

**YOUTH SERVICES REVIEW
KEYNOTE EVENTS**

**4TH, 5TH AND 11TH
DECEMBER 2007**

**EVENTS REPORT
AND
EVALUATION**

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1. Background

During 2007 Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and its partners undertook a review of Youth Services across the County Borough. This was in response to the assertion by young people that there is little for them to do in Neath Port Talbot. The review found that although there are gaps in provision in certain areas, there are opportunities available to young people that they are not aware of. The final report is available to download at www.npt.gov.uk/youthservice.

Following the review a multi-agency group was established to take forward the actions arising from the report and to implement the Review Action Plan. As a way of communicating the findings of the review and consulting on further action three keynote events were held during December 2007. The purpose of the events was to:

- inform partners about the outcomes of the Youth Services Review
- engage partners in developing and implementing a new zonal model for delivering services for young people.

To reflect the proposed zonal model approach recommended as a result of the review, each event covered a geographical cluster area (see Appendix A for a breakdown of the communities in each cluster and zone);

- Western Cluster met on Tuesday 4th December at the Glyn Clydach Hotel, Longford, Neath;
- Eastern Cluster met on Wednesday 5th December at The Princess Royal Theatre, Port Talbot; and the
- Central Cluster met on Tuesday 11th December at the Civic Centre, Neath.

2. The Events

Each event followed a similar format commencing at 5.15pm with registration and a buffet and concluding at 8.30pm. The programme for the evenings included workshops that focused on addressing the main purpose of the events and the event held on 11th January also included a presentation on the **Something to Do** model developed and published by the Children's Commissioner for Wales and South Wales Police and workshops. The **Someone to Listen Something to do Report** can be accessed in full on the Children's Commissioner website www.childcom.org.uk (See Appendix B for the presentation on the **Something to Do** model provided by Keith Towler at the event on the 11th December.) A total of **164** people attended the events.

Workshops

Two workshops were held at each event all focusing on the same questions.

The first workshop concentrated on the following questions:

- Are the priorities listed in the review document the right ones for your area?
- Would you change/add to them?

The second workshop focused on:

- What would success look like in your Zone?
- Who needs to be involved to make it a success?

All attendees were allocated a space in one of four groups and remained with the group for both workshops. Staff from the County Borough Council and Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Services facilitated the groups.

Feedback from the workshops

Comments made during the workshops were recorded with the agreement of the group and have been used to inform this report. (See Appendix C for a full record of all comments.)

Workshop 1:

Are the priorities listed in the review document the right ones for your area? Would you change/add to them?

To provide maximum opportunity to attend the events, invitees were given the option to attend any or all of the events and were not limited to the geographical cluster most relevant to their work or residence. It therefore proved difficult to discuss the priorities at a local level in all groups because members did not represent that cluster or zone. Comments that can be attributed to a particular Zone are highlighted however many of the participants felt that priorities identified for one area were just as relevant to other zones even though it might not have been identified as a priority in that area. Disagreement with initial priorities are also highlighted, however where this has not occurred it is assumed that the group accepted the existing set of priorities. (See Appendix D for the priorities listed in the review document.)

In the main general themes emerged from the discussions.

Zone Specific Priorities

Zone 1 – Margam, Taibach and Port Talbot

Additional priorities identified:

- Increase the use of Margam Park;
- Taibach Barn needs substantial refurbishment.

Zone 2 – Sandfields East, Sandfields West and Aberavon

Disagreement with:

- the need for open spaces as there are lots of areas available in the Zone;

- lack of buildings for work with young people. Buildings are available, however there is a **lack of time and space** available and some of the local authority owned community centres can be difficult to use.

Additional priorities identified:

- provision for girls;
- increase the use of Aberavon Beach.

Zone 3 – Pelenna, Bryn and Cwmavon

Additional priorities identified:

- Address low lying anti-social behaviour in Cwmavon;
- Increase the number of volunteers in Pontrhydyfen.

Zone 4 – Cymmer, Gwynfi and Glyncorrwg

Additional priorities identified:

- Lack of buildings in Croeserw;
- Access to open spaces;
- Improve links with schools.

Zone 5 – Baglan, Briton Ferry East and Briton Ferry West

Additional priorities identified:

- Lack of facilities and youth provision in Baglan;
- Identify and recognise the contribution of voluntary sector input via church groups, sports clubs etc;
- Restore the overgrown field in St James Park.

Zone 6 – Neath West, Neath East, Neath South, Neath North, Cimla and Tonna

Additional priorities identified:

- Youth centre for Neath South;
- Consider replicating good practice such as the Hideout and Ponty Project in other areas;
- Explore opportunities for weekend youth provision.

Zone 7 – Resolven, Blaengwrach and Glynneath

Disagreement with:

- Need for a skateboard park. Mobile skateboarding has been taken to both Blaengwrach and Resolven. Resources are needed to make more use of this facility.

Additional priorities identified:

- Reopen Resolven Miners Welfare Club;
- Lack of youth clubs in Cwmgwrach and Resolven;
- Increase the level of detached work.

Zone 8 – Crynant, Onllwyn and Seven Sisters

Disagreement with:

- Youth Centre in Crynant Park – group questioned the feasibility of this priority.

Additional priorities identified:

- Make more use of Seven Sisters Fire Station facility;
- Refurbish Crynant Scout Hut.

Zone 9 – Coedffranc Central, Coedffranc North and Coedffranc West

Disagreement with:

- Lack of buildings – facilities are available **engagement** is the issue

Additional priorities identified:

- Taster sessions for young people in a variety of activities

Zone 10 – Aberdulais, Bryncoch North, Bryncoch South, Cadoxton and Dyffryn

No additional priorities identified.

Zone 11 – Alltwen, Pontardawe, Rhos and Trebanos

Disagreement with:

- Need to increase support for summer play schemes – a **Summer Scheme** is needed not just play;

Additional priorities identified:

- Explore opportunities for Physical Activity and Sport Service and Celtic Community Leisure to provide school holiday provision;
- Detached work in Pontardawe.

Zone 12 – Cwmllynfell, Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen, Ystalyfera, Lower Brynamman and Godregraig

Additional priorities identified:

- Lack of youth workers in Lower Brynamman and Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen

Universal Priorities

The following are those priorities that are common to **ALL** Zones and were identified by nearly all of the workshop groups:

- Lack of transport to and from provision;
- Need to effectively market provision to young people;
- Develop a directory of services available for young people and support for youth organisations;
- Ensure that youth provision is easily accessible to all groups of young people including those with specific needs and hard to reach groups;
- Increase the number of volunteers available to work with young people;
- Ensure consistency of staff so that they build effective relationships with young people and the community;
- Consider how buildings currently available can be used on a multi

- purpose basis for a variety of activities;
- Ensure all age provision from the age of 8;
- Increase the use of schools as a community venue for activities;
- Provide subsidies for young people to use Council owned or funded facilities;
- Increase the commitment from Community Councils to support young people and to encourage and recognise their involvement in the community.

Workshop 2:

What would success look like in your Zone?

Most of the workshops agreed that success needed to be seen from different viewpoints i.e. from both a young people and wider community point of view.

Success from a young people perspective would be that they are:

- well informed about what opportunities are available in their area and elsewhere;
- able to easily access and afford available provision wherever it may be;
- supported to overcome any educational, health or social barriers that may prevent them from accessing opportunities;
- fully involved in the running of the provision they access and are fully satisfied with the opportunities available;
- able to choose from a wide range of good quality recreational, sport, cultural and learning opportunities;
- seen in a positive way by the communities they live in as actively contributing citizens;
- able to gain self respect and self confidence;
- safe, warm, dry and welcomed when accessing opportunities.

The wider community would see the Zone as successful if:

- they are well informed about the work of the Zonal Action Team and the opportunities available to young people within and outside of their Zone;

- provision for young people is of good quality and variety; consistently available and well staffed;
- the barriers to accessing provision such as transport and cost are eliminated;
- young people are more respectful of their community;
- there is a reduction in the levels of anti social behaviour, teenage pregnancy, crime and poverty;
- greater use is made of facilities within a community and resources available across the county borough;
- the number of volunteers within the community increases;
- local people are fully involved and supportive of the zonal approach;
- Zones are treated equally when distributing resources;
- Zones are encouraged to work across zonal boundaries to maximise opportunities and resources;
- relationships between different generations improve significantly;
- there is increased community spirit.

Who needs to be involved to make it a success?

Discussion in the groups focused on more than just those needing to be involved in the development of the zone model but also the attributes members of the zonal action team should possess and the principles that the teams should adopt as working practice.

There is clear agreement across the groups that the following organisations and representatives should be **involved** in the 'zonal' approach to the delivery of services to young people i.e.

- Schools
- Police
- CVS
- Churches & faith groups
- Local Businesses
- Local voluntary and community groups
- Social services
- Community safety teams
- College
- Youth Offending Team

- Elected members
- Parents
- Young people
- Health Service
- Communities First
- Specialist agencies e.g. WGCADA and RADS
- Housing
- Sports related organisations
 - Celtic Community Leisure
 - NPTCBC Physical Activity and Sport Service
 - Local groups and clubs
- Fire Service
- Youth Service
- Transport
- Residents and employees in the area

The **attributes** of those involved should include:

- Effective at networking
- Knowledgeable
- Hard working
- Passionate
- Decision makers
- Innovative
- Committed
- Driven
- Maximises resources
- 'thinks outside the box'

Teams should adopt the following **principles**:

- open and transparent
- agreement results in action
- shared responsibility and ownership
- shared good practice
- innovate don't duplicate
- maximise resources
- non-bureaucratic
- accessible to all
- effective communication
- agreed rules and codes of conduct

3. Conclusions

There is good support for the zonal approach to the delivery of services for young people. Participants at the events have given clear guidance to those involved in developing Zonal Action Teams about who should be involved, the attributes they should have and how the Team should operate.

Overall the priorities identified from the initial review have been accepted and, in most cases, added to. These will provide a good starting point for the development of Zonal Action Plans once the Zonal Action Teams are established.

The universal priorities identified impact on all Zones and will require a co-ordinated approach across Zone boundaries. Significant investment of time, effort and resources will be required to meet the priorities identified.

There are clearly identifiable benefits to both young people and their communities by ensuring young people have 'something to do' in their area that is of good quality, easily accessible, sufficiently varied and well staffed.

Many of those attending the events are keen to participate in the Zonal Action Teams and eager for the work to begin. There is still a need to identify a lead organisation or individual for each of the Zones.

The events were well attended and participants were clearly satisfied with the overall content and opportunity to contribute. With the exception of a very few, all participants would be willing to engage in future events and this provides a positive model for further consultation and communication once the Zonal Action Teams are established and their plans are developed.

4. Next Steps

A small working group consisting of statutory and voluntary sector representatives will meet to identify potential leads for each of the Zonal Action Teams.

Once agreed, lead organisations or individuals will bring together interested parties within the Zones. This will provide the opportunity to confirm local priorities and begin to develop the Zonal Action Plan.

Universal priorities will be reviewed by the multi-agency Youth Service Review Implementation Group who will develop an action plan to complement the Zonal Action Plans.

Progress of both the Universal and Zonal Action Plans will be reported on annually.