

CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 17 th November 2020
Report Subject	Youth Services
Cabinet Member	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education
Report Author	Chief Officer (Education and Youth)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Flintshire Integrated Youth Provision (FIYP) is innovating services for young people.

The innovation reflects the impacts of, and lessons from, the pandemic emergency response and changes in national and local context. This represents a next step in the Council's corporate Recovery Strategy for the pandemic emergency response.

FIYP proposes a blended service offering that prioritises greater:

1. Digital and remote engagement with young people;
2. Targeted prevention work within communities and with partners to build resilience and well-being for more vulnerable children and young people;
3. Equity for Welsh medium provision across all FIYP services;
4. Partnership work with schools to support young people at risk of not engaging with education; and
5. Support for staff and quality practices.

The proposal delivers potential annual savings of £98.6k representing a 49% saving on premises and 20% on staffing.

FIYP will consult young people, FIYP and Council staff and statutory and community partners about proposals in the period ending January 2021. This will inform the development of a FIYP Plan 2021-2024, for launch in Q1 2021/22.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To approve FIYP consultation on developing the FIYP Plan 2021-2024.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	DEVELOPMENT OF FLINTSHIRE YOUTH SERVICES
1.01	<p>The Learning and Skills Act 2000 s.123 obliges local authorities to provide and/or secure the provision of Youth Support Services (youth services). Youth workers provide these services, with ‘youth work’ a recognised methodology for working with young people, underpinned by National Occupational Standards and regulated professional qualifications.</p>
1.02	<p>Since 2010, traditional youth service activities in Wales, which were mainly community-based, drop-in and open-access have reduced. Reasons for this include national and local policy change, young people’s growing preference for digital interaction and more time on school-related activities such as study.</p> <p>Some local authorities no longer operate any regular open-access youth clubs. Coming into 2020, Flintshire has sustained 13 youth clubs.</p>
1.03	<p>The national and local policy context focuses youth service activities to more targeted provision. This provision takes place within various settings, including schools, homes and in communities. This includes dedicated provision for young people more at risk of poor outcomes such as young carers and young people with disabilities, at risk of exclusion, having unhealthy relationships and with emotional and mental health problems.</p> <p>National policy changes include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Requirements for youth work approaches in providing emotional and mental health support and to coordinate activity to meet statutory requirements for a Youth Homelessness Prevention Service since 2019/20; 2. Curriculum for Wales 2020; 3. Estyn framework for inspection of secondary schools requires that the school makes appropriate use of partners to provide effective support for pupils where that is required (area 4); and 4. Families First requirements for young people programmes. <p>Local priorities include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Youth homelessness where Flintshire young people aged 16-24 have represented 23% of all people presenting as homeless; 6. School absenteeism and permanent and fixed term exclusions in secondary schools which are higher than all Wales averages; and 7. Growing numbers of looked after children and care leavers.
1.04	<p>FIYP services have adapted, while ensuring a mix of regular open-access youth clubs and targeted provision. FIYP has:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Invested in staff training and development to ensure staff are equipped to meet the needs of diverse children and young people.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Given more voice to young people to shape service design. 3. Prioritised flexibility so to respond quickly to emerging priorities and needs. For example, the FIYP Play Development team work with Welfare team to deliver a summer food poverty project in 21 communities of need. 4. Partnered with the third sector to maximise availability of diverse opportunities for young people across Flintshire. 5. Increased joint work with schools to help build confidence and participation of pupils at risk of non-engagement with education. 6. Increased joint work with statutory partners to utilise youth work approaches to prevent problem escalation. For example, integrating youth workers within multidisciplinary teams working with young people at risk of/presenting as homeless and looked after children.
1.05	<p>The pandemic closed youth clubs, outreach services, community-based activities and most schools. FIYP adapted quickly. FIYP introduced:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Secure digital, remote services to young people; including online meetings for Flintshire Youth Council, 1:1 support, online youth club for young people with self-harm needs and a Facebook page to share information and advice and encourage contact (see 5.02); 2. Informal education and play activities each day at Resilience Hubs within schools; 3. Policies for safe digital and remote engagement with young people and staff; 4. 'Estyn Llaw – Reaching Out'- a fully bilingual support team to offer on line and face to face services to young people; 5. Additional support for young carers and carers in partnership with NEWCIS and Barnados; 6. Laptops for young people at risk of digital exclusion; 7. More Welsh medium provision within the FIYP; 8. A summer play scheme for children aged 5-12 at 55 sites (within 28 Town and Community Council areas). Across 17-29 August 2020, 1,865 children participated including 30 disabled children supported by volunteer buddies (see 5.03); and 9. Digital methods for FIYP staff meeting, coaching, planning and training.
1.06	<p>FIYP service development will embed lessons from the pandemic response to realise the vision of the Youth Work Strategy for Wales 2019:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Young people are thriving 2. Youth work is accessible and inclusive 3. Voluntary and paid professional youth work staff are supported throughout their careers to improve their practice 4. Youth work is valued and understood 5. A sustainable model for youth work delivery <p>FIYP will sustain and develop digital and remote engagement with young people and staff, safely reopen a more sustainable youth club provision and increase partnering with the third sector and schools to extend reach and impact. Key elements include:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Developing digital and remote engagement. This includes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. FIYP is developing new online youth clubs for diverse cohorts of young people. This includes a Welsh language youth club involving more than 70 young people and an Inspire youth club for emotional wellbeing. b. Training staff in digital and remote engagement methods; 2. FIYP reopening a more sustainable youth club provision. This includes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. FIYP has risk assessed youth clubs to enable some re-opening in 2020/21 consistent with <i>COVID-19 Guidance</i>. b. FIYP will sustain regular youth club activities at Bryn Garth, Connah's Quay, Flint, Greenfield, Gwernymynydd, Mancot and Sandycroft, Penyffordd, Saltney and Sealand. c. FIYP will develop new provision at Cyfle Hub and support community-based Roc youth club in Mold. d. FIYP transferring management of 8 buildings to schools or as part of a community asset transfer to deliver a potential £98.6k annual savings. 3. FIYP increase partnering with the third sector and schools. This includes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. FIYP has increased youth worker support to young people discharged from hospital (Inspire project) for reasons of self-harm; b. FIYP has recruited a youth homelessness prevention coordinator to oversee a strategic approach to meeting statutory duties to prevent youth homelessness and a prevention worker co-located with housing and social work teams supporting looked after children and care leavers; and c. FIYP will co-locate a four immersion community and school youth workers at five secondary schools every week of every term and school holiday digital support. E.g. sexual health on line provision.
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2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	<p>There are no revenue / capital implications. There are no implications for additional capacity or for any change to current workforce structures or permanent roles. FIYP will achieve staffing savings from the changes to assets. FIYP will meet these through not filling some vacancies.</p> <p>There are no technology implications. Digitally excluded learners' needs have been addressed through Council work, in partnership with schools, as part of the Welsh Government 'Stay Safe. Stay Learning' programme. FIYP has made available digitally-enabled methodologies for staff engagement and participation. This is supported with training /coaching.</p> <p>Asset implications relate to FIYP transfer of three buildings to schools where these are on school-sites and five buildings to the community through community asset transfer. This offers savings of:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Premises management savings potential of £70.6k (over 40 % of youth club element of budget) 2. Potential staff savings of £28k (20% saving of youth club element of budget) <p>FIYP transfer to schools and associated premises management saving potential :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Broughton £12k 2. Leeswood £7.5k 3. Treuddyn £11k <p>FIYP managed buildings for community asset transfer and associated premises management saving potential:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Carmel £2.8k 5. Deeside £7.9k 6. Greenfield £3.3k 7. Mold £1.5k 8. Penyffordd £11.6k
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3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	<p>Education and Youth (EY) Portfolio Risk Register 2020/21 records the following risks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EY02: Inability to deliver statutory Youth Services due to uncertainty about grant funding. Risk is assessed as ‘decreasing’. 2. EY05: Insufficient financial resources to support children and young people’s emotional health. Mitigation actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • digital information, advice and signposting of young people through the FIYP social media platform; • 1:1 digital and remote work and an online youth club for young people with self-harm needs assisted by the Inspire Project; and • Promotion of free resources, such as ‘Solihull’ approaches to parenting to support parents/carers in managing their children and schools promoting online materials to support the emotional health and wellbeing of young people during school closure.

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	<p>Through October 2020 - February 2021, FIYP will consult young people, families, staff and partners to inform and structure these priorities as part of a FIYP plan for 2021-2024 to be launched April 2021.</p>

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Flintshire-Integrated-Youth-Provision/Home.aspx (overview of FIYP including details of all services available for young people and families and information about current provision to reflect the pandemic response)
5.02	https://www.facebook.com/YouthProvisionFlintshire/?ref=nf (dedicated Facebook site for FIYP)
5.03	https://www.leaderlive.co.uk/news/18757183.flintshire-play-schemes-adapt-another-successful-summer/ (<i>Flintshire play schemes adapt for another successful summer</i> article, The Leader, 29 September 2020) and http://www.deeside.com/flintshire-county-councils-summer-playscheme-deemed-a-success-even-with-added-setback-of-covid-19/ (<i>Flintshire County Council's 'Summer Playscheme' deemed a success, even with added setback of COVID-19</i> article, Deeside.Com, 30 September 2020)

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	https://publichealthwales.shinyapps.io/MentalWellbeingInWales/ (Mental well-being in Wales)
6.02	https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/1468-4446.12369 (A child's day: trends in time use in the UK from 1975 to 2015)
6.03	https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Housing/Flintshire-Housing-Strategy-and-Action-plan-2019-2024.pdf (Flintshire Housing Strategy and Action Plan 2019-2024)
6.04	https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-08/covid-19-guidance-support-youth-work-services-safe-phased-increase-operations.pdf (COVID-19: Guidance to support youth work services with a safe and phased increase of operations)

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	Contact Officer: Ann Sharman Roberts, Senior Manager, Integrated Youth Provision Telephone: 077 9889 3509 E-mail: ann.roberts@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	<p>AURA: Aura is a charitable, not-for-profit, organisation which, from 1 September 2017, is responsible for managing the majority of leisure centres and libraries previously operated directly by Flintshire County Council. Aura is owned by its employees and operates for the benefit of local communities in Flintshire,</p> <p>Education Workforce Council (EWC) EWC is the independent regulator in Wales for youth workers. Since April 2017, youth support workers and youth workers who provide services for or on behalf of a local authority, school, further education institution or voluntary organisation in Wales and who hold relevant qualifications need to be registered with the EWC. In 2021, the EWC will also be responsible for undertaking the accreditation processes as part of the Quality Mark.</p> <p>Housing Strategy and Action Plan 2019-2024: sets out the Council ambition to provide affordable housing and support across Flintshire, for our residents. The Housing Strategy sets out how we intend to achieve this through working collaboratively with our strategic partners in an intelligent and innovative way to deliver our ambition.</p> <p>Flintshire New Dragons Youth Project: a weekly club for young people with communication and language difficulties aged 11-17, with young people aged 18+ able to volunteer. The project is led by young people, with support from a communication champion and youth workers. BGC Wales add value through providing accredited training.</p> <p>Formal, informal and non-formal education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal education is the hierarchically structured, chronologically graded 'education system', running from primary school through to university and including, in addition to general academic studies, a variety of specialised programmes and institutions for full-time technical and professional training. • Informal education is the truly lifelong process whereby every individual acquires attitudes, values, skills and knowledge from daily experience and the educative influences and resources in his or her environment – from family and neighbours, work and play, the market place, the library and the mass media. • Non-formal education is any organised educational activity outside the established formal system – whether operating separately or as an important feature of some broader activity – that is intended to serve identifiable learning clienteles and learning objectives. <p>Inspire: Inspire is a youth work project based out of Wrexham Maelor Hospital supporting young people aged 11-18 years at risk of self-harm who live in Flintshire and Wrexham. The project works closely with CAMHS and partners to build resilience and well-being amongst young people.</p> <p>NEWCIS: NEWCIS is the largest provider of carer services in Wales. With funding through FIYP and Flintshire Children's Services, they deliver information, 1:1 support, training and counselling to unpaid young carers.</p>

Quality Mark: The Quality Mark, developed by the Welsh Government, is a set of indicators and quality standards that youth work organisations can use to self-assess the quality and impact of their work with young people and develop plans for improvement.

Resilience Hub: 12 Flintshire school sites that have provided childcare for children of key workers identified in the response to COVID-19, where children cannot be kept at home and there is no reasonable alternative.

Stay Safe. Stay Learning: a Welsh Government programme to support digitally excluded learners during the current pandemic. A 'digitally excluded' learner is a pupil without access to an appropriate internet-connected device to participate in online learning activities from home. Local authorities, working closely with their schools, utilise the funding to provide digitally excluded learners with repurposed school devices and 4G MiFi connectivity where required. Replacement devices will then be funded for schools out of a wider technology infrastructure programme.

Targeted provision: provision for specific cohorts of young people (such as young people with disabilities) and/or more vulnerable young people. This includes outreach teams, youth advice and guidance services, services to build emotional resilience and mental well-being, sexual health services and homelessness support.

Youth Support Grant: Annual funding provided to local authorities to enable delivery of open-access and targeted youth work provision, as well as to support coordination of activity to prevent young people from disengaging with education, employment or training.

Youth Support Services: services which encourage, enable or assist young persons (directly or indirectly) to participate effectively in education and training, to take advantage of opportunities for employment, or to participate effectively and responsibly in the life of their communities. Youth support services are provided by local authorities and voluntary and community sector providers.

Youth Work Strategy for Wales: strategy was published in 2019 and sets out a shared vision for the future of youth work in Wales. The strategy sets out an ambitious programme of collaborative action intended to support young people, giving them the opportunities, guidance and experiences in which they can develop personally, socially and academically.