

Communities First Bro Ddyfi

Audit & Needs Analysis of Activities & Services for Children & Young People (0-19years) across Bro Ddyfi

County wide audit by Powys Children & Young Peoples Framework Partnership

In September 2006 a comprehensive audit of need was undertaken by the Powys Children and Young Peoples Framework Partnership recording statistical information of services and activities for children and young people aged 0-25 years across the county

The conclusions drawn from this audit were summarised as follows:

- **Transport issues** – young people felt that there were activities they wished to access but found that they were restricted from doing so by the lack of useful transport services
- **Finance/ Cost** – lack of affordable activities
- **Options System** – young people moving away to complete their education
- **Careers advice** – An identified lack of quality, concise information
- **No 'Meeting Places'** – few internet cafes etc for young people to meet/get advice
- **No 'Information Point'** – lack of centre for essential advice / information
- **Physical activity** – decreased numbers of 0-19 year olds taking regular exercise
- **Bullying/Community Safety**
- **Childcare** – lack of affordable childcare during and out of school term time
- **Housing** – lack of information and affordable local housing=outward migration
- **Disability** – insufficient services for children/young people with additional needs

This audit gives a broad overview of activities & services across Powys but not specifically Bro Ddyfi. None of the young people and many local service providers I spoke to regarding this audit reported that they had not been consulted as part of this process.

It is apparent however, that the local perspective mirrors key aspects of the county wide analysis.

Identified needs of children and young people in Bro Ddyfi

Suggestions for improvements to activities & services included:

- Improved playground facilities: swings, slides, seesaws / repaired equipment
- Increased free/subsidised, structured play opportunities: play days / play schemes
- Better transport service to 'wrap around' existing play / social activities
- Large, outdoor, open access play facilities: adventure playgrounds, BMX tracks
- Leisure Facilities: Cinema, ice rink, theme park, bowling alley, paint ball
- Local 'drop in' meeting places for young people: Internet café, youth clubs
- Financial support / advice for low income families to help with play/childcare costs
- Improvements to community safety enabling more outdoor play / walking home etc
- More 'green spaces': playing fields, accessible woodlands
- More play / social activities delivered 'locally'-especially in the outlying villages
- Regular, organised trips away from the area with/without parents.

These primary factors appear to prevent access to such activities:

- **Cost:** price prohibitive-childcare, social activities, travel expenses etc compounded by low net household income-low paid jobs, reliance on benefits.
- **Transport:** unreliable / uncoordinated transport network, rural isolation, expense
- **Community safety:** Children and young people not able to enjoy the freedom of outdoor play, fear for personal safety when walking home after Clubs etc
- **Choice:** Lack of options for social activities especially for 14-19 year olds
- **Availability:** Limited number of registered childcare places, area of delivery
- **Language:** Issues for both the English and Welsh speaking communities with discrimination felt on both sides.
- **Development:** Insufficient, locally based staff developing projects to meet identified needs. Lack of real progress with 'action plans' and 'consultations'-no real engagement with the children and young people past this point
- **Sustainability:** Projects started but not sustained, young people left disillusioned
- **Outward migration:** 16-19 year olds leaving the area to seek work/training

Key Action Points:

- **Young People's Community Outreach Worker**

Apply for funding for post – partnership working with local agencies
Work with communities to re-engage young people with existing provision
Establish new provision to cover identified gaps i.e. Youth Club projects
Arrange trips/outing for local children, young people and their families
Facilitate advice workshops in local communities: careers, MAYP, CAMAD, training etc
Foster bilingualism at existing provision – ensure full inclusivity is offered
Provide more play/social provision for children and young people with additional needs
Work with ICC & local groups to promote services available locally
Develop outreach play provision – playschemes, open access play, play days etc

- **Improve & co-ordinate public transport network**

Lobby for changes in the timetabling schedules
Work with local groups during route/timing planning
Simplify timetables – clear, concise information
Improve access to information – distribute schedules via community groups / ICC
Access to a community minibus

- **Improve local facilities**

Internet café? Youth 'drop in'
Seek funding to develop outdoor play - playgrounds / Astroturf / 'green spaces'
Film Clubs specifically for young people
'Halfway House' – arrange trips to places where better facilities *are* available
The Plas? Community Centre? Community Campus? Pathfinder Project?

- **Inclusion**

More emphasis on equal opportunity (better Welsh & English integration)
Respect for language and culture – bilingual community
Support Ysgol Cedewain parenting outreach projects- promote fully
Develop more 'inclusive' play provision (Play Montgomeryshire)

- **Community Safety**

Mentoring / peer support at settings, via schools, community groups (Outreach Worker)
Local police working *with* community groups – more visual presence needed
More social inclusion with young people-provide more direct engagement

- **Cost**

Lobby to ensure WAG and local authority work together when implementing strategies
(*Pens and purses working in partnership*) Voluntary sector can deliver but needs funding
More support for local providers needed to implement initiatives 'on the ground'
Financial support for providers reduces impact on local families-more accessible services
More clear information on benefits, support for low income families