NAOMIE
Youth Engagement Working Group

This document is intended to provide the Youth Engagement Working Group with a clear plan of action and a measurable set of outcomes against which the Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council can observe and monitor progress of the youth engagement work it supports. Within the document, the terms youth and young persons are used to indicate persons below the age of 25. We are aware of a disparity between the two youth engagement teams that we support in terms of the lower age, one having a lower age limit of 11 and one engaging below that age. Whilst this is not perceived as causing a problem at this point it may well become an issue we need to address in the future. A need for support below the age of 11 has been demonstrated at least over part of the area of operation, hence the extension in the ages engaged.

References to "our Council", or "Council area" or ALCC should be taken as referring to the Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council and its area of activities.

NAOMIE

This is a project planning and control tool. It helps develop a more rigorous approach by ensuring the project is planned to meet a specific need. The beauty of the NAOMIE model is that it is very straightforward and does not require the scoping meetings, special computer software and filing systems, professional training or expertise usually associated with project management.

It simply encourages those responsible for a project, event or initiative to agree the **N**eeds, **A**ims, **O**bjectives, **M**ethod, **I**mplementation and **E**valuation.

Needs – What made us want to do the thing in the first place?
Aims – What are we hoping to get out of it?
Objectives – What specific outcomes to we want to achieve?
Method – How are we going to do it?
Implementation – How are we going to organise the things that need to be done?
Evaluation – How far did we get towards addressing the needs that you first identified?

The starting point is a statement of what needs to be achieved. If the need turns out to be a long, elaborate script then there are probably several different projects involved rather than just one. Everything then follows from those needs. Each level is more detailed and moves progressively from the need statement to the implementation of the project. Aims are statements of what should be done to achieve the need. Objectives are getting more specific as to how the aims will be delivered. The plan is getting more detailed at this point, with each level linking to the ones above and below. At the method level there are details as to exactly what will be done and the measurable outcomes that can be used as the monitoring procedure of the plan. It is worth noting that the measurable outcomes are not necessarily numerical. Although numbers are a much easier way of measuring progress it is not always the most appropriate method. The next stage is implementation – we do the project. As with all projects the documentation needs to be reviewed regularly, and a period of six months between reviews is suggested at this stage. That is not fixed in stone and can be varied if necessary.

Needs:

Although the need that gave rise to the Council's support for youth engagement work was never specifically stated, it could probably be defined as simply "To combat youth anti-social behaviour in the Council area."

There is now an acceptance that the needs were, and remain, more complex. It may be advisable for us to accept a more relevant statement of the needs such as "To combat alienation and social isolation among young people and to support them to view the council area as a good place to live, engage and work."

Aims:

To:

1) Enable young people to have an input into how the area is run.
2) Support young people's access to services relevant to their well-being.
3) Ensure that the council area provides a future for young people.
4) Support youngsters' understanding of the function and purpose of the democratic process in general and of local councils in particular.
5) Enable young people to feel safe in the council area.
6) Support young people to engage in sports facilities in the area.
7) Divert young people from anti-social behaviour.

Objectives:

That:

1) Young people are able to put forward ideas to improve their environment and are involved in bringing those ideas to fruition.
2) Young people are guided to sources of the services they need to support their well-being.
3) Young people are supported to transition from school through training to employment in the ALCC area or within reasonable travel distance.
4) Young people know the functions of the Community and Borough Councils and understand how to constructively engage with the democratic process.
5) Young people have a place of safety that they can use access.
6) Young people are able to use local sports facilities.
7) The level of youth anti-social and disruptive behaviour is reduced.

Method:

1) Establish a youth council/forum at which young people can put forward ideas where we can support with attempting to bring them to fruition. Initially this would meet at the Youth Centre.

   Regular youth/councillor meetings take place with positive outcomes, driven by ideas from the young people

2) Contact organisations involved with youth and ensure they are aware of the services accessible at the Youth Centre and are pointing young people towards the support services available at the youth centre.

   A record is kept of other organisations referring young people to Youth Service facilities.

3) Liaise with education establishments to identify the difficulties young people experience accessing education/training/work and work to reduce the impact of the difficulties.

   The difficulties are identified and appropriate schemes of action are implemented to minimise the impact.

4) Councillors visit the young people at school and youth centre and discuss the purposes and activities of Community and Borough Councils and the democratic process.

   We support young people to engage in politics and to participate in the democratic process.

5) Establish a safe area for young people to gather without risk to themselves or others.

   A safe space is developed from their ideas for their use which possesses less risk to themselves or from others, fewer problems from young people away from safe area, fewer ASBOs and less police involvement in youth related problems away from the safe area.

6) Discussions are held with Councillors, youth and leisure facility managers to agree access to some of the facilities for young people.

   Young people are able to make use of certain sports facilities at more convenient hours.

7) Young people have a less destructive approach to their home town.

   The level of youth anti-social behaviour and ASBOs is reduced compared to similar surrounding areas.

Once agreed this document should have a review date (initially six months but can be reduced if needed) at which point progress is assessed, suitability is considered and whether changes are needed.

This will give us a range of measurable outcomes, but few are number-based!

Barrie Page
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