

"CYMORTH IN PRACTICE"

"CYMORTH AR WAITH"



15 -16 September 2004
Llandrindod Wells

Conference report



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Cymorth In Practice

Children in Wales and the Welsh Assembly Government hosted a two day joint conference entitled 'Cymorth in Practice' at the Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells on the 15 -16 September 2004.

The aim of this conference was to facilitate networking and the sharing of best practice amongst those engaged with the Framework Partnerships across Wales. The conference was the first opportunity since the launch of Cymorth for everyone to meet and focus on the delivery of the Cymorth programme. The two days provided an opportunity to share best practice and innovative ideas, learn what is happening elsewhere in Wales, and discuss difficulties and solutions.

The Cymorth conference also provided an opportunity for networking, enabling participants to renew old contacts and to make new contacts. Hopefully the two day event provided an enjoyable experience that generated new ideas and encouraged continued enthusiasm.

The two-day event was chaired on the first day by Rita Jones, Deputy Chief Executive of Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin, and on the second day by Sioned Bowen, Corporate Director Lifelong Learning, Denbighshire County Council. The conference was attended by a number of guest speakers, including Jane Hutt, AM & former Minister for Health & Social Services; Jane Davidson, AM & Minister for Education & Lifelong Learning and Peter Clarke, Children's Commissioner for Wales. The conference was conducted bilingually.

The event also included a series of informative and participative workshops. Each Authority was invited to host a workshop, which highlighted the most successful aspects of the Authority's Cymorth programme to date.

Each Authority was invited to consider the following points in developing their workshop: -

- Has your Authority developed an innovative project?
- Do you have a particularly successful project that is making a difference to the lives of children and young people in your area?
- Have you had a particularly good experience with evaluation, needs assessment or participation?
- Have you managed to overcome any major difficulties and would like to share your experiences with others from Wales?

Each workshop was invited to produce a message for the Assembly, the messages were fed back at the end of each day.

Participants were also offered the opportunity to bring a display stand, to exhibit information about their Cymorth projects. The display stands were exhibited throughout the two days of the conference, with an opportunity to visit the stands built in to the first day of the conference. The marketplace provided an ideal opportunity for networking and learning more about the work of others.

In addition the conference offered networking opportunities and an invitation to socialise over a semi-formal conference dinner.

Programme

Day One

9:00am – 10:00am	Registration
10:00am – 10:15am	Opening Statement by Chair
10:15am – 10:35am	Jane Hutt, AM & Minister for Health & Social Services
10:35am – 12:30pm	Workshops
12:30pm – 1:30pm	Lunch
1:30pm – 2:00pm	Peter Clarke, Children's Commissioner for Wales
2:00pm – 4:00pm	Workshops
4:00pm – 4:30pm	Review of the day & closing remarks
4:30pm onwards	Opportunity to view exhibition stands
7:00pm onwards	Conference Dinner With guest speaker Marc Phillips, National Co-ordinator, Children in Need Wales

Day Two

8:45am – 9:00am	Registration
9:00am - 11:00am	Workshops
11:00am – 11:30am	Coffee Break
11:30am – 1:00pm	Workshops
1:00pm – 2:00pm	Lunch
2:00pm – 2:05pm	Welcome by Chair Sioned Bowen, Corporate Director Lifelong Learning, Denbighshire County Council
2:05pm – 2:20pm	Jane Davidson, AM & Minister for Education & Lifelong Learning
2:20pm – 2:30pm	Questions for the Minister
2:30pm – 2.45pm	Final comments and close

Speech by Jane Hutt, Minister for Health & Social Services,
Welsh Assembly Government

I'm delighted to be able to join you today at the Cymorth in Practice Conference. I would like to thank Children in Wales for agreeing to arrange this event for us.

It is now some 18 months since Cymorth was launched and we've come a long way in that time. In establishing Cymorth we drew together a range of separate but related programmes – Sure Start; the Children and Youth Partnership Fund; Play; the Youth Access Initiative and the National Childcare Strategy. There has naturally been a period of adjustment and change. The changes have not always been easy to manage and I am aware that local partnerships have had to make some difficult decisions and choices. Nevertheless, significant progress has been made and there is very clear evidence of that here today.

Cymorth supports more than 900 projects for children and families across Wales. There is some very exciting and innovative work. Some of them are being showcased in the workshop sessions over the next two days. These projects are making a real difference to the lives and life chances of children and young people in Wales and are providing essential support to their families.

I'm very aware that Cymorth would be nothing without all of you here who work so hard to deliver it and to make it a reality. I'm sure you're proud of what you are achieving and the difference that you make. To spread the message more widely we are going to publish the first all-Wales annual Cymorth report in the coming months. It will highlight and celebrate the achievements of the Cymorth grant in its first year whilst at the same time recognising some of the challenges that the scheme faces.

More widely we are making progress under all the Cymorth themes, and I will speak now about each of those themes in turn.

Family Support - Parenting

Under the Family Support theme, you are carrying out valuable work in the partnerships to ensure that families have access to support that will foster positive relationships between parents and children. Projects throughout Wales are providing support to parents through parenting programmes, parent and toddler groups, and initiatives such as story sacks, helping to provide skills, tools, and all important peer support.

You have organised parent forums through which parents are actively consulted and engaged in shaping a wide range of service delivery plans impacting on children and young people. Parents are supported and empowered to engage in planning services that impact on children and young people in their areas.

Promoting positive parenting is also key to the Assembly Government's stand on physical punishment of children. I feel that Government has a responsibility to lead opinion on the issue of appropriate models of parenting and disciplining of children. The Assembly Government has taken a clear line on this. We firmly believe that smacking is not an acceptable way of disciplining children.

It is also important to work with children and young people themselves, to raise their awareness and inform their actions as future parents. The Framework for Personal

and Social Education in Wales has as one of its aims to help pupils enjoy successful relationships within their families and to develop effective parenting skills.

However, we want to review whether we are doing all we can on the parenting agenda. Over the past couple of weeks, I have been discussing with Children in Wales and others how best to take this forward. We have agreed to work together with Children in Wales, and their parenting forum (“Fforwm Magu Plant”) to produce an Action Plan identifying key priorities and actions – a launch pad for further work in this area.

There are implications for parenting in many areas of Assembly activity, from health promotion to education, community regeneration, child poverty, youth justice and social care. Drawing out the parenting element, and giving it a sharper focus, will be an important part of our Action Plan. Identifying gaps will be another. We have pulled together a small Working Group to help us draw up the Action Plan. The group is chaired jointly by Children in Wales and officials from the Assembly Government’s Children and Families Directorate. We have also sought to establish a wider network of people who can contribute to the development of this work, commenting on the Action Plan as it is prepared and contributing their advice and expertise on an *ad hoc* basis.

Altogether this promises to be an exciting piece of work, and I hope to be able to launch the Action Plan in January 2005.

Health Promotion

I would now like to turn to health promotion. Healthy habits are established at a young age so our work with children and young people will be central to creating a healthier Wales.

Under the Health Promotion Theme Cymorth aims to promote the healthy development of children and young people by providing more intensive community health support or to break down barriers to mainstream health services. Your commendable work in this area covers a wide span. It goes all the way from support for the oral health of young children to projects helping to alleviate the affects of substance misuse, in particular to the hard to reach families in most need. Examples of the good work in this area can be seen at the workshop tomorrow morning.

But to achieve the improvements we all want to see, we have to mobilise the efforts of all individuals and organisations in Wales. I recently announced Health Challenge Wales, the new national focus for efforts to improve health in Wales. This is designed to strengthen existing action and stimulate new action to build a healthier nation.

Invaluable work is being carried out in the area of health promotion. This includes the development of a network of healthy schools scheme, with at present over 900 schools involved. Initiatives include Fruit Tuck Shops, water coolers and healthy vending machines.

Prevention of smoking in young people has been identified as a priority. Many young people experiment with smoking believing that they will be able to stop when they want to. But smoking is highly addictive and a great many find they are unable to give up. Our co-ordinated programme of smoking prevention is currently involving over 11,000 primary school children in our Smokebugs Club; and over 13,000

secondary school pupils entered this years Smokefree Class competition. Resources have also been developed for use in the classroom to reinforce the message of smoking prevention.

To respond to Health Challenge Wales I set up a Food and Fitness task group for Children and Young People.

The National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services (NSF) will set standards to improve the quality and equity of services received by children, young people and their families. I will be launching the 3-month consultation of this document next month and the final standards should be published in the summer next year. The scope of the NSF is broad as it covers children and young people from pre-conception to their 18th birthday and beyond that time for those that require on-going support into adult services. The standards apply, not only to services provided by the NHS and social services, but also other local authority services which have a strong influence on the health and well being of children, such as education, housing, leisure, transport as well as services delivered by the voluntary sector.

Social disadvantage during childhood can result in health inequalities, which can influence adult disease risk factors. There is therefore an on-going legacy of poor health that accumulates over decades. In order to break this cycle we need to target the very young, especially those who live in deprived areas. The Children's NSF has a standard on Promoting Health and Well-Being which has key actions that are designed to tackle these issues, some of which will be delivered through Cymorth.

Three regional workshops will be held during November, which will give service planners and deliverers the opportunity to comment on the standards. I urge you all to participate in the consultation process so that we can ensure that when the final standards are published next year they will have maximum impact on improving the health and well being of children, young people and their families.

Play, leisure and enrichment

I would now like to take this opportunity to update you on the developments that have been happening in play.

In October 2002 I announced the publication of the Welsh Assembly Government's Play Policy. This was ground breaking work, as we were the first administration within the United Kingdom to develop such a policy, recognising that play is vital to a child's life and if they are denied this it will damage their personal development.

I established the Play Policy Implementation Group to take the strategy forward. Their role has been vital to set a clear vision as to how the policy can be implemented to give the children and young people of Wales the best opportunities. The group presented their recommendations in March and these will shortly be the subjects of a public consultation. When we launch the consultation, I will indicate the initial actions that the Assembly Government can support. I am planning to have the Assembly Government's considered strategy in place for the spring. Through the strategy we can make an impact on children's lives, we can promote their development, learning, creativity and independence.

I know that, in advance of our own action plan, Cymorth has been investing strongly in play - not least in preparing for the open access play element within integrated centres. It has been a challenge in some places to make that element of integrated centres a reality but I am sure it will offer a serious boost to good quality play provision, and make an important difference for the lives of young people in communities across the country.

Empowerment, participation and active citizenship

Cymorth also invests in encouraging the participation and empowerment of children and young people. I am sure that Jane Davidson will have more to say about this tomorrow. I would emphasize for now that the Welsh Assembly Government's approach to tackling disaffection is based on social inclusion not social exclusion. We want our young people in Wales to play an active part in our society. Children and young people must be treated with respect and have their views not only listened to but also acted upon.

In your partnerships you are creating a dialogue with children and young people to shape future provision. The work that is being done in the many youth fora is encouraging. Not only are you engaging young people from communities of need, but you are also providing those young people with valuable skills for their future, giving them an ownership in their community.

Training, mentoring and information

Another area where Cymorth has made a positive impact on young people's lives is under the Cymorth theme of Training, Mentoring and Information. Cymorth is building on the previous Youth Access Initiative work, reaching out to children and young people and re-engaging those who are in danger of, or who have dropped out of training, education or employment.

In some areas volunteers work with young people to build a trusting relationship aimed at raising confidence and self-esteem and changing previous behaviour patterns. Volunteers support young people in setting and achieving life-goals. These may include such goals as re-integration with education or engaging with new activities and peer groups. Alternative educational programmes are also being funded for young people who are at risk of exclusion.

Young People also have a need for information at difficult times in their lives, especially in the transition into adulthood. Information shops and youth drop in centres are places that young people know can provide unbiased information to allow them to make informed decisions on their future, possibly into further education and employment.

All these activities fit into Cymorth's framework of intervening early with children and young people to offer them the best future chances.

Childcare

Finally, the last but not least Cymorth theme is childcare. We are redoubling our efforts to take the childcare agenda forward. Chaired by Brian Gibbons AM, Deputy Minister for Economic Development and Transport, the Childcare Working Group established earlier this year, has been taking a fresh look at childcare in Wales. We are consulting on the Group's Interim Report until the end of this month and I would encourage all with an interest, to take the opportunity to participate in the

consultation, to build on the important work being done by the Group. The responses will assist the development of the Group's final report, which is due at the end of the year.

I have already made reference to integrated centres, and our target to create at least one integrated children's centre in each local authority area in Wales. We are pleased to be working on this in partnership with the Big Lottery Fund, which has made £11 million available towards the capital costs of building these centres. This funding is intended to complement Assembly funding under Cymorth and Early Years Education. The development of these centres provides an exciting opportunity to bring together services such as Sure Start, early education, childcare, play, training, family support and health into an integrated network of services. These centres will help parents support their children's all-round development and also provide opportunities for parents to improve their own knowledge, skills and understanding. I am pleased to say that the first Lottery-Funded centre opened on the 7 September in Caerphilly, with the official launch next month.

I have covered a wide range of issues, reflecting the wide span of Cymorth activity. I would again like to take this opportunity to thank you for the hard work and dedication that you have all shown in making Cymorth the success that it is. And I wish you every success with this event over the next two days.

Speech by Jayne Davidson, Minister for Education & Lifelong Learning, Welsh Assembly Government

This conference has provided us with an opportunity to take a birds eye view of our successes so far, to look at where we are now and to look further down the long road ahead of us.

The recent history surrounding children and young people's policy in Wales is one full of groundbreaking achievements and the urge to continue that momentum means we don't often look at how far we've come. Today, I'd like to take a few moments to do just that.

Successes of Young People's Partnerships (YPPs)

Developing over the last two years, the YPPs remit has been to plan and deliver youth support services for the 11 to 25 cohort of young people within the framework of ten entitlements. Designed to work in harmony with the Children and Young People's Framework Partnership's seven core aims and the Cymorth themes, the ten entitlements ensure that every young person gets access to the services and support they need to achieve their full potential.

Within this structure, the YPPs have now all:

- Identified what services for young people are currently available and found out where the gaps are;
- Planned joint training opportunities for staff;
- Expanded the range of activities available for young people after school, at weekends and during school holiday periods;
- Worked together to develop long term five year strategies; and
- Developed new and exciting participation structures to involve young people in their work.

In addition, they have developed systems for ensuring the contribution of a diverse voluntary youth sector. A one off Special Grant of £20K was made available in 2003-04 to help ensure that the voluntary youth sector – a key component in delivering services for young people – could participate as an equal partner in the activities of the YPP.

The YPPs have also carried out large amounts of work to put in place new, innovative and multi agency services in addition to tailoring existing services to the ten entitlements. I'm sure you have learned about many examples of these exciting developments during the conference but I would like to mention just a few more, some made possible through Cymorth funding and others which rely on alternative resources.

Here in Powys, members of the YPP have contributed resources from the Local Health Board, the Youth Service and Cymorth to fund the SS Enterprise and a Youth Information Service. Both these services work together to provide safe sex advice to young people, where they need it, in their own communities;

Bridgend's Youth Council - supported by a full time Participation Support Worker, funded through the Youth Service - carries out a varied programme of activities. These include: testing out services as "anonymous" clients; advising the YPP; outreach work; training; consultations; and representation on Funky Dragon.

Cymorth funding has enabled the Youth Council to develop and implement a Participation Strategy.

In Flintshire, the YPP has accessed Big Lottery funding and contributions in kind from partnership members to develop an innovative Young Leaders Programme. This programme identifies young people at risk of disaffection and who show leadership qualities and then offers a tailored and flexible programme of opportunities to maximise their leadership qualities and guide them into positive activities.

Pembrokeshire's Youth Assembly and 17 Youth Forums have been instrumental in ensuring that the views of young people are heard on a number of issues and they have been successful in attracting resources from both inside and outside their YPP.

Revisiting Extending Entitlement

These examples clearly demonstrate the responsiveness of YPPs to the needs of young people and their skills in combining new and existing resources to offer services which meet young people's needs.

This is in harmony with the original ethos of Extending Entitlement - that support for young people would be best met by a network of services including:

- Education and training;
- Local authority youth work;
- The very diverse voluntary youth sector;
- Arts, sport and leisure opportunities; and
- Specialist provision, for example for homeless young people or young offenders.

In short, a universal entitlement to a range of services, accessible by all young people, at a level appropriate to their needs, when they need it. A universal entitlement, which recognises that at some point in their lives, some young people may need the specialist contribution offered by targeted services.

The key to successful partnership working

This networking of targeted and universal provision is, I admit, something which is not easy to accomplish in practice. The administration of partnership takes patience and understanding. But most importantly the willingness to commit organisational autonomy to a joint approach to planning local services - to ensure the best fit of those services - is essential. The Cymorth fund is a key element of this approach, as are other funding sources. But the essence of partnership means that we must also plan our services and work together - outside of any external planning and funding timetable - to build on our sense of community and of sharing in a common goal. This is the challenge to ensuring the endurance and future success of the partnership structure.

Throughout 2004-05 the members of YPPs are exemplifying this approach by working together to build on that sense of shared goal through some important pieces of work. The Assembly has made available £30,000 for each YPP to support them in taking forward specific multi-agency projects which are:

- promoting innovative ways of meeting the needs of young people for sexual health information and services and/or

- tackling some transport gaps so that young people can get to the facilities they need to use;
- taking forward arrangements for young people to make a greater contribution to the work of the YPP.

We have also asked Partnerships to develop jointly

- protocols for keeping in touch with young people in danger of being lost from education, training or employment; and
- Information Sharing protocols in order to agree how partner members will, if necessary, share information about the young people they work with, if that young person has multiple needs.

These are all vitally important pieces of work and will have a lasting effect on young people's lives.

Learning Pathways 14 -19 Networks

Such is our belief in the ethos of partnership that we have expanded this approach to offer more choice and opportunity to young people in their learning experiences.

On Monday I launched the guidance for Learning Pathways 14-19 in Bangor. Learning Pathways will transform young people's options and opportunities. They will do so by extending choice and flexibility; securing individually tailored learning pathways that meet learners' needs, and providing richer opportunities and experiences which will help learners develop the wider skills they need for life and work. They will take full account of evidence from 'Future Skills Wales' about what learners require for employability, as well as what they need to live fulfilling and successful lives.

The unique blend of support - to be put into place through 14-19 networks in each local authority area - will ensure that all learners have the advice and guidance they need to make good choices and to overcome barriers to learning. It will enable them to appreciate that their physical, social and emotional health is as essential to realising their potential as their intellectual development.

In 2004-05 we have made available £50K for each network in order to support their developing partnerships. We have also invested £140K for 10 Learning Coach and Personal support pilot projects. We will shortly be issuing to £100K to successful applicants to carry out some pilot Work Focused Learning and Community Participation activities.

And the partnership approach will continue. The Overarching Steering Group will advise me on the implementation of, and future guidance for, Learning Pathways 14-19. Young people themselves have had the opportunity to make their contribution throughout. They will continue to do so as part of the Overarching Steering Group. They will also be valuable members of the local 14-19 Networks set up to implement the local development plans.

Putting in place services for young people, no matter how innovative, new or exciting will only stand the test of time if young people are involved in their initial and ongoing development.

Successes in Participation

The Framework and Cymorth structures - including that of the YPPs - rest on the principles of participation and empowerment. One of the main Cymorth themes is that of Participation, Empowerment and Citizenship. YPPs have already done a great deal of work to ensure young people have a say in the services which affect them and this is a piece of work which will continue to develop and grow well into the future. I look forward to hearing examples of innovative practice in the next YPP reports due March 2005.

And I believe that in Wales we are ahead of the game as regards involving our children and young people in decision-making. This is an exciting time for participation in Wales and I am pleased that we will be hosting the European Youth Conference in late October 2005 as part of the UK's Presidency of the European Union 2005. The theme of the event is "coherency in policy making and in the delivery of services to young people throughout the European Union". Priority will be given to the "participation of young people in policy-making and delivery processes, at local, national and international levels" and whilst showcasing is not encouraged at these events, I'm convinced that we will have a great deal of good practice to share with our European neighbours.

Our participation structures – and whilst I recognise that we have a long way to go - are already up among some of the best in the world. In July 2001, we published proposals for involving young people "Moving Forward – Listening to children and Young People". Since then we have created Funky Dragon and a hub of local and national structures - including local authority youth forums, school councils both primary and secondary - all with the potential to become a most powerful and informative network.

Nationally - Funky Dragon

2004 has been a busy and exciting time for Funky Dragon. They continue to build on last year's success and make a real difference to the way the Assembly does its business on items that relate to children and young people.

This year, they have already celebrated their first birthday. The Grand Council – which is made up of a total of 60 young people between the ages of 11 and 25 from across Wales – held another meeting with me in April to discuss a number of issues important to children and young people. In July there was their Annual Conference and AGM, once again hosted by the Assembly and held in the Assembly Chamber and Conference rooms in Cardiff Bay. This was a great success with Assembly Ministers and officials joining in the workshops to discuss the issues affecting young people in Wales and how the Assembly was addressing those concerns.

Locally - Forums

More locally, the Assembly has made real progress in providing support and opportunities for participation at local level through the setting up of youth forums in each local authority area. These are at varying stages of development but as they mature they will form a network of opportunities for young people to participate at local level.

Some local forums are already involved with the development of local policies and in local decision-making. Listening to children and young people and responding to

their concerns is gradually becoming more common in local policy making and within organisations, although there is still a lot of work to do.

Participation in Schools

As Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning I have the responsibility to ensure that the Assembly's policy on participation is properly implemented in schools, because pupils are the most important stakeholders in schools and because their future is determined to a very great extent by what goes on in schools. That is why I gave a commitment in *The Learning Country* to establish schools councils in every primary, secondary and special school in Wales by July 2005.

At the end of 2003 the Assembly consulted on proposals to establish school councils and on the involvement of pupils in decisions that affect them. At this stage it is envisaged that schools councils would allow pupils to discuss any matter on the running of the school which interests or concerns them and enable them to contribute to decisions taken on those issues.

Guidance on establishing schools councils and on involving pupils in decisions that affect them will be issued in due course.

Joining up the National Agenda

In light of these developments we recognise that there is work to be done at the national level internally within the Assembly Government and with national partner organisations to refocus our agendas on young people and their needs. We have made some progress.

The Welsh Assembly Government has established a participation project within its Department for Training and Education. The project aims to support involvement of a broad range of children and young people in decision-making both within the Assembly and in external organisations. The project will build on partnerships that have been created with agencies and organisations at national and local levels so that new ideas and good practice around participation is shared in Wales.

We already have within the Assembly Government a Cabinet Sub-Committee for Children and Young People which co-ordinates initiatives, supported by a Children and Young People's Policy Co-ordination Group - bringing together officials from all relevant policy areas.

The All Wales Young People's Organisations group is an umbrella network for the major statutory and voluntary organisations, which work with young people, which since it was established two years ago has contributed to improvements in co-ordination of activity and information sharing. In addition, the Assembly co-ordinates a quarterly, two day, Framework, Children and Young People, and Young People's Partnership Co-ordinator meeting to share ongoing developments and to give Co-ordinators an opportunity to explore their own agendas.

So, we've come a long way. And we have yet further to go. But I fervently believe that we have in Wales a committed and innovative cohort of workers who will ensure that we have a youth support service second to none. Thanks to you young people can be confident that we are working towards ensuring that the highest quality services will be available, when and where young people need them.

Speech by Peter Clarke, Children's Commissioner for Wales

Peter Clark provided the notes for his speech, which he divided into two sections:

1. Reasons to be Cheerful
2. Reasons to be Determined

In each section Peter tried to look at the underlying principles, planning and delivery of services for children and young people in Wales.

1. Reasons to be Cheerful

Peter Clark outlined that Wales has a broad political consensus about the fundamental approach to children. The adoption of the UNCRC by the Welsh Assembly Government is very welcome, and stands us in favourable distinction to England.

Other positives identified by Peter include:

- A strong and committed Minister for Children
- A Cabinet sub-committee for children
- A National Children's Strategy
- All Wales Child Protection Procedures
- A strong commitment to participation
- Funky Dragon
- Local Forums
- A commitment to Schools Councils
- A strong position on corporal punishment
- A reasonable perspective on Anti Social Behaviour Orders
- A commitment to parental support

2. Reasons to be Determined

Peter Clark, in the second part of his speech, identified areas where he felt further work was required and where people need to continue to work together to achieve progress.

He identified these aspects as: -

- There are many good projects, but not enough. There are 'Flagships but no Fleet'.
- Many of the good projects are not widely known about
- There is a tension between good strategies and poor local delivery/commitment. "What's the difference between locally decided priorities and a postcode lottery?"
- Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services 'Everybody's Business' clearly exhibits this - a good strategy that has not been delivered.
- In many areas there is still too much thinking and working in bunkers.
- Funding streams (including Cymorth) do not allow for secure planning and therefore don't deliver secure relationships between project workers and young people.
- Many young people now feel listened to but not heard

Workshop details

All the information in the following section has been provided by the workshop leaders.

Contact details are correct at the time of going to press.

All workshop leaders would be happy to provide information if contacted directly.

Parents into Education Project (Early Years),
by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

1. Presentation of Duke of Edinburgh / Oasis Project, with young people's experiences.
2. Presentation of Sure Start Parents into Education Project, with Parents experiences. (Video Presentation).
3. Theoretical Framework "Mechanistic" versus "Organic" working.
4. Practical Task - Building a Tower using:
 - Mechanistic work method/management style
 - Organic work method/leadership style
5. Feedback of experiences during the task.
6. Application of this session to Partnership working - collection of participants views and experiences.

Duke of Edinburgh/Oasis Project

The Award has been running in Blaenau Gwent Secondary Schools for approximately three years and during that time there have been 300 Awards gained at various levels. Currently there are around 100 pupils enrolled on the Award. The main success of this development and the promotion of the Award is due to the positive attitude of the Headteachers, teachers and support staff, such as administration and the School-based Youth Workers.

The Youth Workers based at the school support those students deemed to be at risk of 'disaffection' and presenting difficulty in maintaining their engagement in mainstream education, which often leads to social exclusion and the inability to participate in after school activities. This is a major achievement and a prime example of how the Award can support reintegration into mainstream education as these young people were deemed to be low achievers and at high risk of exclusion.

There is a lavish presentation evening once a year where all the participants receive their badges and certificates at the Award Ceremony in 2002 there were a number of young people presented with their Bronze Award who have never received recognition of their participation in school, apart from for non-attendance and negative behaviour.

Recommendations/ideas or suggestions on how the process needs to evolve in order to facilitate organic working within a rigid framework.

- Wales is made up of diversity, it needs as many ways to resolve problems, celebrate and accept different solutions and invest in long-term solutions.
- Less paperwork from Welsh Assembly Government (WAG), but more concise information to be included in the "reduced" paperwork being distributed.
- As well as guidance WAG should issue more "objectives". Current framework allows for too much interpretation of WAG guidance.
- Realism - time for partnerships to develop.
- Change - flexibility - not so prescriptive.
- Negotiated timescales between WAG and Planning Officers.
- Look at formula for allocating funds - "need" not "population".
- Plan less on an annual basis - more long term.

- Recognise that development takes time
- Identify more clearly the outputs/outcomes expected and what success will be measured against.
- Less direction, More flexible targets, Flexibility of funding.
- Realistic timescales
- Common monitoring and data collection systems - with across Wales agreement,
- Planning - clearer guidelines
- Recognition of existing good practice.
- More time to enable effective working
- More consultation in process
- Guidelines more specific.
- Listen to reason
- More equality in partnership
- Communication
- Give people what they want - not what you want!
- Listen to people who know.

For more information on this project contact:
 Stephen Dines, Monitoring & Evaluation Officer, Blaenau Gwent CBC, Lifelong Learning, Festival House, Ebbw Vale, NP23 6ER

Play Plans - Early Identification and Intervention in Early Years Childcare Settings
Presented by: Caerphilly County Borough Council

Using Play Plans to increase the skills, knowledge and confidence of childcare workers in settings where children have identified developmental delays. The presentation also explored different approaches for working in partnership with parents.

Workshop a) Examples of best practice; Cymorth and mainstream funded services offering seamless transition

Cymorth funded activity	Mainstream funded activity	Added value/client benefits
Parents into Education: Range of training courses leading to accreditation (OCN, GCSE, etc).	Adult Community Education services	Increased confidence and self esteem 9for both parents and children) Reduce need for mainstream funded intervention services, e.g. Community Psychiatric Nursing
Pyramid Trust: targets 7 and 8 year olds with poor social skills, limited social networks; uses "Circle Time" as a tool for increasing confidence and self esteem	Education and Health	Intervention allows children to gain more benefit from mainstream education; reduce need for Health/CAMHS input
"Chatterbox" schools - language and play sessions for pre school children	Education and Health	Reduced need for specialist Speech and Language Therapy services; children more prepared for early years education; improved communication skills
Genesis project (currently RCT – soon to be rolled out Wales wide) Cymorth funding used as match funding for Objective 1 bid. Childcare provided to allow parents to access training, both accredited and non accredited, to raise self esteem, and increase employment options	Mainstream funding also used as match funding	Some parents now enrolled on degree level courses. Parents and children's self esteem Impact on child poverty

Other comments

Perhaps too early to assess impact of Cymorth on mainstream services (the level of prevention achieved)
 How do we make Cymorth funded staff/activities a catalyst to change or expand mainstream services, to take on board this work?
 How do we evaluate the short/medium terms benefits of Cymorth on *other* projects and services?

Workshop b): Identify current gaps between Cymorth and mainstream projects, and projects/activities that The Framework should create or enhance to fill these gaps

Cymorth funded activity	Mainstream funded activity	Gap in service	Project required to address needs
Special Needs Referral – pre-school play	Additional support in Primary Education	Needs not addressed in Primary	Common information sharing (e.g. Caerphilly Play Plans) Action on information supplied Training for pre school workers Develop a children’s “Passport” – transferable between settings
Parents into Education (see above)	Education, Health	No follow up when parents leave project	Extend service to ensure follow up/”hand over” systems are developed – to support progression
Helping Hands scheme (assisted places for young children with SEN, EBD, etc.)	Social Services Disability Team	Assisted places for children aged 5 with SEN Ongoing support for parents of children with SEN, and/or parents with SEN	Pilot and provide evidence of impact and effectiveness
Single issue projects e.g. smoking cessation, breastfeeding support,	Framework level decision to commission such services	Is this appropriate use of Cymorth funding?	
Cymorth project	Mainstream project can withdraw – as Cymorth project “takes up the slack”	Is this appropriate use of Cymorth funding?	

_The key issues raised by this are:

- Is Cymorth effectively masking the real level of need – maintaining families just below statutory threshold levels, without making considerable progress for those families, because their need is too complex? This will have major implications for a) Cymorth funded partners, as a lack of positive outcomes (reaching targets) may jeopardise their future funding, and b) planning of statutory services as real level of need may remain hidden, at least in the short term.
- How can sufficient weight of evidence of the impact of preventative services be gathered, in the short term, to ensure that funding is made available to maintain and improve such services. There is a danger that lack of ongoing investment in such services will lead to a major (and unmanageable) demand for “heavy end” services in the medium term. This would be a retrograde step, as it is widely recognised that this “fire fighting” approach is not effective, either in terms of outcomes for clients, or financially.

For further information on this project contact:

Andy Senior, Children’s Partnership Officer, Caerphilly CBC, Council Offices,
Caerphilly Road, Ystrad Mynach, Hengoed, Caerphilly, CF82 7EP

Chance for Change – An Alternative Curriculum
Presented by: Caerphilly County Borough Council

Outlining the flexible approach utilised by the Youth Access programme in Caerphilly County Borough to re-engage young people in Year 11 into education and training opportunities

What is an Alternative Curriculum?

- Need for Alternative
- Project History
- Where does Youth Access fit?
- How is Youth Access perceived

Who and How?

- Identification of Students
- Application Process
- Decision Making

Timetable

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• YM College (3 days)<ul style="list-style-type: none">➢ Hair & Beauty➢ Care➢ Mechanical Engineering➢ Electrical & Electronic Engineering➢ Brickwork➢ Carpentry➢ I.T./ Office Administration• Outdoor Pursuits (4 days)• Education Centre (1 day)• Work Placement (1 day) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• X Keys College (3 days)<ul style="list-style-type: none">➢ Motor Vehicle➢ Hair & Beauty➢ Care➢ Catering/Engineering |
|---|---|

Content/Accreditation

- **College**
 - OCN (Units)/NVQ
- **Education Centre**
 - Entry Level English/Maths/I.T./Other
 - OCN Lifeskills
- **Work Placement**
 - Careers Wales Booklet

Other Delivery

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">➢ Youth Gateway➢ The Basement➢ Army➢ Weston Spirit➢ Community Music Wales➢ Youth Forum➢ Youth Offending Team | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➢ Education Welfare Scheme |
|--|--|

Young People

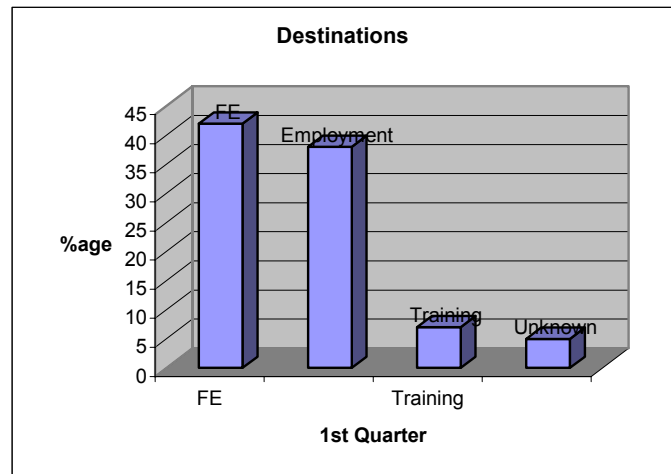
- 13 schools
- 66% with **identified** special educational needs – 28 SA; 24 SA+; 9 Statement
- 31 YOT involvement

Agency Support

- Educational Psychologist
- Behaviour Support
- Education Welfare Officer
- INSET
- Young Mums
- Schools/Partner Meetings
- Army

Monitoring and Evaluation

- ESTYN/CYMORTH
- Attendance
- Behaviour
- Self Esteem
- Successes (and accreditation)
- Destinations



The feedback was very positive, stimulated some debate from colleagues across Wales who were interested in our Model of Alternative Curriculum delivery and prompted some colleagues to propose meetings at later dates to discuss this. The main area of interest was in the structure and monitoring processes as well as the funding elements of the programme.

For further information on this project contact:

Tim Opie, Youth Access Manager, Caerphilly County Borough Council,
Council Offices, Caerphilly Road, Ystrad Mynach, Hengoed,
Caerphilly CF82 7EP

Cymorth projects reach out into rural areas

Presented by: Carmarthenshire County Borough Council, Plant Dewi

An examination of ways Cymorth has enabled communities to meet the needs of rural areas in Carmarthenshire at local level covering ages 0-25 across the partnerships.

Issues: Barriers

- Employment, Income and making ends meet
- Transport and access to goods and services
- Ill health and disability in the family
- Housing
- Environment

Brainstorm

- Transport cost
- Isolation
- Lack of Services
- Recruiting Specialist staff
- Bi-lingual services
- Job
- Culture
- Lack of suitable housing, premises and all provision
- Somewhere to go/hang out
- Hidden deprivation
- Support systems
- Access to information
- Phone/Broadband
- Access to training

For further information on this project contact:

Noeline Thomas, Children's Partnership Co-ordinator,
The Children's Partnership, Lime Grove House, Lime Grove Avenue,
Carmarthenshire SA31 1SW

Presentation On Peer Education Video Project
by Ceredigion County Borough Council
and young people from the project

A Project which supported vulnerable young people to produce a fully edited professional video for use in school or other venues on sexual health issues.

Project outline

A Health promotion specialist had undertaken needs analysis work on sexual health/relationship development across the county, identified:-

- Need to undertake client contact work
- Lack of resources in this area
- Concerns that Personal & Social Education curriculum somewhat lacking.
- Need to address this more social education outside school setting
- Most hard to reach group are not engaging with resources/materials available

How the project developed

- Consideration and support for young people to develop their own resource e.g. play originally which we were going to film using outside broadcast unit.
- What in fact occurred was a group of very needy young people aged 13-16 dealing with a multitude of issues
- To ease work the group was split into 2 smaller groups 1 for those young people looked after, the other for those young people disadvantaged but still living in their own home
- Whilst the video will be very useful, the process of compiling has been the value of this project for this particular group of young people

Collaboration

- Initial project developed with young people and Health Visitors, social workers and project staff, education staff and youth service staff
- Funding initially from Cymorth for:
 - ❖ Project coordinator
 - ❖ Editing and production of video by Lampeter University media dept
 - ❖ Fpa Cymru to produce teaching pack
- Extra funding from Coop dividend for venues, food, transport

In fact what happened

- Young people came with emotional baggage as a result of their circumstances e.g. moving placement if looked after
- There were challenging circumstances outside of the group which had enormous impact inside the group
- The focus became the process of education, awareness raising as a by-product of work of the group
- Membership of the group altered greatly both each week and over the lifetime of the project
- 2 videos were produced with similar messages and compiled into 1 video with places for pauses to encourage discussion/questions
- Video has been shown to senior managers in the district who saw this as a very favourable development
- The pack is in the process of translation but the video remains in English

- This project was put forward for extra funding available from Welsh Assembly Government within the county for sexual health, but was not successful

Present situation

- This has now developed into a teaching pack for peer education.
- The young people in the video and involved in its development have become peer educators
- Peer education sessions have occurred with peer educators with other young people from Children in Need/Child protection/PRU and Looked after backgrounds
- 2 young people conduct these groups following adult preparation beforehand and during the sessions and follow up after
- The young people are paid (from Cymorth) £15 per hour each for each session
- 6 young people, as a result of their involvement, were awarded a silver Duke of Edinburgh award
- We are unsure as to whether to market the resource because it has been criticised as non professional - that is its beauty
- We will have an evaluation meeting in the county in December to review the process
- We need to determine how we address future similar groups of young people to use a similar process +/- video production

Costs £14,383

For further information on the project contact:
Raywyn Law, Projects Co-ordinator, Ceredigion CBC, London House,
Alban Square, Aberaeron, Ceredigion SA46 0AJ

Measuring the impact of evidence based prevention work
Presented by: Ann Fairington, Communities that Care (CtC)

This presentation used examples from Bridgend, Swansea and Caerphilly to summarise developments to date, and show how young people and local communities have been engaged in the prevention process.

The workshop looked briefly at the work of CtC, the theory behind the work and how it links in with the work of Cymorth. We then went on to describe the youth survey and the information it gives us and in what ways that can be used and a number of programmes recommended by Communities that Care that are being used in Wales currently and their impact.

CtC works to reduce youth crime & antisocial behaviour, school failure, school age pregnancy & drug and alcohol abuse. These are ambitious goals and the only way that they can be achieved is by everyone working in partnership and working consistently over a long period of time. We recommend that to tackle these problems we need to use something that is being described in academic circles as 'Prevention Science'. This identifies the risk and protective factors that predict problems and identifies tested strategies and programmes that reduce risk and increase protection. CtC has used the findings from multiple, longitudinal studies to identify the risk factors that are linked to the symptoms of social exclusion in the UK. Cymorth guidance recommends support for 'early preventative intervention targeted at children and young people at risk of offending.' This describes perfectly the way CtC works with local communities.

We have identified 17 risk factors in total, grouped around four domains of family, school, community and friends and peers. These reflect areas of young people's lives and each domain will have its greatest influence at different ages in their lives. The four domains and the individual risk factors that make up each one can be linked to the six Cymorth Themes set out in the Assembly guidance. Using these risk factors can help a partnership to identify which issues or themes need addressing in which local areas. Risk factors can be measured at fairly small local community level, for example communities of around a hundred people or just a few streets. This allows services to be targeted at those areas most in need without the need to identify individual children or young people.

Having identified the risk and protective factors using longitudinal studies the next step was to develop a tool for measuring them. The main tool we use is a school survey. That is a self completion questionnaire designed by Oxford University and tested and developed over the past 7 years. This has been shown to be a very reliable tool. It asks over 80 questions about young people's attitudes and behaviour and is designed to tell us about their families and their younger lives as well. So although it is used with 11-16 year olds it gives much more general information about parental attitudes, the community as a whole and the lives of younger siblings. This survey gives us information on 13 out of the 17 risk factors.

Because this survey is so well established we have a lot of comparative data. We have surveyed about 40,000 young people in Wales alone, as well as 30 or so other surveys in local authorities in England and Scotland. Four years ago we undertook a national survey across the UK where we selected a sample that represented the

national UK population. A new national survey is due to be carried out early next year.

The 80 or so different questions in the youth survey allow us to gather a great deal of knowledge on lots of topics. We can analyse the answers by gender and age and compare answers given by particular populations of young people with the average (either the average in that particular county or the average in the UK or both).

As well as the individual answers we have developed a system for grouping answers using statistical analysis. This means we can put the combined answers onto a scale so that we have a Risk Factor score or a Protective factor score. We can then compare risk factor scores for a group of young people with the average risk factor score in that local authority or in the UK and in that way, instead of forever dealing with the same problem after it has happened – fire fighting – we can target resources at the underlying causes and start to prevent the problem from happening in the first place. So if a group of young people are telling us that they are drinking heavily, their risk factor scores will tell us whether that is mainly because that is the norm of their peer group, or maybe their parents behaviour and attitudes are influencing them or perhaps it is very easy to get hold of alcohol in their area and that is the main effect.

We looked at how organisations in Wales have used this information so far. Some areas commission CtC to do the research and then feed that wealth of information into their different planning processes. Caerphilly for example has used the survey across the borough and we have produced a range of reports that will be used by different partnerships to address their areas of concern. Each school in Caerphilly was given a report that looked at the specific risk and protective factors within that school compared to the general population. This gives the school very useful information for its future development plans. They are also using the cross borough data to support bids to WAG and the Home Office and others for specific programmes.

The final section of the workshop looked at how to reduce risk factors. This is the other major part of the work that CtC does. We gather information about what works to reduce risk factors. Here again, where possible we try to only recommend programmes that have been thoroughly evaluated, so we can be sure of their effectiveness. CtC has collected together detail from evaluation studies like this and makes it available to local partners so that appropriate choices can be made locally about the way that resources should be used. It is not always about bringing in new programmes, it may be about changing the way existing services are provided, reorganising how existing resources are used. Again many of these recommended programmes will fit into one or more themes in the Cymorth guidance.

For further information on this project contact:
Ann Fairnington, Director for Wales, Communities that Care,
10th Floor, Alexandra House, Alexandra Road, Swansea SA1 5ED

Cyfle Barnardo's Play and Leisure for Disabled Children
Presented by: Denbighshire CBC and young people from the project



The presentation described how the project has developed inclusive play and leisure activities for disabled children aged 4-10 years, based on the “interplay” model.

The pictures and commentary were by the children and expressed their feelings about the project:

“Although Elinor could not talk to the other children, she liked the days so much that she would cry when it was time to go home.”

“One day we went to the Llandudno Park Farm. We had fun on the tractor ride and also on the small tractors. The problem for my friend was that he uses a wheelchair and could not have a go on the tractor ride. This made him feel left out and alone”.

For further information on the project contact:
Glenys Griffiths, Service Manager, Barnardo's Cymru, Cyfle, Henllan Centre,
Henllan, nr Denbigh, Denbighshire LL16 5YA

Clywed – making a difference
Presented by: Gwynedd Young People's Partnership
and young people from the project.

Clywed is a scheme that assesses the effectiveness of agencies that provide services for children in empowering the voice of children, young people and families. It aims to create a strategy to empower the voice of children, young people and families.

Clywed believes there are 6 steps towards empowering the voice of young people and families and agencies are assessed according to their ability to develop the 6 steps:

- Voice (activities to ask opinions)
- Listening (getting the right people to communicate with children and young people)
- Hearing (willingness of agencies to hear what the young people have to say)
- Influence (letting what they hear influence the way they provide services)
- Implementation (changing things on the basis of the opinion of children and young people)
- Progression (regular processes of asking opinion)

Who: Any agency can be assessed be they large, small, private, voluntary, council or health service.

What: Indicating that they want to work in a way that respects children and young people

How: By agreeing to think about children and young people before making decisions

The agencies that have acquired the Logo up till now are:

Children's Ward Ysbyty Gwynedd	Coleg Glynllifon
Bryn Llwyd Education Unit	Parc Glynllifon
Porthmadog Leisure Centre	Bangor Libarry
Bangor Leisure Centre	Tywyn Library
R Jones, Bangor (Dentist)	Llanberis Police
Blaenau Ffestiniog Youth Club	Ysgol Bron y Foel
Porthmadog Youth Club	Ysgol Eifionnydd
SNAP	Ysgol y Gader
GISDA Caernarfon	Ysgol y Moelwyn
GISDA Blaenau Ffestiniog	Nurse in Ysgol Dyffryn Ogwen
South Gwynedd Women's Aid	Family Planning Clinic, Bangor
Bangor Women's Aid	

All agencies are offered help and training in how to develop the voice of their users and assessed on their ability to empower the voice of users. Clywed has 5 adults and 12 young people trained as promoters.

The process is simple:

- Speaking to the workers.
- Speaking to the children, young people or parents to ask their opinion.
- If the users feel that the agency is listening or is seeking to listen, the agency is awarded the Clywed logo.
- All receive suggestions on how to improve and some are given tasks to accomplish before being awarded the Logo.

The scheme is funded by the Children First programme, Cymorth fund and Cartref Bontnewydd Trust.

The adults who are part of Clywed enjoy being part of a new and different scheme that asks real questions about what services are available for children and young people.

The young people can voice their opinions and are able to go on to get training and occasional work through the scheme.

For further information on this project contact:
Angharad Davies, Youth Forum Co-ordinator, Gwynedd County Borough Council
Youth Service, P O Box 6, Caernarfon, Gwynedd LL55 1SB

Community Memories

Presented by Liz Braby, Newport County Borough Council

“Oral history records the living memories and feelings of all kinds of people, many otherwise hidden from history, and creates a more vivid picture of our past.”

‘Community Memories’ is an oral history project, delivered by Newport Museums and Heritage Service, which began in October 2003. The project is currently aimed at recording the life stories and experiences of Newport’s Black and Minority Ethnic communities. These communities’ experiences are largely missing from Wales’ recorded history and Newport wants to acknowledge the important contribution made by these groups to the City’s unique heritage.

In Newport, people from Black and Minority Ethnic communities make up about 5% of the City’s population. However this percentage varies in different areas of the City. In Maindee - where the ‘Community Memories’ project is based the numbers are much higher, with about 20% of the local people belong to a Black or Minority Ethnic community. Today, many of Newport’s first generation of immigrants have settled and raised families in the City. A large number of these members of the second and third generation have been born in Newport and have lived here all their lives.

The “Community Memories” project employs a full-time project officer, Liz Braby, who is working in partnership with groups and individuals to collect their stories and bring their memories and experiences to the wider City community. Children and young people are involved in two main ways:

- to record information about their lives and cultures; and
- to record the lives of older people within BME communities to create resources that fit with the National Curriculum to find out about different cultures, religions and lifestyles.

Recording people’s lives

One of the main aims of the ‘Community Memories’ project is to create an archive of life-story interviews with people from Newport’s Black and Minority Ethnic communities. Over twenty interviews have already been conducted with individuals from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Somalia, Jamaica, Iran, Algeria and the Congo. The life-story recordings enable memories and stories to be preserved and be used for the benefit of present and future generations. Extracts from the interviews have already been used to inform exhibitions, publications, web pages and school resources.

Temporary exhibitions

Newport Museums and Heritage Service’s first ‘Community Memories’ exhibition ‘Holidays to the Homeland’ looks at the experiences of Welsh-born BME community members when they have visited their motherlands.

The exhibition has toured different community venues including schools, libraries and community centres and is now available to hire for schools. It is accompanied by a book containing more detailed accounts of people’s experiences, and both the exhibition and the book contain Urdu and Welsh translations to widen access and understanding across the City’s communities.

More recently, Newport Museum has also opened an exhibition called ‘Asian Bride’ about Asian wedding experiences across the generations.

Stories on film

Interviews with members of the Refugee and Asylum Seeker communities in Newport. Extracts from these have been used to produce a DVD about the experiences of people who have had to flee from their countries. This 30 minute presentation combines still images and spoken voices to create a powerful and moving film.

The project aimed to challenge some of the negative perceptions of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the press, and empower Refugees and Asylum Seekers by demonstrating interest in their experiences. Newport Museums and Heritage Service intends to circulate copies of the DVD to secondary schools in the City as a learning resource.

Photography project

Young Asian people from the Maindee Youth Group were given disposable cameras to capture images of their lives. The aim of the project was to encourage them to take pride in, and explore, their own lives through photography. They discussed their choice of images with other members of the Group and their words and photographs were used to create a touring exhibition. The exhibition was displayed in the Youth Group's Community Centre, which provided a very visual way of showing their hard work to their peers and other community users.

Edge Girls' Cultural Loan Box

Girls from the 'Edge' Asian Girl's Youth Group in Newport have created two cultural resource boxes for schools. The girls bought in objects from their culture and were recorded on minidisk talking about what they are and what they are used for. The boxes of objects, which also contain a CD of the girls' descriptions, is intended for use in schools to bring new perspectives to lessons such as Religious Studies and Citizenship.

Community Kiosk

The aim of this project was to create an interactive object display case that can be based outside the traditional Museum setting e.g. in a school, library or community centre. The case is more interactive than a simple display case and aims to promote learning through the use of different senses e.g. looking, touching, listening. At present the case is based on the theme of Asian clothing. It has a display of clothes in its glass top, a drawer of Asian clothes to try on, paper resources to read, pictures of clothing to colour in, and a listening post to listen to community members talking about different items of Asian clothing. The Kiosk was launched at the National Eistedfodd in Newport in July 2004 and is now displayed in Newport Central Library.

'Community Memories' Website

The 'Community Memories' website was launched in October 2004 at: www.newport.gov.uk/communitymemories. This educational resource includes extracts from interviews with different members of the BME communities and news about projects and events that are taking place.

The future

The 'Community Memories' project, running since 2003, will hopefully continue to be funded for the next few years. It is hoped that this timescale will enable the building and strengthening of links between Newport Museums and Heritage Service and

BME community members. Museum staff would like to see the community take increased ownership of the project and benefit from the empowerment and self worth that this will achieve. It is also hoped that a greater understanding of different people's lives and cultures will help to improve tolerance and harmony within Newport.

If you would like to find out more about the 'Community Memories' project, please contact:

Liz Braby - 'Community Memories' Project Officer – Tel: 01633 246020
(email: liz.braby@newport.gov.uk)

Town centred and rural approach to maximise
Sure Start services in a rural county
Presented by Sure Start, Powys County Borough Council

Using examples of best practice within the County the presentation explained ways of maximising potential to provide services to a rural population.

Discussion: How can the challenges to services, especially group work, be combated in a rural area?

- Get people together first.
- To help support Families.
- Working Together (agencies).
- Volunteers to help.
- High costs to get support to families.
- Getting over mistrust, bringing people together to get them to work together.
- Save The Children support project in Beguildy (Powys), mobile project – could be replicated.
- Small amounts of money for areas that are not classed as deprived under the index of multiple deprivation.
- Some areas of highest need have more services than most rural areas where provision has ceased.
- Volunteers used to get members of the communities to local groups. Training given over an 8-week period (Homestart Projects) (Volunteer co-ordinator funded through Sure Start).
- Working in partnership with other organisations using transport (bus), taking support and information to communities, but bus services are not readily available in some rural areas.
- Families accessing services within their own communities. Some feel pulled out of locality.
- Homestart looks at prevention work (Can take a whole generation to see benefits).
- Need to look at duplication of services.
- Changes in funding make it difficult to continue services in the way they have been set up – unable to plan medium or long term strategy because of one year or short term funding.
- Need to look long term on prevention work (funding).
- Statistics in Vale of Glamorgan shows an impact on numbers of children on Child Protection Register.

For further information on this project contact:

Lynne Jones, Sure Start Co-ordinator, Powys Children and Families Forum,
Sefton House, Middleton Street, Llandrindod Wells, Powys LD1 5DG

Promoting Prevention
Presented by Rhondda Cynon Taff Youth Offending Team

Using case studies, the presentation showed how Cymorth funding has been used to develop partnerships, which promote early preventative work with young people at risk of becoming disengaged.

A Cross Cutting Review in 2002 stated that:

- Mainstream children and young people's services should be more focused to ensure they respond better to those most in need.
- There should be early identification of need to ensure preventative services are available before children, young people and families hit crisis

Government Responses to this were:

- NATIONAL GOVERNMENT - Co-ordinated Strategy by those agencies delivering services to children and young people
- WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT - Children and Young People's Framework Partnerships

BUT - Children and young people at risk are not a self contained, defined group.

Questions:

- Is the best use made of best practice and the current range of interventions to prevent risk behaviour amongst children and young people?
- Is the evidence the effect that parental neglect and family violence has being picked up in the development of services?
- Are we promoting preventative factors which can enhance individual resilience and protect against risk factors?
- Is there effective inter-agency co-operations, particularly at transition points?
- Is there effective interconnection of programmes and services at that point?

Case studies examined were:

- Partnership for Youth
- Remedy Project
- Race Initiatives

Questions

- What are the key outcome targets for services for children and young people in your area?
- What are the main obstacles to achieving those targets?
- What is the current balance between prevention services and crisis intervention?
- How can we retarget and refocus existing mainstream services and resources?
- What mechanisms can we use to ensure that future funding streams are used to target need?

For further information on this project contact:

Elsbeth Wynn, Operational Manager, Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC Youth Offending Team, Fairway Court, Tonteg Road, Treforest Industrial Estate, Pontypridd CF37 5UA

The Voluntary Sector and the Framework for Partnership Presented by Torfaen Voluntary Alliance/Torfaen CBC

The presentation examined how the appointment of a Voluntary Liaison Officer is developing the potential of the voluntary sector in its role of delivering services within the Framework Delivery Plans.

In Torfaen Voluntary Sector representatives on the Young Peoples Partnership lobbied for a post based in the sector that could support them to be more effective in their role. When this was discussed on a wider scale it was agreed that the YPP £20, 000 special grant be match funded with Cymorth funds, enabling a fulltime post to be created that would support all voluntary organisations working with children and young people in Torfaen.

The main aim of this role is to strengthen the voice of the voluntary sector within the framework. To do this there was a need to:

- Develop practical procedures for ensuring that voluntary organisations can effectively participate in service planning and delivery at all levels in the new framework planning infrastructure
- Establish mechanisms to ensure that voluntary sector organisations are provided with information about developments within the Framework
- Promote programmes to build capacity and provide other support, as appropriate to meet the needs of voluntary organisations and their representatives, so that they can effectively contribute to the planning and delivery process
- Ensure that voluntary organisations working with children and young people have a co-ordinated approach, streamlining activities and avoiding duplication of effort and resources
- Develop systems and channels for communication among voluntary organisations
- Develop procedures for ensuring that voluntary sector organisations can effectively consult with and involve their young people, creating innovative opportunities to ensure that all young people can be engaged
- Promote awareness of the work of the sector and the framework

How do we do this?

We established a Children Young Peoples and Families Forum which was successfully launched in November 2003.

At the launch the structure of the forum and its Terms of Reference were agreed.

Four Focus Groups, tasked with overseeing specific issues, were established within the forum these are:

- Youth
- Early and Middle Years
- Recreation and Leisure
- Health and Well-being

In addition to linking to the Young Peoples Partnership (YPP) and the Children's Partnership (CP) these groups also link to the fourth tier planning groups. In this way voluntary organisations are kept informed of developments within the Framework,

and are able to feedback their views and opinions, via the voluntary sector representatives. These groups are also engaged in an exercise where they are identifying alternative sources of funding to initiate projects that support the delivery of the Framework Plan, the Young Peoples Partnership Action Plan and the Children's Plan. The nature of the funding that is being sought entails that these projects are led and hosted by the voluntary sector.

Activities

- There have been two further meetings of the Forum, both well attended, with excellent feedback. The second event focused upon "Involving children and young people in the decision making process." From this a consultation database is being created of voluntary organisations willing to undertake sessions with the children and young people they work with, around any consultations that arise. A further development of this is the formation of a consultation coordinators group brought together by Torfaen's Young Peoples Forum Co-coordinator. This group will look at both promoting good practice but also further participation of young people in Torfaen
- Focus groups meet bi-monthly, a week before meetings of the YPP and CP to enable issues, matters arising etc to be fed into partnership meetings.
- Community Participation Experience Group have submitted a funding proposal to the 14 – 19 Learning Network
- Recreation and Leisure Focus group successfully applied to Activate for funding (£4400) to provide activities for National Play Day
- Three funding groups have been established to look at
 - Accessing funds to support initiatives aground
 - Supporting young people into independent living
 - Work with young parents
 - Information and advice

The funding groups are multi-agency in character, and will work to develop proposals which complement existing strategies/plans and to access funding from those grants and trusts open to the voluntary sector to support their delivery. The nature of this funding would mean that a voluntary organisation would need to be the lead body and host any posts that arise.

- Consultation on the selection of voluntary sector representatives has taken place as there were three different methods of selecting representatives, we now hopefully have a unified process, with all representatives being nominated through the Forum
- Children and young peoples involvement

Issues raised

- Voluntary Sector representatives have formulated their input in readiness for the review of the Framework, and these have been discussed with the chair, vice –chair and framework co-ordinator and reported back to the Framework.
- Commissioning of Cymorth projects.
- Voluntary Sector Representatives are now selected through the Children, Young People and Families Forum.

Progress

- Although there has been much work undertaken to engage the voluntary sector within the forum, there are still some sectors not fully engaged including sports groups and the uniformed organisations. The Recreation and Leisure Focus group have however taken on the responsibility of organising the

Champion of Champion 5 a-side football competition, which will engage some of the sports clubs. Although there is communication between the Forum and the uniformed organisations, and members do attend the forum, this needs to be strengthened.

- Communication is a major issue, and inevitably some voluntary organisations may not be receiving the information they require. To some extent, this can be remedied by the Framework initiating its Communication Strategy.
- There is still some lack of awareness of what voluntary organisations actually do, the variety of organisations involved in the sector, and the sector's ability to access funds that are not open to statutory agencies. To counteract this, a voluntary sector awareness day is being organised, the target audience is professionals within the statutory sector.

For further information on this project contact:

Hayley Fidler, Children and Young People's Development Officer, Torfaen Voluntary Alliance, Portland Buildings, Commercial Street, Pontypool, NP4 6JS

Exploring the value and benefits of Cymorth with marginal
analysis techniques
Presented by University of Glamorgan/Torfaen CBC/Monmouthshire
CBC/ Third Sector First and University of Leeds

Torfaen and Monmouthshire commissioned an evaluation of Cymorth projects in their regions to analyse:

- are projects preventative;
- do they fit the tiers;
- are they effective; are they good value?

The workshop was based on the development and application of marginal analysis techniques in the evaluation of two Cymorth programmes. In the first of these programmes twenty-five projects - each with its own history, objectives and sources of funding-had been brought under the umbrella of Cymorth, though their origins were in precursor grants regimes like Sure Start. As in other Welsh local authority areas, a Framework Partnership had been created to manage this new unified programme. Each of the projects was to be reassessed, in part to establish the extent to which existing projects contributed to the new and overarching aims of the Cymorth Fund.

The Framework Partnership's initial plan was to commission an evaluation of each of the projects that they had inherited. The evaluation team who were commissioned to do this work argued that while separate evaluations would identify how well each project was meeting its own objectives, it would tell the Framework Partnership nothing about the relative value of one project vis-a-vis another.

For example, evidence that projects 1 and 2 were both performing well in terms of their specific objectives would suggest that both should be carried forward into future years.

But what if project 1's objective was of much greater value than that of project 2, while expenditure on project 1 was only a fraction that on project 2? This would suggest that the current balance of expenditure between the two projects was sub-optimal - but this important message for future planning would not emerge from separate evaluations. The team argued that adding a 'marginal analysis' exercise to the evaluations would help the Framework Partnership to consider these types of issues.

What is marginal analysis?

Marginal analysis is a framework based on the principles of economics. It is used to examine a current balance of expenditure within a defined programme. This is no easy task because the benefits of individual projects come in many forms and can rarely be objectively compared. Benefit is a value laden (i.e. subjective) concept so if the value attached to one type of benefit is to be compared with the value attached to another the question of whose values needs to be addressed first. Marginal analysis cannot avoid the need to make value judgments, but it forces them to be transparent and explicit.

Marginal analysis works by focusing on the marginal gains and losses associated with small changes in levels of funding. It is often the case that small reductions in expenditure in one area can be achieved with little loss of benefit while equally small

increases in expenditure in other areas can produce great additional benefits. Where this is the case, a transfer of resources will result in more overall benefit (i.e. greater total value of benefit) at no additional cost.

The workshop

The exercise is based on the application of marginal analysis in two local authority areas, but with names changed and other features, e.g. expenditure, altered to preserve anonymity.

First, a warm-up exercise considered the balance of expenditure between broad age bands. A 'real' exercise was undertaken by asking participants to draw up an 'investment wish list', by imagining that total Cymorth funding has increased by £50,000. A 'dis-investment wish list' was then drawn up, by imagining that total Cymorth funding has decreased by £50,000. Finally, a 'head-to-head' comparison of the two lists was made on the basis of total Cymorth funding remaining unchanged.

As in the two areas where this approach has been followed, this workshop exercise was aided by the use of Teamworker® decision support technology. This group support system enables the anonymous voting of each participant and the instant feedback of the group outcome. This enables individuals to provide their judgments in a less threatening environment. It also provides stimulation for a focused debate on the reasons for differences of opinion.

Presented jointly by:

David Cohen, Professor of Health Economics, University of Glamorgan, Treforest, Pontypridd, CF37 1DL and

Michael Nugent, Director, Third Sector First, Bridleway House, Newchurch in Rossendale, Lancs BB4 9DR

Wrexham Response – Working in partnership to provide
a response to young people’s drug and alcohol needs.
Presented by Wrexham County Borough Council

Outlining the work of the project delivering services to young people, from education and prevention through to treatment and support, and including a video produced by young people.

Wrexham Response came into being in 2000 with the joining together of two CYMORTH funded Youth Service Projects: The Power Project and the Early Break Project.

Funding was acquired from the Community Safety Partnership to employ two community outreach workers in 2001. The Partnership was further enhanced in 2002 with the addition to the team of the NHS Trust, Young People's Substance Misuse Worker and the CAIS, Homelessness Team.

Response moved into a town centre facility in 2003, with an open access drop-in. Funding was acquired from the Cathleen Davies Trust to employ a Young Women's (trainee) worker in the South Wrexham area. Additional funding was secured from CYMORTH in 2004 to employ a social service's secondment in response to the 'Hidden Harm' report.

Work in Progress

- Prevention/education programme's delivered in all secondary schools in Wrexham County Borough.
- Peer education project core group delivering sessions to children and young people within the County Borough.
- Open access drop-in facility, attracting 30 plus clients three mornings per week.
- Community outreach workers, regularly contacting young people who are resident in Communities First areas.
- Needle/syringe exchange, operating from town centre base and within Communities First areas, 93 clients engaged with this service.
- Young women's specific work, support for young women who use substances and SIRENS Project offering educational sessions to young women about the dangers of date rape.
- WHAM Project (What About Me) this project is targeted at the children of substance misusing parents.
- Substance misuse training, a range of accredited training delivered to Young People, Community Members and Professionals.
- No Going Back programme, working with Stoke Heath and Thorncross Young Offenders Institutes to provide through care for young people returning to Wrexham from custody.
- Right Start Programme, diversionary activities for young people up to the age of 18

Guiding Principles

- Welsh Assembly Government, *“Tackling Drugs Together, A Partnership Approach”*
- Welsh Assembly Government, *“Extending Entitlement”*.

- The Health Advisory Service, *“Children and Young People, the Substance of Young Needs”*.
- Wrexham Youth and Community Service, *“Pledge to Young People”*.

Future Developments

- Formation of North Wales Peer Education Project
- DANOS (drug and alcohol national occupational standards)
- Mobile outreach Needle Syringe Provision
- Seek appropriate community bases from which to deliver NSE and preventative initiatives including information, advice and training opportunities for residents of local communities.
- Working partnership with Yale College to create a substance misuse video for young people.
- Inclusion of a sexual health worker’s input into the work of Response.

Partnerships

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| • CAIS | • Communities First, Brynteg and Southsea |
| • Shelter Cymru | • Caia Parc Partnership |
| • Community Drug and Alcohol Team | • North Wales Police |
| • CAHMS | • Y.O.S. |
| • North East Wales Institute | • Stoke Heath Young Offenders Institute |
| • Yale College | • Thorncross Young Offenders Institute |
| • Communities First, Caia Parc | |
| • Communities First, Plas Madoc | |

For more information on this project contact:

Martin Gregory, Youth Service Team Leader or Les William, INFORM Project Co-ordinator, Wrexham Response, 65 King Street, Wrexham

Parents Forum

Presented by Ynys Môn County Borough Council, Barnardo's and NSPCC

An outline of the process of establishing and running a Parents Panel for Rural Family Service and 'Llais Ni' the forum and voice for children and young people on Ynys Môn. Learning from the process and messages and steps for the future.

Basic Principles

- Theme D - Empowerment, Participation and Active Citizenship
- Sure Start Objective - Strengthen Families and Communities
- Barnardo's Common Outcomes - Children and young people, families and communities participate in the shaping and evaluation of our services

Background

- Partnership included a range of providers with sub-projects from the beginning
- Part of the role of Barnardo's Rural Family Service (RFS) was coordination and steering within the partnership
- The Sure Start Health Visitor is a member of the RFS team

Service users involvement from the start

- Collaborative work in communities
- Individual contact, questionnaires
- Individual/community/ neighbourhood needs
- Some Sure Start activities planned as a result of this
- By 2002-3 members taking more responsibility for steering groups
- Parents already used to discussing local needs and planning activities
- Used to having Ideas listened to

Recruitment Panel – the next step

- Approached a few groups for volunteers to come to informal recruitment workshop and started with 6 parents

Workshops

- Introduction - Parents were given a job description, discussed, worked as a group on a person specification and revised professionally produced person specification
- Introduced to the Interview process and Equal Opportunities policies
- Confidentiality including keeping paperwork and applications secure
- Using set questions and Barnardo's system for scoring
- How to manage the Parent's Panel on the day.
- Group devised questions and discussed options for carrying out Interviews
 - 1) Parent representative(s) on the same panel as professionals
 - 2) Less formal activity pre professional interview
 - 3) Less formal Parents Interview Panel with separate Professional Panel
- 3d option chosen
- Final decision would be with Chair of Professional Panel

Points which have developed through the use of the system

- Each panel can veto the appointment of a person they have serious reservations about
- Both panels need to cover the full range of questions

- Support parents panel through training to deal with question areas which are new to them

For more information on this project contact: Lesley Conran, Children's Services Manager, Rural Family Service, Isgraig, Lon Newydd, Llangefni, Ynys Mon LL77 7PT

Parents views of services in the early years for children with a disability Presented by Cardiff Sure Start

What Support Do Children With Significant Additional Needs Require in Their Early Years and What Are the Needs of Their Families.

Aim of the Study

- To obtain parental information about the help and support that parent/s have received for their child and for themselves
- To obtain parental opinions/preferences about the type of support they have received; and any additional support which would be beneficial

Method

Structured interviews were used with parents of 23 families, including 13 black/ethnic minority families from across the Canton - Splott areas of Cardiff. The children were aged 24 - 60 months. There were 16 boys and 7 girls. They had a range of disabilities diagnosed, including: autism, learning difficulties, physical disability and visual or hearing impairment. Differences between professional input and natural family and/or community supports were explored.

Summary

Following analysis of the data collected, there were significant implications for Early Years services in general and specific implications for Sure Start service. These were in keeping with other current research. ESPP (2003) & Shonkoff & Meisels (2000)

- Recognition of a wide range of differences and individual family needs for planning more holistic inputs
- Expectations of changing needs over time
- For some parents from ethnic minorities, there were specific issues that acted as additional barriers to them receiving the support they needed.
- Planning for the complexities of childhood and family life
- Specific programmes for the child
- Social inclusion opportunities for the child
- Supporting the parent(s)
 - Informing parents about Sure Start
 - Contributing to appropriate agency planning
 - Flexibility in provisions and welcoming all (inclusivity)
 - Growing expertise in collaboration/joined up working
 - Gaps in provision at transition points
 - Developing our experience and expertise with disabled children and their families

For further information on this project, contact:

Sam Carson, Senior Educational Psychologist, or Bernice Bird,
Parents Plus, Cardiff Sure Start, 72 James Street, Cardiff CF10 5EZ

Extended Schools Project
Presented by Torfaen County Borough Council

A multi-agency project focusing on preventative work with individual children in primary schools who have been identified as potentially requiring future support because of a level of vulnerability, under-development or challenging behaviour.

Schools Multi-Agency Resource Team Torfaen (SMARTT) is a Cymorth funded project generated by the Children's & Young People's Framework Partnership between the education, social service and health sectors. The funding frees up time for education welfare officers, community/school nurses, health visitors and social workers to work together. The focus of the pilot is on 3 areas of highest disadvantage. A senior member of staff from each school forms the fourth agency within this core team

The Aims

- To enhance the life chances of vulnerable children by improved provision of the services which support them
- To develop multi-disciplinary practitioner groups which engage with pupils, parents, extended families and school-based staff in a fundamentally new way
- To provide schools with a single point of contact into co-ordinated multi-agency support
- To change the way in which professional agencies work

The target groups of children

- Children from households where the carers are under stress which may affect their child's health and/or educational or social development
- Children whose health or educational or social development is being impaired
- Children where there is a likelihood of significant harm
- Children who exhibit severe behavioural problems in school

For further information on this project contact:

Bill Hill, Assistant Director, Lifelong Learning, Torfaen CBC, Civic Centre, Pontypool
NP4 6YB

Management of Change Presented by: Sure Start, Torfaen CBC

Monitoring and evaluation of Sure Start provision led to a change in content, delivery and organisation structure and management of the programme. The Presentation focused on the successful management of these changes.

Workshop Content

Showing of video – Sure Start in Torfaen “Helping Children Build their Future”

- Sure Start in Torfaen
- TOGS
- Sure Start Playbus
- Helping Hands
- Play Station
- Pop ins
- Health Team
- Homestart Torfaen

Monitoring & Evaluation

Internal Evaluation

- Benefits to families
- Targets being met
- Spare capacity identified in some areas
- Staff development needs

External Evaluation

- Recommendations for Standstill budget

Triggers for Change

- Evaluation Outcome meant an effective cut in budget
- Inequalities in pay
- Absence of career paths
- Lead agency issues leading to additional costs
- Hidden costs
- Maintenance of the quality of service
- Staffing issues
- Need to make services for accessible
- Shifts in demand in different areas

There was then a discussion and practical group exercises using the Boston Matrix and PESTLE analysis, eg: Pick a service you are involved with and imagine that it has had a budget cut. You are required to make changes to continue to provide the service and come in on budget using PESTLE factors. (PESTLE analysis is about identifying the factors which will have an impact upon any changes you may wish to make to a service.)

For further information contact:

Helen Cole, Sure Start Co-ordinator, Torfaen County Borough Council, Block B, Mamhilad House, Mamhilad Park Estate, Pontypool

Integrated Children's Centres
Presented by: Newport County Borough Council

A facilitated discussion group to explore issues related to Integrated Children's Centres (ICCs).

Welsh Assembly Government: Key Points
Connections between projects

1. Consistency

- Lines of accountability
- Children's Partnerships, Young People's Partnerships, Framework Partnerships
Early Years Development & Childcare Partnerships
- Divisions Welsh Assembly Government
- Ambiguousness – mixed messages, clarity, expectations, clear

2. Clarity

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pump prime?• Development fund.• Catch-all fund.• Locked in funding restrictive.• Outcomes – Cymorth/additionality• Added value• Cymorth – Sure Start missing | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How do we measure outcomes?
(number of interventions, impact assessments)• Education budget• Cymorth a catalyst• Mainstreaming – developments• Cymorth MK II |
|--|--|

Cymorth as a pathfinder

- Transition to RSG
- Cymorth – Voluntary Sector, Cymorth RSG, Local Authority

3. Welsh Assembly Government – CYMORTH ADVISORY GROUP (Members, Voluntary organisations, Health Statutory organisations, Welsh Assembly Government, Stake Holders)

4. Consideration Of Position Of Cymorth In Relation to CHILDREN BILL, Welsh Edition Version

Project Managers

Require more communication with framework:

How do we know what's happening?

Co-ordinators have overview only and need to have access to more detailed information

For more information on this project contact:

Diane Daniel, Children's and Young People's Framework Co-ordinator, Newport CBC,
Room 230, Civic Centre, Newport NP20 4UR

Cymorth as a 'whole'
Presented by, Bridgend County Borough Council,
Ynys Mon County Borough Council and Cardiff County Council

Not just a series of projects: A facilitated discussion group.

Bridgend's Cymorth programme :

- Allocation approximately £1.9 million
- 31 projects (one of which has five smaller projects within it)
- Voluntary Sector 16 projects, 40.3% of resources
- Local Authority 10 projects (inc the "5 in 1"), 42.3%
- Health 5 projects, 17.4%

Where we started from (October 2002)

- Newly formed partnership, new Co-ordinator;
- just over one-third of Cymorth committed to match funding a European Social Fund young people's programme (until August 31 2004);
- submission for 2003/04 was a complete "roll over" of the projects in the funds which preceded Cymorth, with a commitment to a fundamental review in the following year.

What we did for the 2004/05 submission

- Prepared the Cymorth programme separately for the Children's Partnership and the Young People's Partnership (BIG mistake);
- agreed two different approaches, both of which were aimed at "developing a programme from a collection of projects";
- Children's Partnership – agreed to re-focus the existing projects so that they met the Cymorth criteria and new criteria from the Bridgend Framework;
- Young People's Partnership – agreed to maintain existing programme until August 31st 2004, but to re-commission all services from September 1st 2004, in line with Cymorth and Framework criteria.

Process for 2004/05 submission

Children's Partnership

- Prepared a Powerpoint presentation describing the new criteria and process for Cymorth;
- held two seminar style meetings to present the proposals to Partnership members (including Childcare services and Surestart);
- prepared a "self assessment form" with accompanying guidance, so that partners could test out their proposals, and see whether or not they met the new criteria;
- held meetings to discuss possible re-focusing of projects with all existing project sponsors developed a Cymorth Project Submission form and guidance;
- formed a Finance Group of partners not submitting projects;
- considered and agreed a programme for the Children's Partnership;
- developed a common Service Level Agreement which committed Partnership to providing support, tied project into common monitoring system, with agreement to participate in case co-ordination.

Children's Partnership projects were becoming a programme because :

- Projects had been re-focused to a common set of objectives and criteria;
- projects were commissioned for three years;
- projects had to agree to become part of a "case co-ordination" system, funded from Cymorth, which would develop a common referral, assessment and case management process.

Young People's Partnership

- Prepared a Powerpoint presentation describing the new criteria and process for Cymorth;
- held two seminar style meetings to present the proposals to Partnership members (including Youth Focus projects, Youth Service, voluntary sector network);
- prepared a Commissioning Document which described :
 - client group (eg young carers, young homeless etc);
 - service to be commissioned;
 - required outcomes for young people.
- Prepared a "self assessment form" with accompanying guidance, so that partners could test out their proposals, and see whether or not they met the new criteria;
- developed a Cymorth Project Submission form and guidance;
- formed a Finance Group of partners not submitting projects;
- considered and agreed a programme for the Children's Partnership;
- developed a common Service Level Agreement which committed Partnership to providing support, tied project into common monitoring system, with agreement to participate in case co-ordination.

A second (unsuccessful) European Structural Fund bid was submitted, using some of the Cymorth projects as match funding.

Young People's Partnership projects were becoming a programme because :

- Projects were commissioned within a set of client based and Cymorth criteria;
- projects had been re-focused to a common set of objectives;
- projects were commissioned for three years;
- projects had to agree to become part of a "case co-ordination" system, funded from Cymorth, which would develop a common referral, assessment and case management process.

What we'll be doing in the future

- Commissioning rather than inviting bids;
- commissioning for the Framework, across the whole 0-25 years age group;
- reviewing and improving the self assessment, submission and SLA documentation;
- developing case co-ordination, as appropriate, linked to the formation of team working within the Cymorth programme.

Run jointly by:

Les Jones, Children & Young People's Framework Co-ordinator, Bridgend Children's & Young People's Partnership, Level 4, Civic Centre, Angel Street, Bridgend CF32 4WB
Elfyn Wyn Jones, Framework Co-ordinator, Ynys Mon CBC, Managing Director's Department, Council Offices, Llangefni LL77 7TW, and
Richard Hibbs, Framework Partnership Manager, Cardiff CC, Trowbridge Centre, Greenway Road, Trowbridge CF3 1QS

Funky Dragon,

Presented by members of Funky Dragon

Aims of the session:

Generate discussions with regard to participation of Children & Young People in Wales

Explore ideas that will inform developments for participation

Activity 1 – Positive/ Negative examples

Participants asked to discuss their positive and negative experiences of participation.

Feedback

Positive	Negative
ICC Play area (Caerphilly) – Child centred	This would become 'lip service'
Completed a consultation with children through primary schools using a TV personality that was well known (Gwynedd)	Councillor was of the opinion that children's views should be taken with a pinch of salt; Seen and not heard attitude
Large conference was held with young people with them doing a rap (Bridgend)	Couldn't let young people know what happened as a result because it was too heavy on resources
Parenting - organised consultation. Provided a child with a camera to take photographs of whatever they wanted to. The child didn't speak about much, however the photos provided him with the opportunity to communicate. His mother was amazed at how much he communicated through the project	Must listen and act on information when consulting
Door for Children & Young People, different levels of involvement	Being dishonest over outcomes
The process, consulting with young people	Raising expectations which means children and young people would be badly let down by local authorities due to funding and not having the support from local authorities
Priorities of Framework changing due to consultation	How effective? Children & Young People are consulted out and is it making a difference?
Some local authorities are tackling issues through primary schools e.g. Ceredigion	Very often there is no-one there to take forward what young people say, there is no direction
Llandusyl - One primary have changed the menu through work done with 10/ 11years olds	Tokenism within the Council Tokenism of School Councils – parents' view of them
Conwy – Have Participation Coordinator in post which involved young people in the interview process	
Ceredigion – Young people were included in the interview process for the Youth Forum Coordinator	Tokenistic – young people are very often just 'wheeled' in and out 0-10 – Not developed enough, need to know how to do it especially for 0 – 5

Young people participate in the Young People's Partnerships in Neath/ Port Talbot. They can stay for all of the meeting if they want to.	Disagreement with parents. No feedback when young people are consulted, young people are all consulted out!
The meetings are young people friendly and easier for the adults to understand as they make an effort not to use jargon	

Activity 2

'Produce a map of possible decision making processes children and young people could be involved in.

One group felt that the children and young people were at the centre of decision-making processes, and looked at what services were immediately available where young people could participate.

A second group felt that children and young people were at the beginning of decision-making processes as they attend groups and projects, and were provided with opportunities to participate in Children & Young People's Partnerships, Youth Forums, School Councils, Funky Dragon at a National Level.

Activity 3

Produce a vision of participation in Wales, to including systems, structures, outcomes, communication, etc

Feedback from groups:-

- Young people should be given the freedom, opportunity, choice and resources to participate in decision making as they so wish and ensure that they are really heard and action taken to address their issues.
- Participation should be taken as a seed and nurtured in the correct way by giving it time and resources to fuel its growth. The end result of participation will take years and perhaps generations to develop and its growth will need to be sustained through funding. Once it has reached its potential it will then shed further seeds of participation which will germinate and spread.
- Children & Young People at the centre with two way communication flowing though Councils, School Councils, with national and international perspectives taken into account. They also felt that everything would overlap and work together.

The ideal would be to have clear guidelines with regards to participation of Children & Young People:

- Endless pots of money
- A kite-mark standard
- Positive outcomes advertised on local TV, papers etc
- Feedback to participants
- Make participation statutory
- Becomes the 'norm' not the exception
- Recognised nationally
- C & YP are informed about participation
- Participation is based on equality

Activity 4

What message would you like to give to the Minister and what are you going to do with regards to participation for Children & Young People in your Local Authority?

What next?

- Get on with a participation strategy and move it forward and spread the word.
- In order to raise awareness/ train staff/ parents to encourage participation, we need continued resources.
- We must work with parents from the start to make changes to children's lives.
- There needs to be a change in attitude - 'seen and heard'.
- Welsh Assembly Government need to influence local politicians i.e. County councillors & community councillors on their roles and how they really commit to the rights of children and young people.
- Need to legislate to make participation everyone's responsibility.
- Local authorities need more direction on participation methods and resources to support participation of children and young people.
- Find out how/if we use Funky Dragon resources. Do the school councils & youth Forums promote the website? Is the existing Funky Dragon website linked to local authorities' websites?
- Ensure that children and young people looked after and in need have the opportunity to be involved in decision making at individual and other levels.
- Promote the involvement of very young children by supporting parents with very young babies in understanding how to involve them and why.
- Specific training in how to consult with two specific groups 0-10 & 11-25.
- Find positive and fun ways to include children & young people in all the areas of service they use.
- National launch for participation. Voice of the young in the press or on TV, radio, local papers etc so that children and young people KNOW their rights and KNOW avenues where they can voice their views.
- Consider ways in which we can bring in young people to voluntary sector pre-partnership meetings.
- Make sure participation is on everybody's agenda.
- Make contact with the new participation officer and other workers for information sharing.
- Run a project to assess young people's involvement in partner organisations using 'Young Inspectors'.
- Develop 'About Me' young people participation opportunities.
- Be more aware of the Young People's Forum views whilst sitting on YPP.

Final thoughts

Participants were given the opportunity to record any final thoughts:

- Enjoyed workshop;
- More media needed for Funky Dragon;
- Like 'Funky Dragon' as a site – looking forward to more stuff for Under 10's;
- Lots of fun – Great!
- Great session, we do need to give more thought as soon as possible on 0–10 consultation.
- Very interesting and thought provoking workshop – Many thanks.

Run by: Melanie Blake and Teresa Sadler, Development Workers, Funky Dragon, Frigate House, Quay West, Quay Parade, Swansea SA1 1SR www.funkydragon.org.uk

Children come First: Supporting Cymorth

Presented by: National Childminding Association Wales

Nationally recognised quality assurance scheme for Childminding Networks, endorsed by Investors in Children.

195 Childminders assessed, 14 Networks, Supporting 184 Children during August 2004

Providing a Range of Quality Childcare

- Multi-cultural Support
- Teen Parent Support
- Community Childminding
- Support to parents experiencing stress
- Supporting children and families with disabilities
- Probation Service
- Providing childcare for working parents
- Providing good quality play experience
- Early years education
- Out of school childcare
- Holiday care
- Evenings and weekends

Welsh Assembly Government Cymorth Targets:

Childminding Networks Supporting Families

- Quality childcare
- Working parents
- Teen parent support
- Specialist support for children with disabilities
- Local Authority
- Cymorth projects/targets
- Families experiencing difficulties
- Non-threatening service

Training, Mentoring and Information

- Providing Childminding training Level 3 DCP/ECP NVQ3.
- Specialist training
- Quality Childcare
- Parents taking up training
- Information to parents

Play Leisure and Enrichment

- Quality play experiences for children 0 - 8 years and beyond
- Babies and Pre-school
- Breakfast and out of school care
- Holidays
- Evenings and weekends
- Integration of children with disabilities
- Toy loan schemes

Health Improvement

- Enhanced Health & Safety checks
- Teen parent support
- Safety
- Diet/nutrition
- Accident prevention
- Immunisation
- Dental care
- Family planning

Community Development

- Childminding networks
- Locally available
- Home based
- Supporting local initiatives
- Local training

Empowerment, participation & active citizenship

- Self-employed quality childcare
- Career development
- Inclusive service to all children
- Multicultural network supporting multicultural awareness
- Actively seeking children & parents views
- Community development
- Sustainable community service

Funding

- Cymorth
- Section 17
- Sure Start
- Objective 1
- Education grant
- Carers grant
- Voluntary sector scheme

Childminding Networks

- Formal groups of Childminders
- Maintained and supported
- Network Coordinator
- Independent assessment
- 3-year approval
- Accredited Childminders inspected by Estyn

The Coordinator

- Recruits registered childminders who operate to the standards in NCMA's Quality Childminding Charter
- Makes regular monitoring visits
- Provides and arranges training opportunities
- Gives practical support e.g. toy and equipment loan
- Offers advice and information
- Matches childminders and families
- Liases with the EYDCP on provision of education by accredited childminders

Key findings of the Project

- Making a significant contribution to the quality of childcare offered by childminders
- Increase the status of childminding in the eyes of childminders and parents
- Provide a powerful mechanism in support of childminders
- Shows signs of helping retention of childminders

User Feedback

" My daughter has got more confident by going to toddler groups"

"I have more confidence, as I would not go to groups on my own"

"My sons behaviour at home and nursery has improved"

" My son has calmed down a lot"

"It has been brilliant, I don't know what I would have done without it, exactly what I needed"

"Childminding is really benefiting the family"

For more information on this project contact: Sian Davies, Development Manager, National Childminding Association, 4 Cathedral Road, Cardiff CF11 9LJ

Young Carers

Presented by: NCH Cymru

4 people attended the workshop promoting a video made by the Vale of Glamorgan Young Carers to raise awareness of young carers issues. People found the video informative and took away a copy to show to their respective authorities.

From the video we had a discussion about how many young carers there could be in Wales and the kind of assistance they require. The video was a good starting point as the young carers themselves told us what they need and what they think is good.

Even though it was only a small workshop it benefited the people who attended, as we were able to discuss issues in a small group format.

For further information on this project contact:

Jane Weeks, Project Manager, NCH Cymru, Penarth Family & Community Resource Centre, 14 Albert Crescent, Penarth CF64 1DA

Overview of Specialist Tier Three Substance Misuse Service

Presented by: The Young Persons Substance Misuse Service, Gwent

Insight into the care process for young people, from referral to discharge, with emphasis on collaborative working and the procedure surrounding replacement prescribing.

For further information on this project contact:

Sarah Pugh, Training Officer, Young Persons Substance Misuse Service, Maindiff Court House, Maindiff Court Hospital, Ross Road, Abergavenny Monmouthshire NP7 8NF

Working with Fathers

Presented by: NCH Cymru/Neath Port Talbot CBC
and fathers from the project

The Presentation focused on lessons learned during the project and offered suggestions for successfully engaging fathers in parenting work.

For further information on this project contact:

Gareth John, Senior Project Worker, Neath Port Talbot Family Support Project, NCH Cymru, 85-87 Llansawel Crescent, Llansawel, Neath SA11 2UW

Integrating Services to provide better support to families.

Presented by Pembrokeshire County Borough Council

Using case studies, the Cymorth Co-ordinators presented best practice in integrating family support services through Sure Start, Early Years & Childcare Development Partnerships and Children and Youth Services.

For further information on this project contact:

Claire Cox, Cymorth 0-10 Co-ordinator, Pembrokeshire Cymorth, 22 Wavell Crescent, Pembroke Dock SA72 6LS

Partnerships for Play

Presented by: Sure Start/Flintshire CBC

Initiated by parents, this project was developed to help parents using Sure Start who also had older children. A multi-agency approach has led to opportunities for young people to become involved, gaining ADSAN qualifications.

For further information on this project contact: Elin Gwynedd, Framework & Young People's Partnership Development Officer Flintshire CBC, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6ND

Working in Partnership with Communities First

Presented by Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

An example of how an innovative partnership has enabled Merthyr Tydfil to develop a Sure Start model to cover the whole borough extending the age range to 4 years.

For further information on this project contact:

Rhian Matthews, Communities First Programme Co-ordinator,
Merthyr Tydfil CBC, Civic Centre, Castle Street, Merthyr Tydfil CF47 8AN

Messages from the workshops

What are the benefits of the tendering process for service delivery?

- Can be painful
- Can be time consuming
- But also can provide clarity

Are there conflicts between Sure Start and Social Services expectations of Sure Start?

- Clarity needed about the role of Sure Start in preventative work
- Projects clear about contribution they can make to the Child Protection Plan
- Some projects in Wales refuse referrals for child protection cases.

Message to the Minister on participation of Children and Young people:

- WAG need to provide Local Authorities with legislation, which will influence a change with local politicians, councillors, and help develop structures in Local Authorities.
- More resources for training, staff, and money to carry out activities around participation.
- Be serious, give it time and let it grow

Multi agency working and coordination needs to be built on clarity of roles and respect for the roles of others.

There is a need to give support to and resources for preventative work, including developing services such as Sure Start outside targeted areas.

Preventative services and short term funding doesn't work and are difficult to achieve in a climate of responding to crisis.

Integrated Centres needs more than two hours, needs a whole day and opportunities to network regionally. There are concerns re long term funding.

Rurality is not recognised in funding deprivation indices e.g. one measure of affluence is access to a car – this is not a luxury but a necessity on a par with food bill in rural areas.

Transport - huge issues compounding isolation, free transport for children and young people is worthless if there is no transport available.

Rural voice needed how could/should this be addressed?

The Assembly need to acknowledge that the current formula for allocation funding severely disadvantages rural communities and therefore Framework Partnerships are very likely to fail in their attempts to achieve universal entitlement for children and young people.

We need to develop common monitoring data collection mechanisms with cross Wales agreement.

Development takes time, and long term funding will secure both development and jobs.

Formula for funding allocated on need not population

There are many ways of resolving a problem as Wales is diverse country. Need to celebrate different solutions as well as recognising current good practice.

Voluntary sector and the Framework for Partnership

Working cooperatively we can create a stream of hope that fulfils children and young people's life aspirations and universal entitlements within Wales. Where the stream is made up of:

S	Support
T	Trust
R	Resources
E	Equality
A	Achievability
M	Money

Need to grasp the nettle in terms of funding and the question of how Cymorth is secured post 2008.

Learning from what exists and stop reinventing the wheel, including looking at good practice outside Wales.

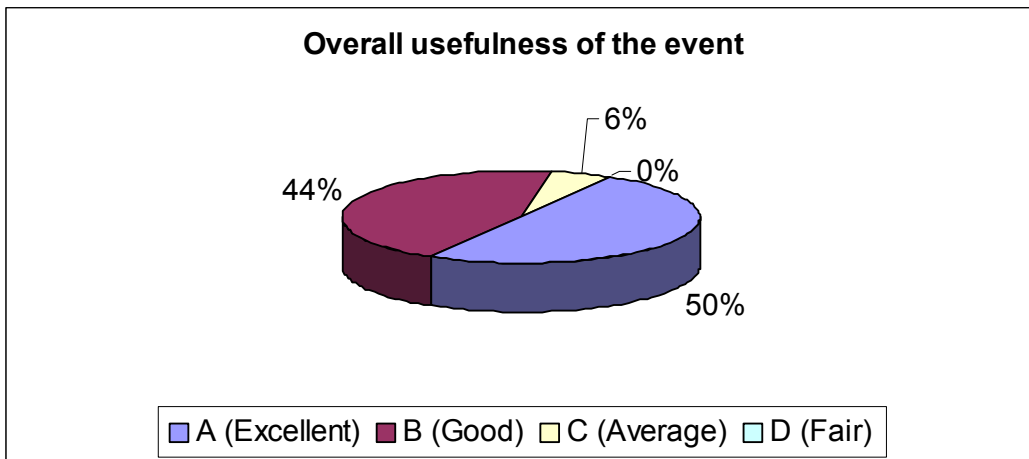
In terms of services to disabled children and young people, there are two messages: the first about developing a key worker system to support families; and secondly about developing a universal understanding of what is meant by support where families understand what professionals understand.

Seamless services from child to adult services for vulnerable young people who will need ongoing support.

Drug and alcohol services - question raised about what happens to people after age 25 and focuses on the need for joined up services between children and adult services.

Allocating resources so that priority is given to the coordination of agencies working with children in school and with the school, at both primary and secondary level. It is particularly important at secondary level, where over 20 different agencies can be at work at any one time in a school.

Evaluation of the Conference



- “Teimlaf ei bod yn bwysig i gael Cynhadledd yma bob yn ail flwyddyn- cyfle i'r holl bartneriaethau I rhannu ymarfer da a datblygu syniadau newydd”.
“(I feel that it's important to have this conference every other year so that all the partnerships can share examples of best practice and to develop new ideas”).
- “Llongyfarchiadau i Blant yng Nghymru ar y trefniadau. Llauer mwy diddorol a defnyddiol nar disgwyl. Wedi cael llauer o syniadau i fynd yn ol i'r Bartneriaeth”.
“(Congratulations Children in Wales for the arrangements. Much more interesting and useful than expected. I've had many ideas to take back to the Partnership.”)
- “Mae'n dda i allu trafod problemau gyda cydweithwyr ledled Cymru a hefyd rhannu arferion da ond weithiau beth inni gael ein harwain gan y Cynulliad trwy dderbyn dull cenedlaethol o weithredu e.e dull o ymgynghori a phlant a phobi ifanc sy'n deg a phlant a phobi ifanc i bob asiantaeth i'w ddefnyddio! (yn cynnwys canllawiau pendant I asiantaethau sy'n dymuno ymgynghori) Diolch.”
“(It's good to be able to discuss problems with colleagues across Wales and also to share examples of best practice but why don't we adopt a national method of operation e.g a method for all agencies of consultation with children and young people which is fair to both children and young people (with definite guidelines for those who wish to be consulted.)”)
- “Congratulations to Children in Wales for a well organised event which gave good opportunity to hear about best practice and share views and ideas. There has been a very positive buzz about the whole event.”
- “Da ar y cyfan. Ond am 2 ddiwrnod allan o'r gwaith dim ond siawns i drafod/mynychu 4 gweithdy. Buddsoddiad trwm (yn ariannol ac mewn amser)”
“(Good on the whole. But for two days away from work a chance to discuss/attend 4 workshops. Heavy investment (money and time)”.

Young People

- “Cyfle da i gwrdd a gwasanaethau eraill-siomedig fod ddim mwy o bobl ifanc yma, both oedd y reswm?- dim wedi cael gwahoddiad neu dim wedi ateb no”.
(“Good opportunity to meet with other services - slightly disappointed that there weren't many young people here, what was the reason? Hadn't been invited or hadn't responded to the invitations?”)
- “Very useful event to network and get ideas/information. Would be very good for more young people and parents to attend.”
- “Disappointing not more young people involved.”
- “Need to attract other partners - WDA, ELWA, young people”
- Llongyfarchiadau i Plant yng Nghymru am y gwaith aruthrol yn trefnu'r gynhadledd, braidd yn siomedig fod na ddim mwy o bobl ifanc wedi'i gynrychioli
(“Congratulations to Children in Wales for the tremendous work that has gone into arranging the conference, however slightly disappointed that young people weren't represented very well”.)

Workshops

- “Perhaps next time more workshops but shorter in length to share more good practice and key messages.”
- “The final session ‘Cymorth as a whole’ was more what I wanted from the conference. Selecting a few projects from the 900+ across Wales was less useful.”
- “It would have been beneficial if time could have been spent discussing with WAG offices the burdensome requirements (admin/reports/plans) that are expected of LA/Cymorth offices – a rationalisation is needed!!”