



RESIDENTIAL REPORT

April 2nd - 4th 2012.

Elan Valley Lodge

Agenda

Monday 2nd April

- 9:30am Staff arrive Janet; Rebecca; Stephen; Pamela Beausang
- 10.30am Young people arrive at the Elan Valley Lodge.
Room allocation
Rules for staying at the Lodge (Roy - Elan Valley Lodge)
Rules (for the residential)
Getting to know you
- 12.30-1.30 LUNCH
- Spotlight debate Planning
Individual feedback
Interviews feedback
Funky Dragon Elections
- 6-7pm EVENING MEAL
- Social Media

Tuesday 3rd April

- 8am BREAKFAST
- 9.00am Jenny Shepherd and Sarah Morris arrive
- 11.30am Sarah Morris road Safety
- 12.30-1.30 LUNCH
- 1.30pm Action Plans
- 6pm EVENING MEAL

Wednesday 4th February

8.30am BREAKFAST

9.00am Update for CYPP Meeting on 16th April

12.30-1.30 LUNCH

Leave at around 1.30pm

Introductions

Staff - Steve, Janet, Pam

Young People -

- Twill - Brecon High School
- Abbie - Former John Beddoes, now Reading University
- Freyer - Young Carers, Llanfyllin
- Tom -
- Jack - John Beddoes ?
- Ellie - Welshpool High School
- Jess - Funky dragon Rep
- Lucia - Gwernyfed High School
- Caitlin - Crickhowell
- Chris -
- Ryan - Coleg Powys
- Ash - Coleg Powys
- Bobby - Welshpool IT business
- Haz -

We all gathered upstairs to say our hello's and go over the rules for the centre and the residential itself:-

1. Wash up spoons and clean up kitchen.
2. Bedtime - quiet in corridors from 11pm and sleepy time at 12pm
3. No climbing through windows
4. No drugs and alcohol
5. Respect each other
6. Listen when others are talking



The group were briefed on the agenda for the rest of the residential.
Then the work began: -

1. Spotlight Debate

Due to the upcoming council elections, this year's spotlight debate had been moved to November. The original plan was to hold the debate on Schools Drug and Alcohol Policies. At the recent secondary heads meeting it became clear that Andy Timpson was working on this policy with schools in an effort to encourage them to be more open and honest about their policies. Andy was also very interested in being involved with the spotlight debate on this topic.

After a discussion amongst the group it was decided that the Forum would change the topic of the debate but keep in close contact with Andy Timpson and the progress he is making. When the report is completed it will be sent out to the forum members so they can offer their feedback.

The other topics that were high on the list of possibilities were:-

Road Safety, which is being addressed by Sarah Morris.

School Nursing, which is being addressed by Eat Carrots.

(Just goes to show this group's reporting system is on the right track and that more and more people are seeing and are aware of the issues that are seen by young people.)

Conclusion - The Forum came up with the idea of a discussion/consultation day with the CYPP. A chance to meet the organisations involved with the CYPP and to learn about how they work as well as show the CYPP how the Youth Forum works. This would be an opportunity for formal discussion/workshops on topics of interest and an opportunity for informal, "Get to know you" sessions.

After the CYPP team meeting that followed the residential on the 16th April, it was decided that the 22nd of October CYPP meeting could be extended to include a half day of Youth Forum spotlight debate.

2. Individual Feedback

Twill - - Brecon High School Head Teacher interview took place and the school council was sort of involved! They weren't given much information before the interviews and were only given 15 minutes with each candidate.

The school councils' preferred choice didn't get the job and they haven't received any feedback yet about how and why the school reached the decision they did.

Twill also added that the new public toilets are now open in Brecon by the Bus Station. Hurray!!

Abbie - used to be the John Beddoes rep but is now an active member of Reading University. Musical director for the Uni's Cabaret and looking for ways to spend her £500 budget as Health and Safety manager for the Harry Potter Society!! Abbie won't be seeing us at the summer residential as she will be digging up Romans! The mad and varied world of University.

Freyer - has been working very hard on her fundraising for the October trip to Patagonia. The next event is a sponsored walk around Lake Vyrnwy on Saturday ????. All the group wished her the best for her fundraising. Happy hiking Freyer.

Tom - has recently met with the Equality officer who is looking at ways to link up with the Youth Forum. Discussing domestic abuse issues and coming up with alarming statistics such as 44% of all women will suffer some form of domestic abuse in their lifetime.

On a personal note, Tom has been very busy with his campaigning and is feeling confident. Good luck and lets hope we invite Councillor Turner to our next residential.

Jack - The newly appointed editor of the school newspaper who is also pushing for the school council to meet up soon. Go Jack!

Ellie - has been working closely with her Headteacher who is very positive about working towards their Kite Mark for participation. He wants the job done very professionally and is already looking through all the school polices. The school SNAG (School Nutrition and Action Group) have met with canteen staff to review school lunches. They also have been decorating the canteen to promote different

types of food and the areas of the world they come from. Everyone else commented on the positive direction the newly named "Rainbow School" was moving in.

Jess - Very busy in her role as Funky Dragon Rep. During her last residential they held workshops on Young Carers and also on organ donation and whether people agree with the Welsh Government's proposal that everyone becomes an organ donor and that you must opt out if you don't want to be one.

Jess also discussed Mental Health as part of her portfolio which takes topics forward for discussion with the Health Minister, Lesley Griffiths.

Lucia - The school pupil run newsletter was launched and was very well received. It was hard work and Lucia is hoping for a bit more support for the next one as she only had three people.

Lucia attended the very successful joint school council meeting between Brecon and Gwernyfed. The Headteacher has also shown interest in attaining the Kite Mark and is meeting up with Lucia soon.

Caitlin - A new deputy head started at Crickhowell and Caitlin is busy trying to increase interest in participation and the Youth Forum.

Chris - Jumpers must be worn at all times in the Rainbow School and Chris received a special detention for helping someone - What could all this mean?

Ash - As part of her health and Social care course, Ash got to meet with Welsh government officials to discuss issues. Ash also had a talk on the UNCRC and Youth Participation. It's now time to apply for university as the end of the course is nearly here.

Ryan - has been enjoying his placement at Hafren primary school and only has 11 weeks before the end of his Childcare course.

Bobby - Long time no see! Everyone was very pleased to see Bobby again and really enjoyed hearing the story of his life so far. From dropping out of A levels to getting an IT job with an up-and-coming new business that then helped him to get his own flat. Bobby has progressed to a senior role within the company and is looking at ways to run courses back at the same school for young people, like himself, that want to work in IT but don't have the opportunity to learn the skills they need. An excellent and motivational story!

Steve - Fed back on his Young Panel interview for the participation worker post. He was particularly impressed with the professionalism of the questions asked and felt they were better than the questions asked in the interview upstairs. The types of questions were ones you would not expect. Steve also told the group they should demand a bigger room the next time!!

Haz - been talking about Youth Forum a lot lately and it was her good work that brought Bobby back to us.

3. Feedback from interviews

Interview Feedback- on the two recent Young People panels. The first was the post of **Participation Officer** (Steve!) - everyone had questions that they were to ask and a mock interview was done beforehand to give everyone an idea of the process. The panel felt that the process was well organised and feedback was very similar between the two panels.

The second interview was for the post of **Head of Education**. The group only had half an hour together before the first interview and they didn't even have a room to prepare in. They also were not given much information on how or what was wanted of them. By the end of the process, the interview panel met up with the young people and were clearly surprised and very impressed by the quality and relevance of the feedback.

Conclusion - It was suggested that the Youth Forum put together a guide for organisations that want to use Young People panels. The education panel has also informed Janet that the Forum will receive feedback on the interview process and why they made the choices they did. - We will keep you posted!

1. Funky Dragon Elections

The forum was told about the upcoming Funky Dragon elections. Within our forum we have three new representatives to elect. We discussed the level of commitment and explained how the election process will work. If someone wants to stand for election then they must write a short passage on why they should be elected and attach a photo to the top of it. It can be a photo of their own lovely face or any photo they think represents them well.

Action - Janet and Steve will send out information on the election process in the next few weeks

2. Rural Housing Debate

Henk and Susie, the Rural Housing Enablers, sent back their feedback to the forum in a draft report. It was in response to the work that the forum had done previously in providing statistics on local council housing issues for young people.

The feedback report had highlighted a number of questions which the forum had been asked to consider

1. Do you have enough information on the subject of housing for young people? If not: What more information do you need?

The forum identified that a number of young people, including themselves, did not know about mortgages and rental deposits. It was decided that it would be very useful to have information for living independently and what to do next. The forum then discussed where it would be best to put the information so that it reaches the greatest number of young people. Universities provide a lot of information around this topic and maybe schools could follow suit. You could set up youth groups for young people that are home educated but still need access to this information and learning. Perhaps a leaflet or information pack would be useful.

2. If you were in charge, what do you think should be done to supply more affordable homes for young people so they can live independently?

The forum came up with a list of useful suggestions for this question and the most discussed area was around the size of deposit that is needed and that maybe there could be a loan scheme or grant system to help young people get on the home owner ladder or to rent properties instead.

Other suggestions included:-

- Build more council housing
- A scheme where you worked for your keep
- Encourage businesses to provide or subsidise accommodation for employees
- Council properties instead of a deposit
- If no council property available could the council set up an agreement with private landlords and cover the deposit.
- A seems to be a lot of empty flats and houses around. Some councils could enforce landlords to give up their unoccupied house to the council.
- The council house points system could be improved as it seems unfair at present

- Make it easier for young people to self build
- Make it easier for groups of young people to share rental properties
- The final comment was a very good one. The phrase "affordable housing starts at £200k". Following this statement it was suggested that we review the meaning of the word affordable!!

3. Would you like to further this discussion on the lack of affordable housing and work?

Yes! Was the overall answer to this question and the list of suggested stakeholders was:-

- Planning officers
- Estate agents
- Rural Housing
- Powys County Council housing list managers
- Mortgage advisers
- Council tax advisers
- Architects
- Portfolio Councillor
- Local MP and AM
- Homelessness organisations
- Benefits officer
- Mid Wales Housing
- Housing association
- Foyer scheme and hostel managers
- Citizens Advice Bureau
- Most of all, a **MAGICIAN** who we will need to get this list of people in the same room at the same time!:))

4. Do you think it is a good idea to organise a competition for young people to capture video evidence amongst young people to record their housing aspirations?

Obviously. If a house or deposit for a mortgage was the prize then all are in favour. The forum did identify that it is not always easy to access a video camera and there is the issue of people not wanting to be identified on film. Perhaps it could be in a variety of media formats e.g. poem, short story, song or dance.

**5. There wasn't a fifth consideration but the forum came with one!
How can they get more views from young people about housing?**

The forum suggested that they should visit schools and youth clubs with the information and questionnaires

After another tasty evening meal cooked for us by the lovely ladies of Elan Valley Lodge kitchen, we returned to our evening session of work. A topic that was very familiar for the young people of the forum and complete virgin territory for Janet and Steve!

3. Facebook

The aim of this venture is to improve communication between forum members and workers as well as provide a public overview of the workings of the forum. Communication and advertising. This sounds simple, but as Janet and Steve found out, it is easier said than done. During the session the forum decided that we would:-

- Create one account for corporate "Powys Youth Forum".
- Closed account for members to interact, no personal information to be added to this page.
- All members will be educated regarding the security of the group and it will be a very private group page.
- Older members will not be responsible for controlling the page, staff will be. Staff will monitor the page and check it every day. Janet asked for everyone to take this very seriously and professionally.
- Members can talk to each other through this page but within limits, not much sharing of outside personal information.
- Pictures can only be added by Steve and Janet.

- Group went through other corporate pages to see the layout and how the Youth Forums page would look. They looked at Elan Valley pages and others. Youth Forums page will not have the apps section.

Ideas for developing this site include:-

- About page - showing static information about the Youth Forum and how it works.
- Links could be posted to direct people to Youth Forum Reports on the CYPP webpage.
- Comments box will be removed.
- The page could be used to do a poll for consultations.
- Videos can be added using links to You Tube.
- Messages can be left but only seen by the administrators.
- We can use a number of administrators with their own passwords.
- The banner picture can be changed frequently.
- The profile picture can be the forum logo.

Action - Steve, Janet and Michelle to set up the corporate page next week.

Everyone then switched their brains off for the remainder of the evening and watched a DVD or relaxed in the living room until bedtime. What a lot of work in one day!

Tuesday

After another lovely Elan Valley Lodge breakfast we all headed upstairs to start work at 9am. The day started with the group marking their mood out of ten (ten =top) and choosing their favourite song to go to sleep to. Selections included:

Faithless - Insomnia

American Idiot - Green Day

Close to you - The Carpenters

Sweet Baby James - James Taylor

Sweet Child of Mine - Guns N Roses

King of the Mountain - Kate Bush

Smile like u mean it - The Killers

The first item on the agenda for today was:-

1. Road Safety – Sarah Morris

Sarah is the Senior Road Safety Officer at Powys County Council, and was here to describe the work of the unit through education, training and prevention in reducing road traffic collisions on the roads of Powys. They work in close partnership with other agencies including emergency services within the Powys Road Safety Partnership.

Sarah started by providing some stats around collisions, particularly the number of fatalities and the groups of road users involved. There were 17 fatalities in 2011; the largest group were passengers (all ages). The most vulnerable groups in Powys are as follows:

Motorcyclists; Mature Drivers (aged 55+); Young Drivers (17-25); Young Passengers (18-29) and Pedestrians (16-29).

The group then went on to do an exercise involving thinking up factors in road traffic collisions under the three headings of Human, Environmental and Mechanical. There was a lively and comprehensive discussion around the issues and the major findings are as follows:

<i>Human (96% of Collisions)</i>	<i>Environmental</i>	<i>Mechanical</i>
Distractions: (Passengers, children, mobile phones etc.)	Weather (dazzling sun, ice etc)	Underinflated tyres
Visibility/conspicuity of peds.	Sheep/animals in road	Traffic light malfunction
Alcohol/drugs	Tractors	Engine failure
Tiredness	Spilt diesel	Poor maintenance
Blind spots	Adverse camber	Bald tyres
Disability/illness/medication	Road surface: wet leaves, loose gravel etc.	Defective brakes
Knowledge of road	Lack of runoff by side of road	Dirty/broken windscreen
Inappropriate speed	Uneven road surfaces	
Lack of awareness	Sharp bends	
Defective vision	Visibility/obscuration of signs	
Tailgaters	Blind junctions	
	Manhole covers	
	Aquaplaning	

Sarah explained that 96% of collisions were caused by human factors, albeit frequently in combination with other factors.

Sarah went on to describe some of the road safety projects the council road safety unit is involved in which include the following.

1. Car seat safety checks - just completed a campaign in different parts of Powys, offering to check car seat fitting for free and offering advice to the public. During the week the team checked 106 car seats and 75 were incorrectly fitted.
2. Primary school education including: Kerb craft pedestrian training scheme 5-7 year olds; Junior Road Safety Officers scheme for 9-11 year olds; Cycle training for 9-11 year olds; Lessons and assemblies for all pupils; speed checks at schools in partnership with Dyfed-Powys police.
3. Secondary School education: Year 7 lessons, the difference between travelling to primary and secondary school; Year 8/9, responsibilities as a pedestrian and cyclist; Year 10/11, pre-driver training; Years 12/13, young driver training; Theatre in Education, offered to all schools.
4. Pass Plus Cymru - young drivers' course for all 17-25 year olds in Powys -there is no time limit.
5. Mission Fatal 4Law - a new campaign using social media (Face book and Twitter) aimed at young passengers (18-25), empowering passengers to challenge unsafe driving. There is a 5 minute video on the Face book page (you don't need to be a member of Face book to access the page).
6. Motorcyclists: 'Ride On' assessment scheme free to all motorcyclists in Powys. 'Ride Safely' signs and grid reference location stickers on the back - 120 through county. Emergency crash cards (MAG) with medical information and next of kin. i-Biker app. Op. Darwen - in partnership with the emergency services.
7. Mature Drivers - 'Drive On' assessments, vision assessment, education at relevant groups (including U3A, Age Concern etc.) Group suggested a regular retest or evaluation should be compulsory for all ages.)
8. Drink/driving - lots of education. 1 unit of alcohol takes 1 hour to leave the system. (1/2 pint beer, small measure of spirit, or 125 ml glass of wine.

Questions for Sarah:

- a) Can the Road Safety Unit go back into Llanfair Primary School to do road craft?
(Sarah will follow up.)

- b) Will there be more Fatal4Law stencils in Brecon? (Yes)
- c) How do you get Fatal4Law information out to those without Face book? (Beer mats and posters in pubs, posters and lesson plans in school).
- d) Do 'black boxes' in cars reduce insurance premiums? (The 'black box' monitors the driving - if driving safely then insurance premiums may be reduced).
- e) Why is insurance so expensive for young drivers? (Sarah explained that the statistics show that 1 in 3 young drivers will have an accident within a year of passing their test; hence the insurance is high. Suggestions from the group included better driving lessons, insurance tailored according to how people perform in tests/evaluations).
- f) Any questions contact: E: roadsafety@powys.gov.uk

W: www.powys.gov.uk

FB: www.facebook.com/roadsafetypowys

2. Action Plans

The group was tasked with reviewing the participation action plans from the various partners against the 7 standards described in the participation strategy. They split up into four groups and each group agreed to review all 8 action plans.

Janet explained some guidelines for the review, such as the plan didn't need to have an action in each of the 7 standards in this first draft. However, in future iterations there will be expected to be an action for each standard. Janet also emphasised that it is important to ensure that actions are just that, and not aims. Plus to pay particular attention to the timescales and ownership, more detail being preferable hence more accountability.

It should be possible to identify a thread through each action to the outcome and how it will be evidenced.

General points from the review

1. Plans need to have a key or glossary if using acronyms. The group suggested a blank key on the template for each service to complete as part of the plan.
2. A system/template needs to be developed to analyse/review the action plans in a consistent and replicable way. (See section 7 below).

3. There needs to be a clear thread between the action, the expected outcome and how this will be evidenced.
4. As these are the first iterations of the action plans the group has been lenient in its reviews, but the next phase needs to be more robust.
5. These plans are there to help people prove they are embedding children and young people's participation in services and policy-making.
6. The production of a participation action plan is compulsory; some services still haven't produced their first plan.
7. Group 2 devised a tick list for reviewing each plan; the group proposed that this could be used as a template for future reviews. For example something like this:

CYPP Team		Key:			
STANDARD	Action	Timescale	Ownership	Outcome	Evidence
1. Information	√	√	√	√	
<i>Comments:</i>					

The group could see that it will take a lot of time to work through the Action plans and today was a good way to begin to understand the process more clearly. Devising pro forma and timescales is a good plan to help the group to achieve its goal of working through a large number of plans in one day.

Again the group worked very hard today and the action plans took up a lot of time and energy. A well deserved rest was had by all for the remainder of the evening.

Wednesday

The day started well with a 5 star breakfast we were all becoming accustomed to. The group gathered in the working room and we started the day by finishing off the Action plan work. The group reviewed the process and shared feedback on their findings. The first item on today's agenda was:-

1. CYPP meeting plan

The forum needed to work out what feedback they wish to send back to the CYPP meeting on the 16th of April and who from the forum will be attending that meeting. The Forum decided that Haz, Jack, Caitlin, Alex and Ellie would attend the meeting and they would each write a page of feedback on the following areas

- February Residential
- 2 Interview Panels
- April Residential
- Young Inspector Residential
- Funky Dragon
- Swedish Exchange
- Action plans

We all agreed to meet up before the meeting to go over the feedback.

2. Other News

The youth information service said they would be launching their new website today (3rd April) so the group attempted to visit the new site on-line. However, only the old site was available still. There may also be issues with the new name for the CLIC based website - TOWIP, as it appears it has already been used for other services and websites. Janet will report back to Dan at the Youth Information service.

The group also logged on to the Fatal4Law page to watch the 5 minute video - the group agreed it was very good. A couple of forum members have already 'liked' the Fatal4Law Facebook page.

1.30pm arrived and another residential drew to a close. The next residential will be July 6 - 8 at an unknown location somewhere in rural mid Wales!

A lot was achieved during this residential and it is impressive to see the professional and hard working approach of all the Forum members - Well done!

Appendix

1. Double click on the short cut to see the full housing survey

2. CYPP Meeting minutes 16.04.2012



3. Action Plans

4. Road Safety report