Youth Crime Prevention Fund

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To inform Cabinet of progress made regarding the Youth Crime Prevention Fund (YCPF) 2013/14 and to update on the Business Case for 2014/15.

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 The purpose of this report is to raise awareness regarding the progress of the Youth Crime Prevention Fund (YCPF) 2013/14 and to provide Cabinet with an update on proposals for the Business Case which has been submitted to Welsh Government for 2014/15.

1.2 The Youth Crime Prevention Fund was previously known as Safer Communities Funding (SCF), and was set up to support the implementation of the principles of the All Wales Youth Offending Strategy (AWYOS) published jointly by the Welsh Government and the Youth Justice Board (YJB) in 2004. The aim of the Youth Crime Prevention Fund is to support projects that reduce and prevent youth crime and disorder in relation to the following strategic objectives:

- Reduce the number of first time entrants (FTE’s) to the youth justice system in Wales.
- Reduce the rate of proven offending by young people in Wales.
- Reduce the proportion of young people who receive a conviction in court who are then sentenced to custody.

1.3 In 2012/13 in consultation with key relevant partner agencies, work was undertaken to review prevention services across the region in order to inform the YCPF Regional Business Case for 2013/14. As a result, five projects were identified that were consistent with the published guidance and criteria. For Merthyr Tydfil, this primarily meant a review of the Moving Ahead Project (MAP), which was an existing project resulting from an amalgamation of services from Catch 22 (formerly leading on a
local YIP service) and Safer Merthyr Tydfil. MAP undertake work with young people who are 8-18 years of age, and who may be subject to a variety of interventions emanating from the Youth Bureau programme, anti social behaviour referrals from police, or as part of a YOS statutory order exit strategy.

1.4 The MAP very much mirrors the RCT Prevention Project, and during the past year, colleagues within MAP and both youth offending services have worked together to create a framework for a Cwm Taf Early Intervention and Prevention model. This will continue to develop as we move forward and it is envisaged in the longer term that we will achieve more consistency of practice across the region to ensure a more targeted approach to prevention with effective links to the Families First TAF and MIA agenda.

1.5 Examples of MAP Progress against the population indicators were submitted in two periods during the financial year and is set out below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Indicators (April to September 2013)</th>
<th>Progress against these indicators</th>
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<tr>
<td>e.g. Numbers of FTE's; Re-offending Rates</td>
<td>e.g. reductions or increase</td>
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1. Reduction in ASB.
2. Improved school attendance.
3. Safer Communities reduction in FTE.
4. Reduction in reoffending rates and frequency of reoffending.

1. As a result of the direct work we have carried out with the young people referred to in the project we have seen an average reduction of 60% in escalation of ASB incidents, for example, stage 2 ASB referrals have not escalated to stage 3 ASB or higher because of their engagement with MAP.
2. 143 referrals were received within the project and a total of 12 young people referred were not in education, employment or training. Since working with MAP, 7 of the young people are now back in full time education and 2 are engaging with voluntary work.
3. In the period April to September 2013, there were a total of 8 First Time Entrants (FTEs). The Youth Bureau is continuing to succeed in preventing more young people entering the criminal justice system. A total of 39 young people have been referred to the Youth Bureau clinic in the period, and of those, 29 received a restorative disposal in the form of a Community Resolution (74%).
4. Re-offending rates in the Merthyr Tydfil area continue to be high in comparison with other areas in Wales and remain at 47%. YJB have assisted YOS to formulate and implement an action plan to address this area of our practice.
**Performance Accountability (April to September 2013)**

**e.g. Numbers of young people supported by the project**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>How much did you do?</th>
<th>How well did you do it?</th>
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| 143 referrals were received into the project.  
76 young people were supported on a 1:1 basis.  
64 young people received home visits and took part in workshops facilitated by MAP.  
3 young people did not engage.  
MAP made the following referrals:  
5 referrals to social services;  
7 referrals to a counselling service;  
1 referral to a family mediation service;  
3 referrals to MIA;  
3 DASPA (drug aid) referrals; and  
6 referrals were made to internal services. | 1:1 support – MAP support workers worked with 76 young people on a one to one basis. The purpose of the one to one work is to implement a targeted intervention plan that is devised to address the issues of the individual.  
Group work sessions – MAP support workers deliver a range of workshops to the young people, these include: Anti social behaviour, Racism, Anger Management and Homophobia. The workshops enable small groups of young people to be brought together and issues discussed in an environment where thoughts and beliefs can be challenged in a safe and appropriate manner.  
Due to the close working relationship we have with Social Services, we have been able to work with families, reducing their risk factors and thus enabling us to successfully request the removal of 4 young people from the child protection register.  
MAP has been able to form an excellent working relationship with The Almond Tree Counselling Service and we were able to secure places for 9 young people.  
MAP work closely with the Families First Multiple Intervention Assistance (MIA) Panel, we have 2 staff members who are Key Worker trained and carry a MIA case load and we are also instrumental in the Team Around The Family aspect of MIA.  
MAP work with our families holistically which means we not only address the issues of the young person but also those of the family in order to help the family meet their full potential.  
There have been no repeat incidents following the intervention of MAP. |
Is anyone better off as a result?

As a result of our intervention the main benefits have been for the families and young people themselves and also for the local communities the young people live in. In addition to this, we are also benefiting partner agencies such as social services and the anti social behaviour unit as the number of young people they have on their caseloads and repeat incidents have significantly decreased.

2. Population Indicators (October 2013 to March 2014)
   e.g. Numbers of FTE's; Re-offending Rates

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| 1. Reduction in ASB.             |
| 2. Improved school attendance.   |
| 3. Safer Communities reduction in FTE. |
| 4. Reduction in re-offending rates and frequency of re-offending. |

| 1. In this period there has been a 52% reduction in ASB incidents amongst young people. |
| 2. 84 referrals were received within the project and a total of 2 young people referred were not in education, employment or training. Since working with MAP, 1 of the young people are now engaging with the out of school education provision. A significant number of young people referred to MAP during this period were aged between 8-10 years and therefore of primary school age. |
| 3. In the period October to December 2013 a total of 5 young people were counted as a First Time Entrant (FTE) to the Criminal Justice System, bringing the total for the first nine months of the year to 13. This shows a continued trend of low numbers of FTE's over the past three years following the introduction of the Youth Bureau in April 2011. |
| 4. Year-end figures produced by PNC for 2012/13 showed a rate of 47.7%. In the first 9 months of 2013/14, figures reveal a re-offending rate of 50%. Merthyr Tydfil re-offending rates continue to be high compared to the South Wales average of 42.6% and Wales average of 37%. To place this in context, the cohort of young people entering into the service has decreased and there continues to be a relatively small number of young people re-offending who present with more complex needs. Statistics show that this reflects the general pattern across South Wales. |
The YOS has embarked upon a re-offending project overseen by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) to better understand the reasons why a particular cohort of young people (high risk) continue to offend. An action plan has been produced in order to deal with some of the factors impacting upon this area of our work.

### Relevant Performance Measures (October 2013 to March 2014)
*E.g. Numbers of young people supported by the project*

#### How much did you do?

A total of 84 referrals were received between October 2013 – February 2014.

- 84 referrals were received into the project.
- 54 young people were supported on a 1:1 basis.
- 30 young people received home visits where initial assessments were carried out and group work sessions were undertaken.
- 4 young people did not engage.

MAP made the following referrals:
- 3 referrals to social services;
- 10 referrals to a counselling service;
- 2 DASPA (drug aid) referrals;
- 1 referral to Barnardo’s; and
- 6 referrals were made to internal services.

#### How well did you do it?

54 of the 84 referrals that were received into the project were stage 1 ASB referrals, all of whom received a letter and/or telephone call offering appropriate support and intervention. Of the 54 young people, 3.7% (2 young people) escalated from a stage 1 to stage 2 ASB where as the remaining 96.3% (52 young people) did not escalate further.

- 30 referrals received were from Barnardos’ (2 referrals), YOS (7 referrals), MIA (3 referrals), Education (2 referrals), Llamau (1 referral), Beaurau (2 referrals), Social Services (4 referrals), TAF Requests (6 referrals), Internal Projects (3 referrals).
- 10 young people are now receiving counselling.
- 2 young people have returned to education or training.
- 2 young people are now volunteering, one as a young reporter and the other with the local play forum.
- 2 young people have registered an interested with the local youth forum and participation service.

MAP deliver a range of workshops to the young people, these include: Anti social behaviour, Racism, Anger Management and Homophobia. The workshops enable groups of young people to be brought together and issues discussed in an environment where thoughts and beliefs can be challenged in a safe and appropriate manner.

During February Half Term, in collaboration with South Wales Fire Service 20 of MAP’s young people (aged between 10 and 16) accessed crimes and consequences – intense sessions that cover arson, car crime and anti social behaviour.
MAP plays an important role within the Families First Multiple Intervention Assistance (MIA) Programme. Two members of the team are trained MIA Key worker’s and carry a case load and we also play a big part in the Team Around The Family (TAF) aspect of MIA.

As MAP works very closely with Social Services, we have been able to identify and refer three families into the department in order for them to receive additional support. As a result of both organisations working together to provide holistic support, all three families are now thriving and all making positives improvements within their family lives.

Is anyone better off as a result?

84 young people, their families and wider communities.

As a result of our intervention the main benefits have been for the young people and their families, this is then extended as there is a positive impact on the local communities where the young people live. In addition to this, prevention services are a positive resource for partner agencies such as the anti social behaviour unit, YOS, Social Services and the families themselves. Through early intervention, repeat incidents and serious escalation are reduced.

1.6 The criteria for the use of the funding in 2013/14 had a clear focus on the Regional Footprint partnership with the aim that at least one of the projects proposed should be delivered on a regional basis. Subsequently, in line with the footprint, and central to the Business Case was the merger of two similar projects already operating in RCT and Merthyr Tydfil called the Youth Engagement Project. This project proactively responds to community concerns by working in partnership with the police, youth services and other agencies and primarily seeks to engage young people on the streets and to provide reassurance to the public in ASB targeted ‘hot spot’ areas. The project attempts to engage young people in an informal way and provide opportunities (often as a follow up to police operations) to assist them to recognise the impact of their behaviour upon others and to ‘signpost’ into universal and specialist services as appropriate. Dates have now been set to conclude this project using intelligence leads and local information, and will culminate in a large event during early April, which is still in the planning stage.

1.7 In November 2013, the Welsh Government Scrutiny Group met with Youth Crime Prevention Fund ‘key contacts’ across Cwm Taf to assess the bid against the criteria and outcomes achieved to date. Monitoring reports were produced for the half yearly returns which indicated that all projects were on track, and feedback was received from WG to address areas of improvement in relation to future monitoring.
2.0 LINKS TO YOS COLLABORATION

2.1 The use of the Youth Crime Prevention fund this year has to be viewed within the context of the current work being undertaken to create a Cwm Taf YOS. The work undertaken so far has included a review of all current services with a focus on deploying resources to new priorities arising from new legislation and changing patterns of preventative and statutory work. These changes include the 2012 Legal Aid, Sentencing & Punishment of Offenders Act (LASPO), which requires the development of effective crime prevention and early intervention services, and the anticipated Anti-social Behaviour Bill which will significantly revise the way anti-social behaviour is managed.

2.2 In September 2013, a YOS ‘model’ was approved by a newly formed Cwm Taf Joint Management Board within which it is intended that a ‘wraparound’ Prevention Service will be delivered by one prevention team across the region. Subsequently, Board members across both Local Authorities approved the model presented, alongside a number of other recommendations in preparation for the creation of a Cwm Taf YOS.

3.0 BUSINESS CASE FOR 2014/15

3.1 For 2014/15, guidance from the Welsh Government clearly states that there is an expectation of ‘a higher level of regional collaboration demonstrating a greater number of regional projects’.

3.2 Subsequently, the Business Case proposed for the next financial year consists of four proposed projects and will continue to build upon the 2013/14 transitional year to further develop more coordinated, targeted and effective prevention and early intervention services in the Cwm Taf region. At the end of this transitional year, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf are ready to enhance the level of collaborative work and will therefore combine two of the existing projects to form the Cwm Taf Moving Ahead Prevention Project (MAPP). This will be a regional project delivered by RCT YOS and Safer Merthyr Tydfil and be made up of two delivery teams based in Treforest and Merthyr Tydfil. The service will incorporate all the elements of the The Prevention Project (RCT) and MAP (MT), but will ensure:

- increased resilience by utilising multi agency team members across a wider remit.
- resources are available where there is valid multi agency evidence of need geographically.
- best practice in one seamless service for young people, their families, and victims of ASB.
- young people are channelled into the most appropriate service for their safeguarding needs at the earliest possible stage.
3.3 These services will improve outcomes for young people, families and victims and reduce the risk of offending and anti-social behaviour whilst working consistently alongside partner agencies, including Children’s Services, Education and Substance Misuse agencies. Services will also ensure that programmes of work will add capacity for Families First initiatives to integrate effectively with the youth crime prevention agenda.

3.4 As mentioned, the use of the Youth Crime Prevention Fund will also aim to bring a more consistent approach across Cwm Taf and build on the sharing of good practice between Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf Youth Offending Services (and the future prevention ‘wraparound’ service) as work progresses on the development of a Cwm Taf YOS during the coming year.

3.5 In line with this year’s guidance, the YCPF will also give priority to those young people subject to community and custodial sentences and support effective resettlement of young people in line with the joint Welsh Government/YJB resettlement project.

4.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS - PROJECT COSTS**

4.1 The allocation of funding for the project for the Cwm Taf region for 2014/2015 has been confirmed at an amount of £481,877 which is the same as that received in 2013/14. As such there are no financial implications associated with this report.
5.0 CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

5.1 Each regional footprint across Wales was asked to submit a YCPF Regional Business Case for 2014/15, to the Welsh Government Crime and Justice Branch in January this year for consideration and approval.

5.2 The Cwm Taf Regional Business case has now been subject to scrutiny by the Welsh Government, with the involvement of the Youth Justice Board Cymru Division. The Scrutiny Group have recognised the level of detail involved within the Business Case, ‘clearly demonstrating the strategic direction, whilst evidencing good collaboration across the footprint area’. We are now awaiting formal approval following progression to the next stage of the scrutiny process.

6.0 SINGLE INTEGRATED PLAN AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT SUMMARY

6.1 The Single Integrated Plan & Sustainability Impact Assessment has been completed. There will be a number of positive impacts in the future in relation to improved services, including people enjoying a vibrant, attractive, safe and sustainable place in which to live, work, play and visit. No negative impacts have been identified.

7.0 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) screening form has been prepared for the purpose of this report. It has been found that a full report is not required at this time. The screening form can be accessed on the Council’s website/intranet via the ‘Equality Impact Assessment’ link.

GIOVANNI ISINGRINI
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

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<th>BACKGROUND PAPERS</th>
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Consultation has been undertaken with Corporate Management Team in respect of each proposal(s) and recommendation(s) set out in this report.