

Youth Support Grant 2021-22

Name of Local Authority - **Denbighshire**

1. The approach in your area

In 2019 the councils Senior Leadership Team was reorganised which resulted in the creation the new Communities and Customers department. The Youth Service is a key service in the new department with includes the Library Service, Community Housing, Community Wellbeing and Working Denbighshire (a strategic approach to supporting people overcome barriers to gaining employment).

Synergies are being further developed to embrace the opportunities across the department and ensure added value opportunity for young people through housing, libraries and employment and training joint working with the Youth Service to meet the Corporate Priorities - a place where young people will want to live and work and have the skills to do so.

In 2020 the Youth Service appointed a new Principal Youth Officer whose role is solely based in the Youth Service in a change to the previous post holder who had responsibilities cross department, this has enabled greater focus on targeted provision funded through the grant especially in a year of change through the pandemic.

The service overarching approach is to 'work with as many young people as possible, delivering good outcomes in partnership with stakeholders, through professional youth workers and for the lowest possible cost'

Each year the service sees an increasing demand for targeted youth work to support young people's emotional, mental and wellbeing needs, this has significantly increase due to COVID 19 and the impact on young people. Digital delivery has been embedded into delivery and will continue youth work delivery in this coming year. The referrals from agencies continue to put pressure on capacity and this funding bid supports the key areas of rising demands in emotional health support, preventing homelessness and its root causes and enabling young people to have their voices heard in their day to day lives alongside influencing services that impact upon them.

Through the services self-assessment processes as well as an independent review of Targeted youth work in 2019, it has highlighted the significant need and impact the targeted provision delivers to support young people's needs, especially in relation to rising demands for emotional health support from the pressures of the Covid pandemic and its impact on young people.

Within all the activity outlined in the grant proposal young people are involved in the planning and evaluation of provision, from the first meeting where young people work collaboratively with a youth worker to form an action plan for 1 to 1 activity based on their need to end of provision evaluation by the young person as well as any partner agencies. Young people have been consulted and engaged in shaping the youth work response to the restrictions from the pandemic through digital youth work through digital groups, youth council and youth work activity. This year we aim to have a blended approach of digital and face to face youth work to enable more young people express their views through interactive activity when they may not be able to attend events held to debate their experiences of homelessness, issues, education, community housing, emotional health, increasing pressures, financial issues, employment etc.

As in previous years, our aim is to work in partnership with Urdd Gobaith Cymru to ensure

a robust delivery of Welsh Language youth work in Denbighshire. This partnership has worked well over 10 years and gives the youth service a rounded provision ensuring opportunities for young people to access services in their chosen language. Additionally, this year we will look to fund a Welsh language worker through the Urdd to work with core services to increase capacity and additional value in focusing on transition and supporting young people in rural areas facing social isolation.

2. Strengthening Early Identification Systems

Within Denbighshire Youth Service we have a robust referral system that identifies young people in need of support before crisis and when crisis stage arrives, the system is widely used and understood by partner's, agencies, schools, voluntary services, the community and young people to gain bespoke youth work support.

Since the funding for homelessness prevention work we have added the indicators identified by gaining local knowledge, research and working closely with the DCC Housing and Homelessness teams identifying increased risk of homelessness indicators such as leaving care, LGBTQ+ and mental health.

The referral system is reviewed yearly and adapted to meet the needs of all young people and the changes in issues to support young people with complex needs within Denbighshire.

The youth service takes the lead of the Tier 2 support and works closely with the Principal Lead Officer to provide youth work intervention to young people with complex issues to enable them to progress in education, employment, training.

The EPC function sits within Education and the Youth Service within Communities and Customers both functions work closely together. As part of the YEPF and EPC function well established early identification systems have been developed to ensure all young people's needs are met and the support required to help them achieve their goal of a suitable progression pathway is available.

Strategies include:

- Partnership working to gather share and discussion of intelligence and experiences with relevant partners and agencies relating to of identified groups and individuals.
- Sharing of information through a variety of meetings with a range of agencies working with young people where the Youth Service, EPC and other key functions are represented. These include CSE, TRAC, Schools' Outreach Team, Alternative Provision, Social Services, Multi Agency Meetings, ALN Team, Education Psychologists. Recommendations for support and guidance from these meetings are actioned and progress monitored by a Lead Worker.
- Use of school SIMS data such as attendance, exclusions, LAC etc. is used by Youth Service, school based Careers Wales Officers, Learning Support Mentors, ALNCOs, college tutors etc. to identify those young people requiring support to progress to employment / FE / training or are at risk of NEET.
- A meeting of all partners is arranged in late April each year of all staff as above to identify the most vulnerable young people in Years 11, 12 and 13 about to leave school without a coherent plan or progression pathway. A Lead Worker is assigned

to each one who will support and guide the young person between May and October when they are most at risk of becoming NEET to ensure they progress to a suitable pathway. Information and KIT notes are made on a regular basis and shared via a secure cloud based website to which all Youth Service, Lead Workers, Schools, and EPC have access.

- Young people in Tier 1 & 2 are supported by Engagement and Progression Principal Lead Officer funded by the YSG. The Principal Lead Officer has direct access to the Careers Wales Hub to identify and monitor all relevant young people and contact those on Tier 1 and to refer Tier 2 to the Youth Service. Progress of all Tier 1 & 2 learners is tracked and monitored on a monthly basis in a meeting chaired by the Principal Lead worker with the Youth Service, Careers Wales and the LA service 'Working Denbighshire'.
- The EPC is leading on the post-16 ALN Transformation agenda in Denbighshire and the LA has already made significant progress through the Principal Lead Worker role to develop systems and protocols in response to the requirements of the ALN Reform Act

3. Effective Partnership Working

Partnership working is a key function of the youth service in Denbighshire, working closely with other DCC departments as well as partner organisations and local community groups to meet the needs of young people.

In addition, the service offers constructive challenges to organisations to advocate on behalf of young people. It remains important for the service to continue to do that whilst retaining effective relationships with organisation and the feedback from partners confirm this is the case. We intend to continue working closely with Children Services, Education Services, Community Housing, Working Denbighshire and national and local key partners.

The Youth Service has a presence in key meeting with the above partners attending meetings such as MAP within schools, social services meetings, CSE, and NEET as well as regional and national meeting such as Homeless Prevention Coordinators meetings, allowing sharing of data and knowledge to allow better pathway support for young people.

By developing a strong working partnership with Urdd Gobaith Cymru it further supports the delivery of Welsh Language programmes which will again strengthen our Welsh language delivery across Denbighshire, as well as linking the services to support young people through their chosen language.

As part of the SLA, the Urdd have access to Denbighshire Youth Service training and will report data on our QES system. Urdd staff can signpost young people from their school and community groups to relevant support networks available through ourselves. We as a service value working with the Voluntary Sector as it gives the work another dimension and means we are offering services to more young people

We will continue to work closely with Youth engagement and progression team to support young people who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET through partnership working in meetings, panels and joint working on projects.

The Youth Engagement & Progression Strategy in Denbighshire work in partnership with many other partners this is captured in the three flow charts here, the first an overview of the overall YEP Strategy in Denbighshire, followed the pre-16 and post-16 strategies



Overview DCC YEPF
Re-structure_Dwyieiei



Pre-16 DCC YEPF
Structure_Dwyieitho



Post-16 DCC YEPF
Structure_Dwyieitho

Strong partnerships have proved to be sufficiently flexible and resilient to enable all partners to continue supporting young people into positive outcomes despite the significant difficulties and barriers presented by the Covid Pandemic.

4.Provision/Support

A).Supporting you to work towards the delivery of a sufficient youth work¹ offer in line with the identified needs of young people in your area, including through a blended approach to delivery including face to face and digital youth work.

1.1 Professional Youth Work Training and CPD development.

All staff trained to NOS in line with EWC regulations. Courses undertaken to include Post Grad in Youth and Community, YW level two and three, PGCE, and CPD development which includes counselling and trauma training.

Outcomes will include:

- 2 staff member to undertake the Post Graduate Diploma in Youth and Community Work.
- 10 YW staff to undertake Level Two / Level Three Youth Work training
- 1 member of staff to undertake PGCE
- 20 YW staff and volunteers to undertake CPD

1.2 Continuation of Personal Support (PS) youth work to include 1.3 programme costs for delivering YW to young people, using agreed youth work therapeutic approaches and provision suited to 1-1.

Young people to access PS provision via referrals from the following; colleges, housing, police, children's services, CAHMS, education / schools, community groups and via self-referrals.

Outcomes will include:

- 20 referrals to youth work programme.
- 10 young people to achieve formal accreditations and qualifications.
- 2 small groups to be ran in partnership with schools and other key partners.
- 90% of YP engaged will have recorded learning outcome that demonstrates progression or skill development.

1.4 Welsh Language Youth Work in Partnership with the Urdd

Provision of countywide Welsh language YW programmes to support young people to engage in youth work through the medium of welsh.

¹ (in line with National Occupational Standards, Youth Work in Wales: Principles and Purposes, and the new Youth Work Strategy for Wales)

Community Open Access provision that delivers weekly youth work programmes as well as school based provision delivered across the county's primary and secondary schools.

Programmes to include; Volunteering opportunities to improve YP employability / readiness for training and college. Bespoke workshops delivered to YP at risk across secondary schools looking at issues such as bullying, healthy relationships, exam stress, healthy lifestyles, self-esteem, stress and relaxation, alcohol, drug and substance misuse and online bullying.

Outcomes will include:

- 1500 young people engaged
- 90% achieve recorded learning outcomes
- 345 accreditations to be completed (23%)
- Engage 50 YP with volunteering opportunities and ensure participation on Urdd Youth Forums

Transition projects aimed to deliver bespoke youth work interventions including outdoor and community based activities to reduce social isolation resulting from the Covid pandemic.

Outcomes will include:

- Delivery of 1 to 1 and small group work to 30 young people from rural areas.
- 60 young people to be engage in youth work provision to support and reduce social isolation in rural communities.

B). Maintaining the Engagement and Progression Coordinator Function and ensuring targeted support for young people at risk of disengaging, or already disengaged from education, employment or training².

1.3 Continuation of personal support youth work for young people with complex needs to able to access support that sees them through the transition from school to college, college to work or further education as part of an agreed programme.

Young people out of education to be able to access 1-1 and small group provision in the community at times suitable for them.

Outcomes to include

- 10 referrals to youth work programme.
- 25 young people to access information/advice/guidance on education, training or work.
- 5 young people to achieve formal accreditations and qualifications.
- 90% of YP engaged will have recorded learning outcome that demonstrates progression and development through education, training and preparation for employment and adult life.

1.5 Sustain the EPC function in order to implement aspects of the YEPF in Denbighshire and to ensure that all young people identified have access to the support and guidance provided by a range of services to progress to a suitable post-16 pathway or from Tier 1 or 2 into a suitable pathway when ready.

² (in line with the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework and future iterations <https://gov.wales/youth-engagement-and-progression-framework-implementation-plan>)

1.6 Continue funding the Principal Lead Officer role and build greater capacity in the role to meet the needs of increasing groups of young people including those with ALN who require additional support from a range of appropriate agencies to reduce the risk of becoming NEET.

C). Delivering targeted youth work support for young people with mental health and emotional wellbeing issue.

2.1 Delivery targeted intervention for young people including 2.2 programme costs by qualified youth work staff using agreed youth work therapeutic approaches and provision suited to 1-1 and small group work and current partner schemes.

Outcomes to include:

- 40 young people to engage in targeted support through referrals.
- 2 accredited courses to be delivered to support young people in managing emotional and mental health wellbeing.
- 3 small groups to be ran enabling young people to access activities run in partnership with schools and other key partners.
- 90% of YP engaged will have recorded learning outcomes that demonstrate improved wellbeing.

2.3 Welsh language personal support and intervention delivered in partnership with Urdd Gobaith Cymru to provide a Welsh medium wellbeing and mental health support programmes for young people.

Outcomes to include:

- 15 young people who are at risk engaged through 1-1 personal support work
- Small group work to be delivered across the county to engage young people in mental health and wellbeing programmes.
- 100% of young people engaged can develop their progression through the medium of welsh in partnership between the Urdd and the Youth Service

D). Appointing a Youth Homelessness Coordinator and developing targeted support for young people at risk of youth homelessness.

3.1 Youth Homelessness Prevention Co-ordinator to work alongside housing homelessness team and community housing other DCC departments and partners to provide education, training and support for young people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless

To work closely with the TIPS coordinator to monitor the tracking of referrals, provision and support for young people including accredited courses

3.2 Youth Homelessness prevention youth workers to include 3.3 programme costs to provide targeted support to young people across the county who are at risk or present as homeless including 1 to 1 and small group work through the youth service referral system including tier 2 YP, delivery of educative sessions, assemblies and workshops to schools and colleges to increase and target early intervention. Secondary, primary and colleges. Working in partnership with other DCC departments to embed a youth work approach to supporting YP.

Outcomes to include:

- 60 referrals to youth work programme
- Work with 10 young parents to support with housing related issues or homelessness.
- 40 young people to achieve formal accreditations and qualifications.
- 8 Information events to be delivered across the County.
- 90% of young people engaged will have recorded learning outcome that demonstrates awareness of homelessness.

3.4 Virtual Youth Work to engage young people identified with key risk indicators of homelessness. The programme including 3.5 programme costs will develop bespoke social media responses, online programmes of activity and online face-time forums, to engage young people and to promote and raise awareness of the risk of homelessness in Denbighshire.

Intended Outcomes

- 8 online courses engaging young people in Creative Arts
- 50 young people engaged in Youth Work activity through live and pre-recorded sessions.
- 4 online Youth Voice sessions engaging on issues and awareness of homelessness.
- 25 Social media responses for promotion and marketing of Youth Work activity.

Wellbeing Indicators

National Indicators that the work will support:

- Percentage of adults with qualifications at the different level of the National Qualifications Framework
- Percentage of people living in households in material deprivation
- Percentage of people in employment, who are on permanent contracts (or on temporary contracts, and not seeking permanent employment) and who earn more than 2/3 of the UK median wage
- Percentage who feel able to influence decisions affecting their local area
- Percentage of people in education, employment or training, measured for different age groups
- Percentage of people who volunteer
- Percentage of people in employment
- Percentage who feel able to influence decisions affecting their local area
- Percentage of people who can speak Welsh
- Percentage of people who speak Welsh daily and can speak more than a few words of Welsh
- Percentage of people attending or participating in arts, culture or heritage activities at least three times a year
- Percentage of people participating in sporting activities three or more times a week

Checklist

<u><i>This plan has been:</i></u>	<u>Please confirm (y/n)</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed in partnership between the Principal Youth Officer, Engagement and Progression Coordinator and Youth Homelessness Coordinator 	Y
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed by the Lead Director/s with responsibility for young people 	Y
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed and co-developed with the Housing officials within the local authority and agreed by the relevant Director 	Y
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed in a collaborative manner with relevant stakeholders and partners, including young people and the Third Sector 	Y
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed in the context of the Well-being and Future Generations Act, the well-being goals, and the five ways of working 	Y

Signatories

Engagement and Progression Coordinator:		Principal Youth Officer:	
Signed	INFORMATION REDACTED	Signed	INFORMATION REDACTED
Name	John Evans	Name	Jeanette Smalls
Position	Engagement & Progression Manager, Inclusion Service & Business Performance.	Position	Principal Youth Officer
Date	11/03/2021	Date	10.3.21

Youth Homelessness Coordinator:	
Signed	INFORMATION REDACTED
Name	James Salisbury
Position	Homelessness Prevention Youth work Coordinator.
Date	11/03/2021

Lead Director (Young People):		Lead Director (Housing):	
Signed	INFORMATION REDACTED	Signed	INFORMATION REDACTED
Name	Nicola Stubbins	Name	Graham Boase
Position	Corporate Director: Communities	Position	Corporate Director: Economy & Public Realm
Date	12/03/2021	Date	12/03/2021

