

Report To: Communities Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 10th September 2015

Lead Member/Officer: Lead Member for Community Development

Report Author: Lead Officer: Young People, Safeguarding and Workforce Development

Title: Community Group Profiling Progress Report

1. What is the report about?

The purpose of the report is to update scrutiny on progress regarding the mapping and profiling of community groups, the emerging themes and next steps.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To provide information regarding the progress made in the mapping and profiling of community groups and current emerging themes

3. What are the Recommendations?

That the Committee:

- 3.1 considers the information provided and comments accordingly; and
- 3.2 supports to continuation of the work to map and profile the community groups across the county.

4. Report details.

Background Information

It is considered to be important to understand the context of community based provision for children and young people across the county, and profiled within localities.

This information will contribute to informing the planning process for responding to the needs of children and young people in out of school activity and provision based within the wider community.

The process can contribute to helping to determine gaps and duplication through the structured approach.

Approach

Youth Workers meet with community group lead workers / volunteers and complete a self-assessment profile. A form is completed that covers 10 indicators (See appendix

1, table 1). In ideal circumstances it is best for the form to be completed jointly in a face to face discussion. It is important to have a joint discussion in order to arrive at a shared understanding of the activity levels.

Progress

There are around 1000 groups contained within the council's societies' data base and sports groups' information. Some groups have been found that were not on this list and some groups that were on the list have ceased operating. However the total of around 1000 groups has remained the notional figure the service is working with.

273 groups have completed the profiling form, 15 groups have declined to participate and 6 groups are currently in the process of completion. Mapping activity has been ongoing over the school holidays and the results will be fed into the monitoring system in late September.

Emerging Themes

Appendix 1 gives an overview of progress and emerging themes in more detail. Emerging themes are to be treated with some caution as the full picture of activity will not be known until a bigger percentage of groups has been profiled.

The groups and societies information have groups that are not applicable for children and young people. In some cases the groups 'could' be attended by children and young people but the group had not considered that previously. As a consequence further scrutiny of the data base will be conducted to 'target' the under 25 years of age group provisions specifically.

There are a range of community based activities across the county. This includes activity and provision in areas such as; sports, performing arts, cultural, environmental, outdoor, church groups and uniformed youth groups. A large proportion of the groups are voluntary and / or run independently from the council (64%)

Across the indicators (see appendix 1 table 2) there are some interesting trends beginning to emerge. Some of these are worth picking up sooner rather than later. These include for example:

There is a balance of participation styles across the county from adults taking the lead in sessions to young people leading sessions. Whilst the style of participation needs to be appropriate to the context of the activity there may be a case for promotion of the young leaders work that Communication Marketing and Leisure (CML) promote/deliver (with partners).

Working with the Corporate Safeguarding Panel and the forthcoming public awareness campaign on what safeguarding is in contrast to 'protection', early discussions are to take place with the Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council

(DVSC) and the Wales Council for Volunteer Action (WCVA) in order to provide further support to volunteer and community groups on safeguarding practice.

The profiling suggests that the council run provisions are more engaged in activity that recognise non formal learning (through internal certificates) and formal learning (an activity that is accredited through an external awarding body e.g. Agored Cymru, Sports Leaders UK). There are examples of volunteer led community provisions doing this too (for example the Scouts), however the general emerging picture is that small voluntary / community based provision tend not to. There may be a case to enhance participants experience and offer access to non-formal and formal programmes / or share how this might be done.

Across all sectors the use of ICT and Digital media seems to have a lower profile than was expected. This stands out in Graph 1. Not all provisions use ICT within sessions however given the transition to a 'digital choice' it would make sense to consider the balance between 'virtual' and 'physical' provisions.

Next Steps

The plan is to:

1. Review 'known' groups information list across the county and plan the next phase of mapping and profiling. This will include targeting 11-25 year old membership as a first priority.
2. Create provision categorisation / definitions in order to better classify groups in localities.
3. Contribute to the People To People pilot project in Corwen. (The project is seeking to explore ways that communities can be helped to improve their areas through co-production approaches). This project is led by the Business Modernisation and Improvement service.
4. Work with the WCVA and DVSC in order to help them target voluntary sector safeguarding training and other support that small volunteer groups might need.
5. Explore linking information regarding provisions and societies web site provision for community access (this could be through the new Dewis Wales website, Family Information Service database and / or through the council website).
6. When the groups have been mapped – to review this with stakeholders to ensure provisions have been accounted for, as far as practical.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

The exercise will contribute to the council's understanding of community and voluntary groups' activity which will support the development and delivery of the Well Being Plan, and community safeguarding of children, young people and adults at risk.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

All costs accrued will be supported by service budgets. Continued financial constraints require an ongoing review of this work to balance the outcomes with benefits.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.

The purpose of the report is to review and consider progress of mapping and profiling community provision for children and young people. Therefore, the report is not seeking a decision in response to a proposal. There are no adverse effects on any of the protected characteristics as a result of this report. See Appendix 2 attached.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

Consultation has been carried out with key stakeholders through the Children, Young People & Families Partnership.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

Any costs associated with the mapping and profiling exercise should be contained within existing budgets and therefore there are no obvious financial implications contained in the report.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

There are no particular risks associated with the community group profiling that have been identified to date.

11. Power to make the Decision

Article 6.1 of the Council's Constitution outlines the Committee's responsibility for scrutinising community development matters, whilst Article 6.3.2 details scrutiny's powers with respect to examining matters affecting the area or its inhabitants.

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