
ACHIEVING A SUSTAINABLE YOUTH WORK OFFER FOR CARDIFF

Reasons for the Report

1. To provide Members with background information to facilitate a pre-decision scrutiny of a proposal relating to Achieving a Sustainable Youth Work Offer for Cardiff attached at **Appendix A**, prior to consideration by Cabinet on the 23 November 2023.

Background to the Proposal

2. The attached Cabinet Report (Appendix A) report draws upon the findings and recommendations of an evidence informed review of Cardiff Youth Service in 2022, designed to inform a strengthened and sustainable delivery model that can support recovery post pandemic. This review was conducted within the context of the national position, and the recommendations of the recent report published by the Interim Youth Work Board for Wales¹. It utilised desk-based research, as well as feedback provided by a range of key stakeholders including the voice of young people.
3. It is also informed by an extensive follow on nine-month appraisal of Cardiff Youth Service, led within the Education Directorate and supported by youth leaders and professionals, community leaders and young people.

¹ <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-09/achieving-a-sustainable-delivery-model-for-youth-work-services-in-wales-final-report.pdf>

4. Cardiff Youth Service provides the Council's Youth Work Offer for young people. A wider range of services for young people are also offered by other teams within the Council, and by partners across the city. The review of the Cardiff Youth Service operating model is the first phase of a wider review of services for adolescents, to achieve the longer-term ambition of delivering an effective, integrated model of provision that can respond to the individual needs of young people in Cardiff.

Further Information Highlighted in the Cabinet Report

5. The Cabinet Report attached at **Appendix A** is set out as follows:
 - Introduction to the Proposals – *paragraphs 5 – 7*
 - Policy Context for Youth Work in Wales – *paragraphs 8 – 12*
 - Organisational Context: Cardiff Youth Service - *paragraphs 13 – 19*
 - Key Findings and Recommendations of the Independent Youth Review (June 2022) - *paragraphs 20 – 27*
 - Responding to Young People's Needs - *paragraphs 28 - 30*
 - Outline Proposals for Change - *paragraphs 31 – 32*
 - The Vision and Operating Model – 'What we want to achieve' - *paragraphs 33 – 40*
 - Key Principles of the Operating Model - *paragraph 41*
 - Changes to the Existing Model of Provision - *paragraphs 42 – 43*
6. The draft Cabinet report also provides details on the following areas:
 - Financial Implications – paragraph 44
 - Legal Implications – paragraphs 45 - 52
 - Human Resources Implications – paragraphs 53 - 56
 - Property Implications – paragraph 57

Reason for Recommendations

7. The following recommendations are made to ensure that Cardiff Youth Service can respond efficiently and effectively to the increasing demands for support for young people at a community level and meet all legislative requirements for Youth Work in Wales.
8. Implementation of the new operating model will build solid foundations for the service to integrate as an important core component of a broader range of services for adolescents in the medium to longer term.

Recommendations set out in the Cabinet Proposals

9. Cabinet is recommended to:
 - Agree the proposed Vision, principles, and new operating model for Cardiff Youth Service.
 - Endorse the proposed focus upon Locality working, to strengthen and integrate youth work disciplines in a locality area, ensuring that teams are responsive to the needs of the community that they serve.
 - Receive updates from the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning, and relevant cabinet member, on the delivery of the actions identified within the report, to receive assurance that resources are appropriately prioritised to address the needs of the most vulnerable and at-risk children and young people.
 - Receive updates from the Chief Executive and relevant members of the Senior Management Team, in consultation with the relevant cabinet members, in due course, upon work being undertaken to work towards the longer term goals to integrate the Youth Service more effectively with wider Services for Adolescents.

Scope of Scrutiny

10. The scope of this scrutiny is for Members to consider and provide comments on the draft report to Cabinet, prior to its consideration of the report on the 23 November 2023.

Scrutiny Interest in this topic

11. Members highlighted the need for scrutiny on youth services and youth provision, and this is currently on the committee's work programme, where Members stated they would wish to receive information on the following:

- Look at what is available city-wide; identify gaps
- Look at what interventions are available
- What are the links within communities?
- Cabinet Member perspective
- Operational manager, senior staff in children's services and education.
- Key partners from police and health.
- To hear directly from the young people themselves.
- Key staff including those working directly with young people in the Youth Service. Someone with a critical eye as to what works/ what's missing

12. During the Way Forward discussion, Members may wish to consider and agree any further scrutiny of this issue.

Way Forward

13. At this meeting, the following Members and officers will be in attendance:

- **Cllr Peter Bradbury** (Cabinet Member for Tackling Poverty, Equality & Public Health (Tackling Poverty & Supporting Young People))
- **Melanie Godfrey** (Director of Education & Lifelong Learning)
- **Suzanne Scarlett** (Partnerships & Performance Manager, Education & Lifelong Learning)

Legal Implications

14. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

15. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However,

financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

1. consider the information provided in the report, appendices and presentations or statements;
2. consider whether they have any observations, comments or recommendations they wish to make; and
3. consider a way forward with regard to any future scrutiny of the issues raised.

Leanne Weston

Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer

8 November 2023