the on-going evaluation of the education, leisure and lifelong learning services of the County Borough Council, in conjunction with partners, as a combined resource for achieving this.

OUR TARGETS

By 2009

1. To have implemented the Action Plan arising from the audit of need in respect of family learning.
2. To promote continuous improvement in school performance as evaluated against all-Wales benchmarks and averages and to be pro-active in addressing under-performance.
3. To increase the level of school attendance by 1% per annum, for example, by the development of suitable alternative curriculum provision and developing basic skills by utilising a range of approaches and working effectively with the 14 to 19 Learning Network.
4. 90% of young people at 16 will continue in full-time education or enter training or employment that leads to a recognised vocational qualification. To monitor the number of young people furthering their career or learning in Neath Port Talbot.
5. To increase the take-up of higher education courses by 4% per annum and to develop the status of vocational skills.
6. To continually review youth provision and participation and to deliver the Young People's Partnership Strategy and its annual targets for 2002-2007.
7. To progressively involve communities in the provision of youth services, in partnership with the statutory and voluntary youth providers and to provide an additional 3 services per annum.
8. To widen participation of adult learners by evaluating and building on current provision, geographic spread and range, flexibility and accessibility of current provision. To meet perceived needs with improved quality delivery and to facilitate a learning culture by increasing and widening participation in adult education by 10% by the end of 2006 from the figure in 2004.
9. To increase the adult guidance provision to offer 200 adults not yet in learning the opportunity for learning action and planning, including offering guidance workshops for employees with low skills, thereby encouraging learning and wider participation.
10. To deliver basic/key skills via the adult curriculum and make them explicit to learners as a guide to transferable employment skills. To have completed by the end of 2006, the network of local action centres, with a target of 12, plus local satellites, which provide a curriculum that embeds key skills.
11. To maintain the number of internet access points available to the public above 100 as a minimum and ensure that access is available in every community area in Neath Port Talbot by 2006.
12. To increase access to leisure facilities, such as leisure centres

OUR TARGETS (continued)

and country parks, by people who are disadvantaged, unemployed or with low incomes by 1% per annum and to improve active participation rates in services for adults by 1% per annum, with an overall aim of matching average rates for Wales in the longer term.

13. To increase the number of visits to libraries by 3% per annum and to cultural activities by 3% per annum.
14. To build on and support the strategic priorities of the Children and Young People's Framework Partnership Plan and to deliver the targets in its supporting plans, with specific emphasis on early intervention and co-ordination with the Health, Social Care and Well-being Strategy.
15. To deliver the vision for Margam Park as the largest classroom in Wales.

RELATED STRATEGIES, PLANS AND DOCUMENTS

- Education Strategic Plan 2002-2005 and Supplementary ESP 2004-2005
- Children and Young People's Framework Partnership Plan 2003-2008, including the Children's Partnership Plan, Young People's Plan and Cymorth Plan
- Welsh Education Plan 2002-2005
- School Organisation Plan 2004-2009
- Cultural Strategy for Neath Port Talbot 2004-2009
- Play Strategy 2005-2009
- Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2004-2009
- Neath Port Talbot Health, Social Care and Well-being Strategy 2005-2008
- 14 to 19 Action Plan
- Neath Port Talbot Strategy for Older People 2004-2007
- Neath Port Talbot CCET's Annual Recommendations 2005-2006
- ELWA Regional Statement of Needs and Priorities
- Neath Port Talbot College's Strategic Plan
- Accessibility Strategy for Schools and Pupil Referral Unit 2005-2008