

**CORPORATE PARENTING
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

22 January 2023

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, CHILDRENS SERVICES

YOUTH SERVICE UPDATE

Reasons for the report

1. This report has been prepared to provide the Committee with an update in relation to Cardiff Youth Service

Background

2. Cardiff Youth Service are part of Cardiff Council's Education department, who work with young people aged 11-25yrs to enhance personal, social and educational development through a variety of opportunities.
3. These opportunities include activities in communities, participatory experiences, as well as information, support and guidance enabling young people to reach their unique and full potential.
4. Cardiff Youth Service work with young people in a variety of settings offering both universal and, for those identified as vulnerable, targeted support.
5. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and children's rights underpins all the work that Cardiff Youth service undertake, with regular consultations occurring on an ongoing basis.
6. Cardiff is a child friendly city and Cardiff Youth Service are committed to working in partnership with their team and UNICEF to enhance the development of our children.

Issues

7. There are 13 youth work teams in Cardiff, who engage with young people in youth centres and youth clubs, on the street where young people are, as well as in schools and communities.
8. All Cardiff Youth Workers are a nationally qualified, registered workforce.

9. One of the ways the Youth Service offer support to our CLA is by the employment of specialist Looked After Youth Mentors.
10. Cardiff Looked After Youth Mentors offer support in a number of different ways, including one-to-one support with qualified and experienced Youth Mentors. Weekly sessions, sometimes more for a minimum of 1 hour.
11. Delivery of these sessions is completely flexible, with the option of taking place either in a school setting, the community or where they live. This also includes Cardiff children that are placed out of county.
12. Sessions focus on the needs of the young people with an intention to improve their wellbeing, improve attendance and attainment and decrease problematic behaviour.
13. Currently, Cardiff Youth Service have capacity to work with 60 young people across the team.
14. There is also a specialist CLA Wellbeing Group that is run weekly from Eastmoors Youth Centre. It provides care experienced or looked after children and young people with an opportunity to socialise and meet other young people and share experiences.
15. Sessions are focused on promoting emotional health and wellbeing through a variety of themed workshops, including cooking, games/activities, iCare Programme, and accredited activities such Youth Achievers Award and Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Financial Implications

16. There are currently no direct financial implications arising from this report

Legal Implications

17. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION

18. The Committee is recommended to note the Youth Service Update and to consider ways they can support the service in the future.

DEBORAH DRIFFIELD
Director, Childrens Services
13 December 2023

Appendix A– Youth Service Update