

Mitchell Theaker - Cabinet Member for Opportunities for Children and Young People

## Scrutiny Programme Committee

### Headline work

#### UNCRC

- Report on UNCRC passed through Swansea Council and launched.
- Under new director Chris Sivers task and finish groups set up with Implementation Group and Advisory Group made up of key partners.
- Through these groups a first draft Children's Rights Scheme has been drawn up which if approved will be sent out for consultation.
- Numbers of schools involved in Unicef's Rights Respecting programme have continued to grow.

#### Youth Offending Service

- Merger discussions have been completed and the first meeting of the new merged Youth Offending Services has taken place.
- The Lead Authority for the YOS is Bridgend with local management boards soon to be disbanded.
- A single service manager will need to be appointed and final structures confirmed.
- This has been a lengthy and very difficult process started because of the success of individual services which could be even stronger combined.

#### Fair Credit

- There has been significant progress in this area both through work done with officers and work done with the public.
- Full Council made a commitment to the campaign against pay day loan companies.
- The Council will soon be launching a robust public awareness drive including posters, door stickers, emergency contact magnets and press.
- A number of events and meetings have taken place including lobbying events with Ministers and awareness drives of the public.
- A full review is currently underway of the Credit Union and the support the council offers to ensure we are offering the most efficient service possible.

#### Youth Support Services

- The Youth Support Services has progressed significantly over the past year with Estyn offering praise for the new targeted approach and the vision for the future.
- The rebrand of the Youth Support Services as 'Evolve' has been completed and a refit of some clubs has taken place.
- The position of Opportunities Officer has been in place for just under a year and this role has responsibility for coordinating the number of opportunity programmes the Youth Support Services offer and to ensure their sustainability.
- The LGBT youth club has formally launched and has been running successfully.

## Stonewall Cymru

- Swansea has been included for the first time in the LGBT employer index as a best practice employer. This has come with a significant amount of recommendations that need to be implemented for us to improve support for our employees and rise up the rankings.
- Stonewall will be launching their Wales wide education programme in Swansea from September to ensure that our schools support LGBT children and young people.

## Play Service

- Welsh Government provided finance at the end of the last financial year to all Welsh Councils in implementing phase two of the Play Sufficiency requirement this has been used to support small community groups to host play provision and for smaller pieces of play equipment.
- I have been holding discussions with the Planning Department around placing emphasis on play provision in planning reports.
- Funding for 5 play areas amounting to £300k has been allocated to parks without Target or Communities First areas.
- A number of skate satellite facilities have been opened across the city and county.
- Play Streets has been successful in the areas it has been working and capacity building work is currently underway to ensure the hosting can be handed over and a new area for pilot will soon be selected in Castle Ward.

## Other items of work have included:

- Reviews of the Enterprise Officers employed by the Council and managed by Gower College.
- Work with the Job Centre around ensuring Young People get the best service.
- Work around reconfiguration of the Poverty and Prevention Service.
- Work around the Living Wage in Swansea with the two Universities.
- Setting up a Food Bank in Swansea East.
- Work around the Swansea Skills Campus.
- Work with the West Glamorgan Youth Theatre
- Work with Show Racism the Red Card.
- Wrk with the Student Liaison Forum