

Report To: Welsh Language Steering Committee

Date of Meeting: 9th October 2018

Lead Member / Officer: Lead Member Huw Hilditch-Roberts / Bobby Feeley
Lead Officer Community Wellbeing: Roger Ellerton

Report Author: Roger Ellerton, Lead Officer Community Wellbeing, FAH

Title: Joint Working between Denbighshire Youth Service and the Urdd

1. What is the report about?

The report explains the context for the Welsh language partnership between the Youth Service, Strategic Leisure and the Urdd

2. What is the reason for making this report?

Committee requested a report in order to brief the Committee about the on-going work between Youth Service and the Urdd to enhance the Welsh provision for young people in Denbighshire.

3. What are the Recommendations?

Committee acknowledges the work between the Youth Service, Strategic Leisure and the Urdd that enhances the Welsh provision for young people in Denbighshire.

4. Report details

4.1 Background

The Youth Service and the Urdd have been working in partnership to enhance provision and improve opportunities through the medium of Welsh for young people since 2010. This has been a successful partnership and in 2013 they won a Welsh Government Excellence award for 'supporting and promoting culture within Wales'.

Regular meetings between the Lead Officer for Community Wellbeing and the Regional Director for the Urdd are held, to plan, monitor and develop joint working between the Youth Service and the Urdd.

A jointly funded Youth worker post was created over six years ago, which has acted as a catalyst to generate joint activity between the Youth Service, Strategic Leisure and the Urdd. The Welsh Language Youth Worker is trained in Youth Work and registered with the Education and Workforce Council (legal requirement). This has significance as it has been challenging to recruit qualified youth workers through the medium of Welsh.

In order to encourage more Welsh language applications for posts in the youth service, the service has recruited trainee youth workers at the professional grade, and successfully recruited 2 Welsh speaking Community Youth Workers. In addition the joint worker employed by the Urdd recently was successful in being appointed to the School youth Worker post.

There is also an ongoing volunteer recruitment campaign and volunteers who speak Welsh are especially welcome. They will be trained in youth work to occupational standards appropriate to their volunteering role.

4.2 Joint Work Programme

An annual service level agreement is agreed by the Youth Service and the Urdd which highlights the work the Urdd will undertake in partnership with the Youth Service.

The work programme includes:

- Delivery of out of school clubs to support the social use of the Welsh Language, supporting young people to develop resilience as a key outcome
- Provision of Welsh Language youth work programme that will support young people at risk of becoming NEET remaining engaged
- Supporting youth work outcomes through accreditation in partnership with the Youth Service, schools (Ysgol Glan Clwyd, Ysgol Brynhyfryd, Ysgol Dinas Bran) and college (young people will gain an appropriate accreditation depending on their needs)
- The development of softer skills and volunteering opportunities to improve young people's employability / readiness for training / college
- The Welsh language youth worker will continue to be part of the Engage practitioners / Youth Engagement Panels and the Youth Service referral process which allocates cases for youth work intervention.
- Work with Welsh Language referrals in Ysgol Glan Clwyd.

The following outputs have been agreed on an annual basis. Performance is reported upon formally to Welsh Government every 6 months.

- 1500 Young People engaged through the medium of welsh
- 345 accreditations to be completed (23%)
- 2000 contacts with Young people through welsh medium activity.
- 4 referrals from practitioner meetings
- 90% achieving recorded progression outcomes
- 15 young people who are at risk engaged to be supported
- Community Open Access - 4 clubs to be held weekly.
- 6 Welsh language programmes across the county in the High Schools and transition age including dinner time clubs and sessions.
- Engage 35 young people with volunteering opportunities and ensure participation on Urdd Youth Forums

4.3 Partnership working

The Partnership between the Youth Service and the Urdd is effective and there are many strengths which have contributed towards enabling young people to take part in high quality activity and that has supported increased use of welsh in social settings.

Leadership and management has continued to shape the project and gain external funding from the Welsh Government through the Youth Work Strategy Support Grant. The Urdd has also secured funding from Gwynt y Mor funding to ensure more opportunities for young people in the Rhyl/Prestatyn area.

There is good leadership between the Urdd and the Youth Service at both strategic and operational / delivery levels. There was an effective approach to rationalisation of project activity which led to directing young people towards a range of club based programmes in order to improve participation and good use of resources.

There are a range of resources that have been shared between the Youth Service and the Urdd. This includes use of LA Youth Centres, Minibus, Urdd expertise, accreditation and joint Anti Bullying workshops at schools in the County.

4.4 Evaluation

An annual self assessment is conducted between the Youth Service and the Urdd. The joint assessments have been positive and demonstrate good partnership working to support welsh language provision.

As part of the of the process the 'Dangos Llwyddiant' (Showing Success) and the 'Dweud dy Ddweud' (Say your Say) forms to evaluate several different activities. By evaluating the work we can conclude the following:

It is clear that our work is having a positive impact on the young people. The young people have generated confidence in themselves, in their language skills and in their desire to use Welsh in the future. e.g. Language Skills has increased from 10% before the activity, to 65% after the activity.

4.5 Strategic Leisure

The joint working with the Urdd has also been extended to other areas of work that come under the management of the Lead Officer for Community Wellbeing. This is a result of both the Youth Service and Strategic Leisure being line managed by the lead officer and the exploration of synergies between both service areas.

Staff within the Active Young People (AYP) team also work in partnership with the Urdd to deliver sports based activities through extracurricular work in the school and community opportunities. AYP staff also support the young people in competitions by taking them to Eisteddfods outside of school time.

There continues to be a strong Welsh Provision within the AYP Team with staff able to offer the following activities/projects:

- Bikeability training is offered in both languages to all Year 6 pupils
- Playmakers award (Year 6) is delivered in Welsh to Primary Schools on request
- Sport Leaders accreditations are delivered in Welsh in partnership with the Urdd.

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

The work that takes place between the Urdd, Youth Services and Strategic Leisure, contributes towards the Welsh Language Standards and the Corporate Priority - Young People: A place where younger people will want to live and work and have the skills to do so.

The work programme specifically supports the following:

- Help young people to develop practical 'life skills' and behaviours that contribute to good health and well-being.
- Offer young people the opportunity to develop skills for life and work through volunteering opportunities and meaningful work experience.

The service gives priority to promoting volunteering and work experience.

6 volunteer recruitment events are held each year, to recruit volunteers into the service

The Urdd Apprenticeship scheme – Denbighshire have recently appointed the first Youth and Community apprentice in Wales. This scheme supports young people to gain experience of work and the opportunity to promote the Welsh Language.

- 6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**
Section notes: The following areas should be thought about as a minimum when drafting the report:
- Not Applicable
- 7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?**
- Impact assessment not required as the report highlights current provision and there is no change proposed.
- 8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?**
- The Urdd have been involved in the production of the report.
- 9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**
- Not required due to the briefing context of the report.
- 10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**
- The only risk is the availability of funding to support the joint post between the Youth Service and the Urdd. If Welsh Government remove the grant, the Youth Service and the Urdd would seek to secure external funding to continue the partnership.
- 11. Power to make the Decision**
- Not applicable - No decision required