



CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL
RHONDDA CYNON TAF
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMITTEE SUMMONS

C Hanagan
Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
The Pavilions
Cambrian Park
Clydach Vale CF40 2XX

Meeting Contact: J L Nicholls-Democratic Services (01443 424098)

YOU ARE SUMMONED to a hybrid meeting of the **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CRIME AND DISORDER)** to be held on **WEDNESDAY, 1ST DECEMBER, 2021 at 5.00 PM.**

Non-Committee Members and Members of the public may request the facility to address the Committee at their meetings on the business listed although facilitation of this request is at the discretion of the Chair. It is kindly asked that such notification is made to Democratic Services by Monday, 29 November 2021 on the contact details listed above, including stipulating whether the address will be in Welsh or English.

AGENDA

**Page
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1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

To receive disclosures of personal interest from Members in accordance with the Code of Conduct:

Note:

1. Members are requested to identify the item number and subject matter that their interest relates to and signify the nature of the personal interest: and
2. Where Members withdraw from a meeting as a consequence of the disclosure of a prejudicial interest they must notify the Chairman when they leave.

2. MINUTES

To approve as an accurate record the minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Sitting in its Role as the Council's Designated Crime and Disorder Committee) held on the 17th May 2021.

3. KEEPING WOMEN AND GIRLS SAFE IN RCT- AN OVERVIEW OF NEW MEASURES BEING IMPLEMENTED ACROSS PUBLIC SPACES

To receive an update from the Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services in relation to the arrangements in Rhondda Cynon Taf to keep women and girls safe in public places.

13 - 24

4. HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS INITIATIVES - ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-21

To receive the report of the Director of Education & Inclusion Services in relation to the progress made by Rhondda Cynon Taf in delivering appropriate healthy relationships initiatives up to the end of the academic year 2020-21.

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5. CHAIR'S REVIEW AND CLOSE

To reflect on the meeting and actions to be taken forward.

6. URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any items, which the Chairman, by reason of special circumstances, is of the opinion should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication

Circulation:-

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Crime and Disorder) (County Borough Councillor M Adams and County Borough Councillor W Lewis respectively)

County Borough Councillors: Councillor H Boggis, Councillor J Bonetto, Councillor J Brencher, Councillor P Jarman, Councillor E Stephens, Councillor G Caple, Councillor W Jones, Councillor M Griffiths, Councillor A Cox, Councillor G Hughes, Councillor J James and Councillor S Rees

Non Committee Member -

Gary Black, Community Safety and Strategic Partnerships Manager
Louise Davies, Director, Public Health, Protection and Community Services
Gaynor Davies, Director of Education and Inclusion Services
Sarah Corcoran, Head of Achievement & Wellbeing

Education Co-Opted Members for information:-

Mr M Cleverley
Ms A Jones, Representing UNITE
Mr C Jones, Representing GMB
Mrs C Jones, Representing the National Union of Teachers and Teachers' Panel

Mr D Price, Representing UNISON

Mr J Fish, Voting Elected Parent / Governor Representative

Mr A Rickett, Voting Diocesan Authorities' Representative

Mrs R Nicholls, Voting Elected Parent / Governor Representative

Mr L Patterson, Voting Elected Parent / Governor Representative

Chair of the Governance & Audit Committee, Mr C B Jones

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CRIME AND DISORDER)

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Crime and Disorder) held on Monday, 17 May 2021 at 5.00 pm.

County Borough Councillors - Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Crime and Disorder) Members in attendance:-

Councillor M Adams (Chair)

Councillor W Lewis	Councillor H Boggis
Councillor J Bonetto	Councillor J Brencher
Councillor P Jarman	Councillor E Stephens
Councillor G Caple	Councillor M Griffiths
Councillor A Cox	Councillor G Hughes

Co-Opted Members in attendance:-

Mr J Fish, Voting Elected Parent / Governor Representative

Officers in attendance:-

County Borough Councillors in attendance:-

1 Apology

An apology for absence was received from County Borough Councillors M Forey, L Walker and W Jones.

2 Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, there were no declarations made pertaining to the agenda.

3 Welcome & Introductions

The Chair extended a welcome to everyone present including Inspector Michael Rudall and Inspector Benjamin Rowe from South Wales Police.

4 To receive a report from the Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services.

The Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services presented her report which provided Committee with the opportunity to receive an update on

the current arrangements in place in Rhondda Cynon Taf to keep women and girls safe in public places which is a key priority for the Council.

The Director advised that in addition to the report, Officers of South Wales Police would provide an overview of current National and UK activity to strengthen strategic policy in this area and to present the local data for crimes such as stalking, harassment and violence against women and girls in the South Wales Police area.

Through their Power Point presentation, South Wales Police outlined the key headlines as follows:

- Headline Findings – Covid
- Concern at the Heart of Government
- Stalking - What is it?
- Stalking/Harassment Data
- Stalking & Harassment Offences – Strand Breakdown (Mid Glamorgan)
- National Trends – Stalking & Harassment
- Violence with Injury – Data
- Establishment RCT
- Crime Recording Vs Evidential Test
- CPS Violence against Women and Girls Strategy
- What's Next – More Broadly
- Initiatives
- Summary

In conclusion Committee was advised that South Wales Police are working in partnership with RCT on a number of initiatives to keep residents safe and build on measures already in place.

The Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services presented a number of key headings within her report all of which support the Police in keeping residents and communities safe such as the extensive CCTV network across RCT and the number of initiatives on the ground such as StoreNet and Pubwatch which involve the collaboration of a number of partners, the licensing trade, local businesses and the hospitality trade.

Committee was advised of the wider community initiatives which have been developed to tackle issues such as alcohol related anti-social behaviour through the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) and prevention of alcohol harm to young people.

In conclusion, the Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services acknowledged the importance of the whole education approach to promoting healthy relationships within schools to break cycles of behaviours and cultures in families and outlined how such sessions are delivered to schools. The Youth Engagement and Participation Service (YEPS) has also been instrumental in delivering activities to young people over the past few years to understand how safe they feel in their communities by means of youth forums and surveys. As a result, street-based youth work teams started being deployed across RCT from October 2020 in response to the needs of young people.

Following the presentations, members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee raised questions and concerns for the attention of the Council Officers and South Wales Police.

Members made comments and sought assurance on some issues that:

- There is enough CCTV in operation and coverage for 24hrs, given that 40% of young people want to see more CCTV cameras in place;
- There is consistency across all schools in respect of how the issues raised are being tackled and perhaps the Central South Consortium should be involved with a review to ensure this is the case;
- Local intelligence is critical yet underreported due to difficulties with the 101 number;
- There is a liaison with the University of South Wales;
- The healthier relationships arrangements should be a whole school cohort

Members noted that there is an extensive network of CCTV coverage across the county borough which has been updated and upgraded over the past 3 years and cameras are located in the most appropriate locations and are intelligence led. Re deployable and additional cameras are used and located to cover 'hot spots' as and when required, all cameras are recording, and the CCTV control room can respond to police requests on the ground. An intelligence led approach is used to ensure the most effective use of the cameras.

With regard to the level of prosecution for social media and malicious comments, South Wales Police confirmed that the level is approximately between 8-10% due to the numerous variants involved with any investigation and so much evidence to gather.

The Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services advised Committee that the Director of Education & Inclusion Services would provide a response in respect of the consistent message across all schools and this would be followed up after the meeting.

Members raised the following queries:

- Have the numerous reviews referred to during discussions happened prior to or following the tragic murder of Sarah Everard?
- Are areas staffed by South Wales Police based on a population or according to historical incidents?
- With reference to the CCTV case study within the report – is the CCTV system on the bus transportation linked to the main CCTV system?
- Safe Place initiative – which town centres would benefit from this initiative?
- The statement within the report on the 'Alternate part-night lighting provided in residential areas' -Is this statement reliable?
- SWP Northern DCU commendation was a positive achievement, was it reported to any committee of the local authority?
- Malicious communications which affects women on social media-Is there an advice sheet available to women and girls?
- The Healthy Relationship should be a whole school/cohort arrangement
- Mobile Youth Clubs – Why aren't the Hubs being used by YEPs
- Are the 'National Trends' English/Welsh references?

A Member asked if there is a policy in the Police Commissioners Plan relating to a strategy for women and girls to reclaim the streets and public spaces where women and girls in everyday life can exercise and walk their dogs or is it one of

the catch-up policies which caused the public outcry?

It was noted by Committee that a number of initiatives and proposals within the report have been in place over a number of years and are reflected in the Community Safety Delivery Plan. The Plan, which is due for renewal, will aim to include any new requirements or legislation from UK Government or from the Police & Crime Commissioner's Office with regards to the safety of women and girls.

A number of responses to queries were made:

- A whole population approach is undertaken across RCT concerning the safety of women and girls;
- There is no access to CCTV on buses unless it is requested in response to an incident;
- The scope of safe places – this is work in progress and reliant on businesses and organisations being willing to work with the LA to create a network of safe places – this is ongoing work and Members will be kept updated;
- Mobile Buses- the location of these is guided by the young people as not every young person wants to attend a fixed location and mobile buses can be targeted to hot spots as required.

A Member raised concern with regards to the under-reporting culture amongst women and girls which needs to be encouraged otherwise the data could escalate if incidents aren't reported and investigated.

A point was raised with regards to the importance of being able to measure the success and impact of the initiatives and work which has and is being undertaken now and whether prison and other forms of rehabilitation do influence men's behaviour.

South Wales Police concurred that addressing the under reporting of incidents is difficult to overcome and has been a focus particularly in the domestic violence arena for some time. One of the most successful ways to address this issue is to engage with third sector partnership work such as Women's Aid in Pontypridd or the MASH service. 'Live Fear Free' provides 24-hour advice and support for victims and provides a vast amount of information for victims and their families.

Processes to report crimes have been refined and processes have been made easier. Hate crime is being addressed within school through the school's liaison officers which is having an impact. 'DRIVE' is a perpetrator programme and is a key aspect of changing behaviours of perpetrators from rehabilitation centres.

Further questions were raised in respect of the increased use of bail conditions in respect of domestic violence and what the increase looks like?

A Member reported that data from the 2020 YouGov study suggests that 86% of 18-24-year-old women have experienced harassment in public, 96% of those did not report it. What it demonstrates is that there are unsafe places, it is not uncommon to be harassed and women modify their behaviours to deal with the fact that harassment is likely. The Member asked for clarification in respect of the prosecution rates. Is there further work that can be done to assess the effectiveness of the strategies of the education in schools

Further queries were raised in respect of:

- How many Youth Workers do we have now, compared to 5years/10 years ago;
- What is the budget of YEPS now, 5 years/10 years ago; data which may show that this service area has experienced major cuts and how we resource these services
- What can we do in terms of a more general approach to our citizens to ensure they get the message that the streets are safe, what can we do as a council to reclaim the streets?

The Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services acknowledged that how the council measures the success of the work that is being and has been undertaken is important and how the council can reclaim the streets for its residents relates to how far the public understands the processes/initiatives in place. The Director suggested that there is a public messaging action for the local authority to consider.

Data requested in respect of the YEPS services would be provided and circulated to all members following the meeting.

The number of bail cases was reported as follows (although it was stressed that the pandemic has influenced the data):

Feb 2021 – 245 bail cases Feb 2020 – 308

Jan 2021 287 bail cases Jan 2020 – 316

It was advised that as we come out of the pandemic bail cases will increase but bail conditions are being looked at and focussed on and two domestic abuse defender managers have been appointed. How the bail conditions are enforced is being considered. In the next 6 months the data will provide further clarity.

In response to a concern raised concerning anti-social behaviour on public transport, South Wales Police encouraged individuals to report incidents around transport hubs and clarified.

The Co-Opted Member suggested that the huge societal issues under discussion should be addressed by the local authority and should start with education. He was pleased to hear that many issues would be discussed with the Director of Education & Inclusion. In the short term he supported any work that this committee and the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee can undertake as a piece of joint working.

A question was raised around the stalking figure for 2021 and whether they are individual cases or accumulative occurrences where the same case has arisen on several occasions? Some of the data will apply to the same crime and there is a mixture captured within the figures.

The Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee summarised the key points raised from the discussions and suggested the Committee convenes in 6 months' time to consider the data following the move out of lockdown with the attendance of the Community Safety Partnership and the Director of Education & Inclusion Services.

County Borough Councillors P Jarman and A Cox wished to have their names recorded that they voted in favour of the lost motion as follows:

'It's clear that this committee is not content that following the scrutiny of all that is in front of us this evening that women and girls are as safe as they could be in RCT. I move that we make representation to the Community Safety Partnership to strengthen initiatives to keep women and girls safe in the community and to bring the report back to us in 6 months'

RESOLVED:

1. That further initiatives are investigated that encourage women and young girls to report crimes (in towns and villages);
2. To present the most recent data, following the move out of lockdown, relating to the safety of women and girls in RCT;
3. That a further report in respect of investigating ways to enhance the existing network of CCTV is presented to Committee in 6 months;
4. That liaison is established between RCT Council and the University of South Wales around the issues of safety of women and girls in RCT; and
5. That the Community Safety Partnership in conjunction with South Wales Police and the Council's Director of Education & Inclusion Services are in attendance at the next meeting of the Crime & Disorder Committee (6 months) to further discuss the issues raised (including the importance of a whole education approach).

This meeting closed at 7.20 pm

**CLLR M. ADAMS
CHAIR.**



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021-22

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY - CRIME & DISORDER COMMITTEE

1st December 2021

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR - PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Agenda Item No. 3

Keeping women and girls safe in RCT- an overview of new measures being implemented across public spaces

Author: Gary Black, Community Safety and Strategic Partnerships Manager

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To update Elected Members on the further measures being implemented in Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) to keep women and girls safe in public places.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that members:

- 2.1 Scrutinise the content of the report and express their views on the new measures being implemented for keeping women and girls safe in public spaces in RCT.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee Meeting on the 17th May 2021, a detailed report was presented outlining the current arrangements in Rhondda Cynon Taf to keep women and girls safe in public places.
- 3.2 Elected Members determined at this meeting that there was a requirement for Officers to look at further initiatives and to identify relevant data to assure members that appropriate actions were being taken to keep women and girls safe in public places in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

4. **SAFER STREETS 3 FUNDING**

- 4.1 Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Authority and South Wales Police worked collaboratively on an application for Home Office 'Safer Streets 3' funding, and the application was submitted in July 2021.
- 4.2 The focus throughout the planning of the application was partnership co-operation to identify areas where we could impact on Violence Against Women and Girls crime types more broadly and to target our demand locations within Rhondda Cynon Taf. This was in recognition of the wide-spread concern from our communities about this issue and the evidence of need in RCT. The demand locations identified after extensive analysis and consultation were:
- Pontypridd Town Centre;
 - Beddau Park;
 - Cae Fardre Estate;
 - Aberdare Town Centre and Ynys Bridge.
- 4.3 The Home Office were very receptive of our application and despite a very high standard of applications submitted by other Local Authorities, Rhondda Cynon Taf were the only region within South Wales to be successful.
- 4.4 On the 4th October 2021 the Rhondda Cynon Taf locality was awarded 'Safer Streets 3' funding to the amount of £457k to be spent by March 2022 on new interventions by South Wales Police and the Council and facilitate investment in additional infrastructure to improve community safety.

Interventions

- 4.5 The following interventions were identified in the 'Safer Street 3' proposals for RCT and take a holistic approach to address the issues of Violence against Women and Girls in the targeted areas and more broadly across the local authority area, with the aim of bringing about a wider positive effect over time to reduce Violence against Women and Girls:
- 4.6 **Measures to improve community safety infrastructure:**
- I. Improve and enhance public space CCTV at vulnerable locations throughout RCT, combining fixed and re-deployable cameras.

CCTV brings real benefits across the local authority area. Unfortunately, there are some areas where we cannot provide that fixed camera cover. Purchasing re-deployable units will provide the option to target those areas and where significant community safety issues arise. There are often requests from elected members and residents to deploy mobile CCTV to crime hot spots where local residents feel unsafe due to crime levels. The purchase of these additional cameras will enable the

Authority to be more responsive to resident's needs. Additionally, when major events take place in RCT the cameras can be deployed to provide additional street cover and support our ambition to provide safe routes into and out of the event environment. They will act as a deterrent to offenders and provide reassurance to individuals walking through the area. Deployed at vulnerable locations, they will also provide evidence and intelligence to the Police and reassure the community.

We have reviewed our CCTV coverage in Pontypridd and Aberdare and recognise that the system would also benefit from additional fixed CCTV cameras at entrance/exit points in the towns. By installing 4 new cameras, the CCTV coverage will improve and support our work to enhance safe routes. CCTV footage regularly provides evidence and intelligence to the police to support criminal convictions and target ASB hotspots. CCTV operators support a co-ordinated police response to live time incidents and they often prove invaluable intelligence when assisting officers to trace and locate offenders, and trace and locate vulnerable victims.

We have also reviewed our CCTV provision in Ynysangharad Park, Pontypridd. It is central to the town centre, has many attractions and is frequented by 750,000 people per year. There are, however, occasions when individuals enter the park who are impaired through drink or drugs. The park has also been a venue where we have seen incidents of large disorder. Disorder reported in the local news and shared widely on social network sites. Additional CCTV will be installed to improve CCTV coverage at points where we have seen disorder and assaults take place. They will provide evidence and intelligence to the Police and reassure the community.

II. Install new and improved lighting in the Cae Fardre Estate ensuring women and girls, and the rest of the community, feel safer

The Estate has 13 columns with old technology lanterns. We propose to upgrade each column and rewire with new technology lanterns. This will provide the Estate with a better source of lighting and improved safety for residents. The newly installed technology will incorporate a power- set system, wherein the power can be altered up or down very easily on-site providing flexibility if the need arises. Residents have indicated that they feel unsafe at night and fear groups of youths and offenders using drink and drugs. We know that improved lighting provision does have an impact on the fear of crime and when combined with re-deployable CCTV provision; these two tactics will have an impact on reducing crime, detecting crime and reducing the fear of crime for the residents.

III. Improve public space on the Cae Fardre Estate to reduce dark spaces.

The Cae Fardre Estate continues to suffer from crime, fear of crime and ASB. There are particular issues of environmental crime in the vicinity of the residential blocks at Castle Court. In addition to the investment being made by Trivallis on the Estate, this funding will enable us to create a defensible space through additional railings and

improved natural surveillance through removal of redundant bin stores. It will also facilitate re-landscaping of areas to enhance the visual aesthetic and design out crime. Installation of a new 'safer by design' communal bin store will provide a sustainable solution to the environmental crime evident on the Estate. We know that creating safe spaces on a residential estate does bring about a reduction in crime and fear of crime. We aim to address some of these concerns for the residents by combining several approaches. The improvement in lighting, access barriers, fencing, the removal of legacy buildings, re-deployable CCTV and increased police visibility with crime road shows will bring about crime reduction benefits and improve the lives of the residents.

IV. Install new fencing to the Ynys Underpass, near Aberdare Skate Park, thereby improving the public space

The location has been a source of concern for local residents, Elected Members and the Police for a number of years. The location affords young people a place of cover from the elements and cover from view. The underpass supports Natural Resources Wales flood plan and also forms part of a parallel path running alongside the River Cynon so the complete underpass cannot be fenced off. The balustrade of the bridge forms natural sitting points which are an attraction to local youths. The fence will prevent access to these sitting points and discourage groups of individuals gathering in a well-known ASB/crime hotspot. The Local Authority has already installed CCTV and lighting in this area. The fence installation will prevent access to the location, therefore reducing the attractiveness of the location to youths. We hope to see a reduction in crime, ASB and the fear of crime in the locality. There will also be engagement events with the police drop box in Aberdare as requested by youths following our consultation. With a reduction in youths frequenting the underpass area we aim to safeguard young people from exploitation, reduce VAWG crime types and reassure the local residents.

V. Complete environmental alterations to Beddau Park

The Hawthorn hedgerow is an established and traditional feature of the park which runs through the centre and whilst it has a lot of ecological value and enhances the biodiversity of the park, it can also add to the users' perception of 'feeling unsafe'. Reducing the height of the hedgerow will increase the natural surveillance and 'open up' the walkway, giving a perception of improved safety. Removal of the privet hedge and gateway which currently segregates the two children's play areas will enable adults to supervise children more easily and create synergy between the two separate spaces so all children of all ages can play together more easily. This will also help in general terms with safeguarding and reduce the fear of harm and intimidation especially amongst teenage girls.

Replanting in zones around the bowling green and replacing a side gate with hedging will also help to reduce ASB occurrences in this area and improve the look of the facility. Currently the bowling green is easily accessed and there are lots of incidences of ASB and vandalism. With clever landscaping at the heart of the facility,

the activity zones aimed at children and young people could be 'blended' together to create a 'soft' space that positively encouraged users to gather and socialise. Landscaping would include mounding and bunding to create small tiers and banks for pockets of users to sit and gather, which would soften the look of newly installed urban seating and picnic tables. Creating a large 'opened up' space around the skate park, play equipment and basketball court would create an identity for this area of the park and provide an opportunity for the children and young people to take ownership and responsibility for 'their' area, encouraging them to take on a guardianship role.

Creating a distinct zone within the park for children and young people will also help with policing and youth work, which in turn will increase the feeling of 'safety' and reduce the fear of harm. Focussing on the broken window theory, despite once being a well-used area of the park, the basketball and former tennis courts have seen a reduction in provision with only 2 basketball hoops and a goal end remaining. Often strewn with litter and glass, this area is viewed as undesirable and unsafe. With the combination of measures already described, the addition of improvements to the surface would enable the children and young people to reconnect with the activity zone. Reinventing this space would also provide a valuable resource for RCT'S sports development team and youth service to run additional activities.

In conjunction with ASB and fire safety talks in the local schools, the removal of fire damaged bins and installation of new bins more appropriately located around the park will help to reduce litter and improve the appearance of the facility. Litter and fire damage are a major concern of the local residents and users of the park which is evidenced in local consultations and official complaints generated through the Council. The provision of new bins will reduce litter and improve the feel of the park.

As identified in the Environmental Visual Audit conducted, the boundary fence around the lower football field is currently in a state of disrepair and is adding to the concerns being voiced by the local community and users of the park. Apart from improving the visible aesthetics, the fence would create a secure boundary between the neighbouring properties and the park, thus reducing the opportunity for 'accessing' these properties without permission. This will be significant investment and provide a real legacy of improvement for years to come. It will have an immediate effect in visual benefit and reassure the local residents and assist in our attempts to designate safe routes throughout the park.

Rugby and football are at the heart of this community and both clubs operate senior and youth teams. The rugby pitch and stand are secured and surrounded by a steel palisade fence with CCTV installed. The football pitch only has a barrier. This location has suffered incidences of vandalism to the football pitch and the fence would significantly reduce the opportunities for anti-social behaviour and decrease incidents of litter and glass on the pitch, as well as providing an opportunity for the club to 'take ownership' of the field and support the Council in maintaining the cleanliness of the facility. This investment would realize real benefits in improving this public space and reduce criminal activity in the immediate area. The rugby and football clubs will also benefit from targeted community events to raise awareness

around Violence against Women and Girls delivered by the Youth Offending Service, Youth Service engagement vehicle deployments and the polices' mobile drop box.

4.7 **Enhancing Police and Community Engagement Capacity**

I. Deployment of a three new mobile Police Station throughout RCT.

The mobile police stations will improve visibility and engagement within the community. The facilities will provide small mobile 'hubs' within designated areas, reassuring the community with highly visible, recognisable places of safety. They will be deployed during daytime and night-time economy environments. All our consultations indicate that the public wish to see Police on the streets and in their communities. They want greater engagement, to see more community events where crime prevention advice can be provided. The purchase of these mobile police stations will provide Neighbourhood Policing Teams with modern facilities to conduct engagement and target the hot spots within their area. This increased visibility will reassure the community and deter criminal activity. The facility will also be a base for delivering crime awareness events, focussing on Violence against Women and Girls.

II. Deployment of an additional Youth Engagement Participation Service vehicle throughout RCT.

A peripatetic youth service engagement vehicle would serve as a youth club and be deployed to areas with no suitable venues and provide a base for community engagement and education focussing upon healthy relationships, crime prevention advice and support measures. Our street consultations have indicated a real wish from the community to benefit from engagement opportunities. To supply this demand, our youth service engagement vehicle will be fitted with appropriate technology and service provision to support wider engagement and interaction with young people. The base will be used to provide flexible and targeted educational inputs on Violence against Women and Girls. The vehicles plus the re-commencement of youth club provision across the County Borough and the roll out of Safe Space locations in cafes and other venues, will ensure a network of refuge points for young women and girls at vulnerable public locations.

III. Deployment of a Youth Offending Team vehicle

We want to enhance the good work that our Youth Offending Service currently provides under their Youth Engagement Project where they aim to divert young people from criminality and safeguard the vulnerable predominately on Friday and Saturday nights. The purchase of a fully fitted welfare vehicle would greatly enhance that provision, delivering a mobile safe space to dark parks and night-time economy environments where intervention, advice, support and welfare issues can be addressed. Deployments would be concurrent with YEP engagement running between 1700-2300. Between October 20 and March 21 a total of 2694 youths were engaged across the local authority area and we have seen numbers increase as youths congregated in parks and rural areas following the easing of covid restrictions.

The provision of a purpose-built engagement support vehicle will enhance this work and provide a recognisable safe space for those vulnerable in society to recognise and gravitate towards when in need of support or guidance.

IV. Deliver the new RCT Digital Bench Scheme

The aim of the Scheme is to encourage youths to congregate in pre-planned safe space in direct response to feedback from young people during the Youth Engagement and Participation Service's (YEPS) street-based work; young people asked for appropriate meeting spaces for them in outdoor community areas. The premise of the Scheme is to support us to tackle a number of issues that young people (and wider community members) regularly report, including making streets safer by ensuring that they have the means to call for help should they need to; allowing young people to meet their peers in appropriate, designated spaces within their communities.

This scheme will provide a location (the area the bench is situated) that the Council and young people jointly agree are appropriate places for them to meet which YEPS can ensure are regularly monitored via the street-based youth work rota. The benches will be situated in well-lit areas, potentially with CCTV coverage, to limit the chance of incidents occurring. Lastly, they are allowing young people to maintain charged phones so they can be used to contact friends, family or support services in the event of an incident. The process of implementing this Scheme has commenced with consulting with young people on the locations within their communities that they would attend and feel are the most in-need places across the Borough. This list of suggested locations has been shared with key Council service areas (e.g. CCTV, Highways, Planning, Parks, Health and Safety) and we are working to risk assess and determine which are feasible and appropriate. Following this, Officers would make an official proposal to relevant local Members and Cabinet Members for this project to be implemented in the agreed locations. A commissioning process has commenced to appoint an organisation to support the installation of the benches. The installation itself would be a series of community-based projects with the successful organisation working alongside young people to design and physically construct the benches in their locality.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we anticipate installing 2 benches by the end of March 2022 whilst purchasing additional resources for use in the next phase of roll out, during 2022/23. Alongside the installation of the initial two benches, the successful organisation will work with young people in key locations across RCT to start the design work for the additional benches in 2022/23.

4.7.1 Enhancing Education and Support packages for Young People

I. Deliver a Healthy Relationship Education Package

This package will augment work already ongoing to deliver Healthy relationships educational inputs which are a key part of the issue-based work of the Youth Engagement and Participation Service. The existing programme of Healthy Relationship Education has been outlined for Committee in a separate report by the Director of Education and Inclusion Services. The programme has been delivered on both a universal and targeted basis with universal sessions have been offered to secondary schools as part of wider 'Positive Wellbeing' Days. Additional funding will enable us to expand the scope of this invaluable work and deliver more educational inputs across the local authority.

II. Safe Space Initiative

Establishment of a network of organisations that support our "Safe Space" initiative. The initiative will introduce Safe Space provision and assist in reducing Violence against Women and Girls. A "Safe Space" will be a youth-focused location that provides an open access space for young people within their local community in Rhondda Cynon Taf. Every "Safe Space" will be different depending on the community it is based in, the building it is housed in, the needs of the young people within that area and the people running it. A "Safe Space" may be a youth club, community centre, park, sports club or business like a café or activity centre. The hours the "Safe Space" operates will differ across locations but each one will have regular days and opening hours to ensure that young people are aware of when they can access the "Safe Space". This consistency will help to build relationships and trust between the people running the space and the young people that use it. As "Safe Spaces" are established across Rhondda Cynon Taf, a "Safe Spaces" Network will be developed by the YEP service. This Network will provide support to individual organisations by offering advice, guidance and training opportunities to provide an inclusive and space location that young people can benefit from. The YEP service will provide their own "Safe Spaces" and support partner "Safe Spaces" co-ordinated by wider local authority service areas, third sector organisations and private businesses.

The Safe Streets funding has been secured to employ a temporary "Safe Spaces" Co-ordinator to start the Network before it is subsumed into core service delivery.

III. Introduce a Girls Group to the established "Right Hook" Project

To augment work already underway for boys we will set up a 'Girls Group' – under the "Right Hook" Project. We will target females that may have issues with domestic violence, sexual exploitation or lack of self-esteem and confidence. Workshops will empower young females to know they have the skills to make independent choices in their lives and relationships. Engagement will increase confidence and motivation, assist in setting realistic goals and achieving their potential. The project provides a secure environment from which young females can return to education, training and eventually gainful employment. The package will provide strategies to address abuse and reduce Violence against Women and Girls.

IV. Deliver a “Stalking Behaviours” educational session targeting school pupils in years 7 – 11.

As part of the South Wales Police Stalking and Harassment prevention work, we are developing a ‘Stalking Behaviours’ educational lesson which will be delivered to the age group years 7 -11 in Health and wellbeing and PSE classes across the local authority.

The lesson will include 4 videos which will be created by an animator who has experiences in creating videos to engage young people in school with topical issues. The lesson will support students in being able to recognise and talk about a range of behaviours that can amount to stalking as well as develop strategies to manage them. Students will consider a variety of unwanted and unrepeatable behaviours that are associated with bullying, harassment and finally stalking.

Students will also consider what actions can be taken if this behaviour is witnessed or experienced in order to improve their overall well-being. The lesson will be piloted throughout comprehensive schools in RCT, with future aspirations to be disseminated as a free resource Wales wide, supported through School Beat.

4.8 **New Community Based interventions**

I. Deliver crime prevention initiatives throughout RCT

We will provide crime prevention advice, conduct road shows and advice around Violence Against Women and Girls. We will offer free ‘Stop Violence Against Women and Girls’ branded promotional items and ‘Secure by Design’ personal safety packs and personal alarms to increase the feeling of safety for those who feel they would benefit. Consultation has also indicated groups would appreciate self – defence lessons and these will be provided at various locations throughout RCT.

II. Utilise technology and provide “Hollie Guard” vouchers

A technical product which turns a victim’s phone into a personal safety device. It protects an individual from violence, records evidence and alerts emergency contacts of your whereabouts quickly and easily. We will build on an existing scheme and purchase vouchers which will be allocated to a specified victim of domestic violence or stalking and harassment. Our Domestic Violence team will identify victims and allocate accordingly to provide that reassurance to victims.

III. Implementation of the “Ask for Angela” scheme across all Licensed Premises within RCT.

“Ask for Angela” is a campaign which can be used by bars and other venues to keep people safe from sexual assault by using a codeword to identify when they are in danger or are in an uncomfortable situation. The original “Ask for Angela” campaign was developed by Lincolnshire County Council in 2016. The aim of the campaign

was to create a culture change in relation to sexual violence and abuse and enable those who feel vulnerable in pubs and clubs to discreetly approach staff and request assistance.

Key to the effectiveness of the campaign is that licenced premises and their staff are clearly aware of the campaign and how to respond to an individual should they present and “Ask for Angela”.

RCT Council will support licenced premises and work with premises owners and/or landlords and their staff in partnership to deliver the campaign effectively. The Council will provide all campaign materials and a designated point of contact / support for licenced premises to support effective delivery.

It is recommended that campaign materials, posters etc. be displayed prominently behind bar areas and in the toilet areas of premises. All staff will receive a briefing in respect of the campaign and how to respond effectively should they be approached by a customer asking for assistance. Work to start rolling this initiative out has started with the support of our Pub Watch Network.

Assistance can be provided in the following ways:

- ***Removing the customer to a safe space on the premises so that a confidential discussion can take place and concerns identified;***
- ***Staff requesting a taxi to transport customer or contacting friends or family to collect them;***
- ***Staff returning to their sitting area to retrieve personal belongings***
- ***Accompanying customers off the premises to the agreed safe arrangement;***
- ***Calling the Police if necessary;***
- ***Requesting the person of concern is asked to leave the premises.***

4.9 **Promotion Campaign**

Communicating and engaging with the public on the new and established initiatives being delivered in RCT is a clear priority. In order to promote the work being undertaken, targeted communication is being publicised now in relation to the Ask Angela campaign, with full commitment secured from the licensed trade across RCT through the Pub Watch Scheme. In addition, there will be an RCT media campaign launched in the New Year, with the aim of consolidating everything we are trying to achieve and therefore ensuring visibility of the measures in hand to ensure women and girls are safe within Rhondda Cynon Taf.

5. PERFORMANCE MONITORING

- 5.1 Detailed information on crime incidents and public perceptions of community safety was provided in the previous report to this Committee. RCT as a County Borough is a safe place in terms of crime and incidents however it is recognised that public perception of how safe they feel in their locality may not reflect this. Going forward, the Community Safety Partnership has identified a number of ways in which we will measure whether our interventions are being effective and contributing to making Rhondda Cynon Taf a safe place particularly for women and girls. We will utilise the following:
- Police data – The crime types we will measure against are harassment / stalking, rape and other sexual offences, violence with or without injury. These statistics will differentiate between “stranger” crimes and “domestic abuse” related crimes.
 - Youth Survey – The RCT Youth Engagement Participation Service conduct an annual perception survey amongst 11-25 year olds and we will utilise this mechanism to ask community safety related questions. This will ensure we are obtaining the perception of young people as well as adults.
 - Lets Talk RCTCBC – We will set up a new project on the new RCT engagement site Lets Talk RCTCBC. This will enable us to conduct annual surveys with a far reaching audience and for residents to share with us their concerns and ideas for improvement.
 - Targeted Surveys – We will conduct engagement events to survey people face to face across our communities, in both towns and outlying communities where possible. This will ensure we are also gauging the views of individuals who do not have access to social media or the internet.
 - Street Safe – We will also be utilising the National Police Platform for anyone to report issues within their community that don't require an immediate police response but do cause a concern. Inspector Mike Rudall is the Divisional Single Point of Contact for this initiative and will consult with partners when required. The link to access the platform is [StreetSafe | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](https://www.police.uk).
- 5.2 The collection of the data, both quantitative and qualitative, will be collected on an annual basis and we will closely monitor and be flexible to change our tactics according to the need. South Wales Police, the Council and wider Community Safety partners share the strategic priority and commitment to reducing violence against women and girls' trends in the data sets identified above will enable us to monitor progress.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The report highlights the new additional initiatives that will be carried out in Rhondda Cynon Taf to ensure women and girls and other vulnerable people are safe when going



about their everyday lives in public places. A number of established initiatives in RCT, supporting the wider objectives of the Community Safety Partnership and RCTCBC Corporate Priorities are already taking place as outlined in the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee meeting on the 21st May 2021. All of these initiatives work together to promote community safety with each specific intervention adopting an evidence based approach to implementation and evaluation. There is an ongoing need to monitor how safe women and girls feel in public places and the appropriate mechanisms to do so are being established by both the Council and South Wales Police.



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 21/22

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CRIME AND DISORDER)

1st DECEMBER 2021

UPDATE OF EDUCATION'S PROGRESS TO DELIVER APPROPRIATE HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS INITIATIVES UP TO THE END OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-21

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND INCLUSION SERVICES

Author: Sarah Corcoran (Head of Achievement and Wellbeing)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide members of the Crime and Disorder Committee with an overview of the progress Rhondda Cynon Taf local authority has made in relation to delivering appropriate healthy relationships initiatives up to the end of the academic year 2020-21.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Consider the overview provided to support schools to deliver a quality provision for healthy relationships during 2020-21.
- 2.2 Consider whether they wish the Director of Education and Inclusion Services to report on further information in any future meetings.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To provide Members with an update on progress being made to address the educational reform taken by schools and the local authority's education service during 2020-21.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Estyn - A review of healthy relationships education 2017:

‘Healthy relationships education is the term used to describe the range of learning experiences and support that schools provide for pupils to develop safe, respectful personal relationships. This includes taking responsibility for their behaviour in their personal relationships and how to recognise inappropriate behaviour.’

- 4.2 Until recently, schools had a statutory obligation to follow the ‘Personal and social education framework for 7 to 19 year olds in Wales’ which sets out:

‘Successful relationships demand competent interpersonal skills, a willingness to value others and respect difference. Good relationships are the result of care and support, communication and the willingness to accept responsibility. Learners need to be able to make and maintain friendships, deal with conflict, challenge stereotyping and prejudice, and cope with peer and other influence.’

5. UPDATE/CURRENT POSITION

- 5.1 The Curriculum for Wales was finally published in January 2020. This new curriculum, for implementation in September 2022, is aimed at supporting schools to develop their own broad and balanced curriculum, enabling learners to develop towards four core purposes:

- Ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives;
- Enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work;
- Ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world;
- Healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

- 5.2 This curriculum is split into six areas of learning (AoLE) to support this aim and the Health and Wellbeing AoLE is linked to promoting healthy relationships across a school. This AoLE provides a holistic structure for understanding health and well-being and effective engagement will provide a whole-school approach that enables health and well-being to permeate all aspects of school life.

- 5.3 Clear ‘statements of what matters’ help learners to understand how decisions and actions impact on themselves, on others and on wider society, both now and in the future. It is also clear that schools have a responsibility to support learners to recognise when relationships are unhealthy and need to be aware of how to keep safe and seek support for themselves and others. The six progression steps will guide learners to understand that, throughout their lives, they will experience a range of relationships and will support the development to form, nurture and maintain relationships. Some examples of these are:

- **Progression step 1** – *I am beginning to recognise safe and unsafe behaviour in relationships.*
- **Progression step 3** – *I can respect the rights of others and I understand how these impact on myself and others.*

- **Progression step 5** – *I can make meaningful connections with others, valuing safe, healthy and equitable relationships in a range of contexts.*

5.4 Before its publication, the Framework was subject to broad and extensive consultation. Feedback received signalled what specific additional guidance schools and settings would require in order to successfully design and realise their own curriculum. Welsh Government has now published:

- Guidance for Religion, Values and Ethics;
- Guidance for relationship and sexuality education;
- Guidance on careers and work-related experiences;
- Guidance to support practitioners working with learners at the beginning of the learning curriculum;
- A curriculum and assessment framework for funded and non-maintained nursery settings to adopt;
- Guidance on developing a curriculum for those responsible for education other than at school;
- Guidance on British Sign Language.

Draft guidance has been consulted upon and redefined and will be available for schools to use as a tool for curriculum planning, design and implementation during the autumn term 2021.

5.5 **Summary – Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE):**

This guidance sets out clearly the expectations of a school in line with the following:

- RSE will be a mandatory element of the new curriculum for Wales;
- It will be required to be taught to 3 to 16 year olds in a way that is developmentally appropriate;
- WG state that the purpose of RSE will be to educate and safeguard children and young people;
- Provision of RSE will be guided by a statutory code and there will be no parental right to withdraw;
- RSE will be taught across the whole curriculum;
- WG will provide a curriculum template to support schools.

5.6 It is recommended that all schools, PRUs and special schools have a RSE policy which should:-

- Outline the school's vision, values and rights framework;
- State aims and expected outcomes;
- Show how it is embedded into the whole school approach, linking to other areas of the curriculum;
- Set out each year group's content of the RSE programme;
- Describe how school's policies on confidentiality, safeguarding, child protection and Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence Act 2015 relate to RSE;

- Explain how a learner can seek advice;
- Explain how the views of learners will be sought;
- State how external agencies will support the delivery of the framework.

5.7 Rights Respecting Schools

This award is increasing being brought into our schools across RCT. It recognises a school's achievement in putting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, into practice within a school. There are three strands to the award:

- A** - Teaching and learning about rights;
- B** - Teaching and learning through rights – ethos and relationships;
- C** - Teaching and learning for rights – participation, empowerment and action.

5.8 Schools can achieve at three different levels:

- **Bronze** – rights committed;
- **Silver** - rights aware;
- **Gold** - rights respecting.

5.9 Recently the G7 summit asked RRS to create their own Girl's Education Declaration. Schools have been expected to set out:

1. The challenges that girls face in accessing education and why it is important;
2. What they will do in their school to support girls' education; and
3. Their calls for G7 leaders to take action on girls' education

These are to be shared with the UK Government in order to ensure that the officials working on global education policy will have heard from children.

Across RCT, approximately half of the schools engage in the Rights Respecting Schools Award, with two schools gaining the gold award; six gaining the silver award; 26 gaining the bronze award; five schools are currently working towards the gold award; 21 schools are currently working towards the silver award and ten towards the bronze award.

5.10 Spectrum Project

“The Spectrum Project is an all Wales programme funded by the Welsh Government and delivered by experienced teachers in primary and secondary schools. The free, bilingual, workshops are linked to the Health and well-being Area of Learning of the new draft curriculum for Wales 2022 and promote the importance of healthy relationships whilst raising the awareness of children, young people and adults about the issues of domestic abuse, sexual violence and violence against women. The engaging activities are designed to be thought provoking and promote peer discussion but are not intended to be so emotive as to cause distress.

The conclusion of every session provides information for young people on where they can access help and support both inside and outside of school. Spectrum also delivers training for school staff and governors about understanding the impact of domestic abuse on a child and raises awareness by looking at a whole school approach to tackling domestic abuse.”

- 5.11 Between March 2020 and April 2021, Spectrum offered online sessions for RCT schools at Foundation Stage, Key Stage 2 and 3 covering Healthy Relationships and Support. From April 2021 onward, school visits restarted which covered wider issues including Gender, Abuse and Safety Zone lessons.
- 5.12 Hafan Cymru, the body behind the Spectrum Project, were procured to deliver a series of online training sessions for school-based staff and central Education and Inclusion Service staff in April 2021. These sessions covered disclosures of abuse, identifying instances that may raise concern and how to review the tools available to use with children and young people.

Between September 2020 and June 2021, schools in RCT undertook a total of 58 sessions which involved 613 pupils and 69 staff. These figures are lower than those from the same period the year before; 106 sessions involving 1315 pupils and 98 staff.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not currently required - the contents of the report are for information purposes only.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 There is no requirement to undertake any consultation.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 8.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 9.1 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

10 LINKS TO THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN/OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES/SIP

- 10.1 This is an information report presenting the overview of progress made in relation to deliver appropriate healthy relationships initiatives up to the end of the academic year 2020-21. However, this report is clearly connected to two of the priorities in the Council's corporate plan 2020- 2024 that is:

- Ensuring **People:** *are independent, healthy and successful.*

Within this priority, one of the council's commitments is to ensure it has

“Improving services for children and young people and ensuring the needs of children are considered in everything we do.”

- Creating **Places**: *where people are proud to live, work and play;*

Within this priority one of the council’s commitments is to ensure it has

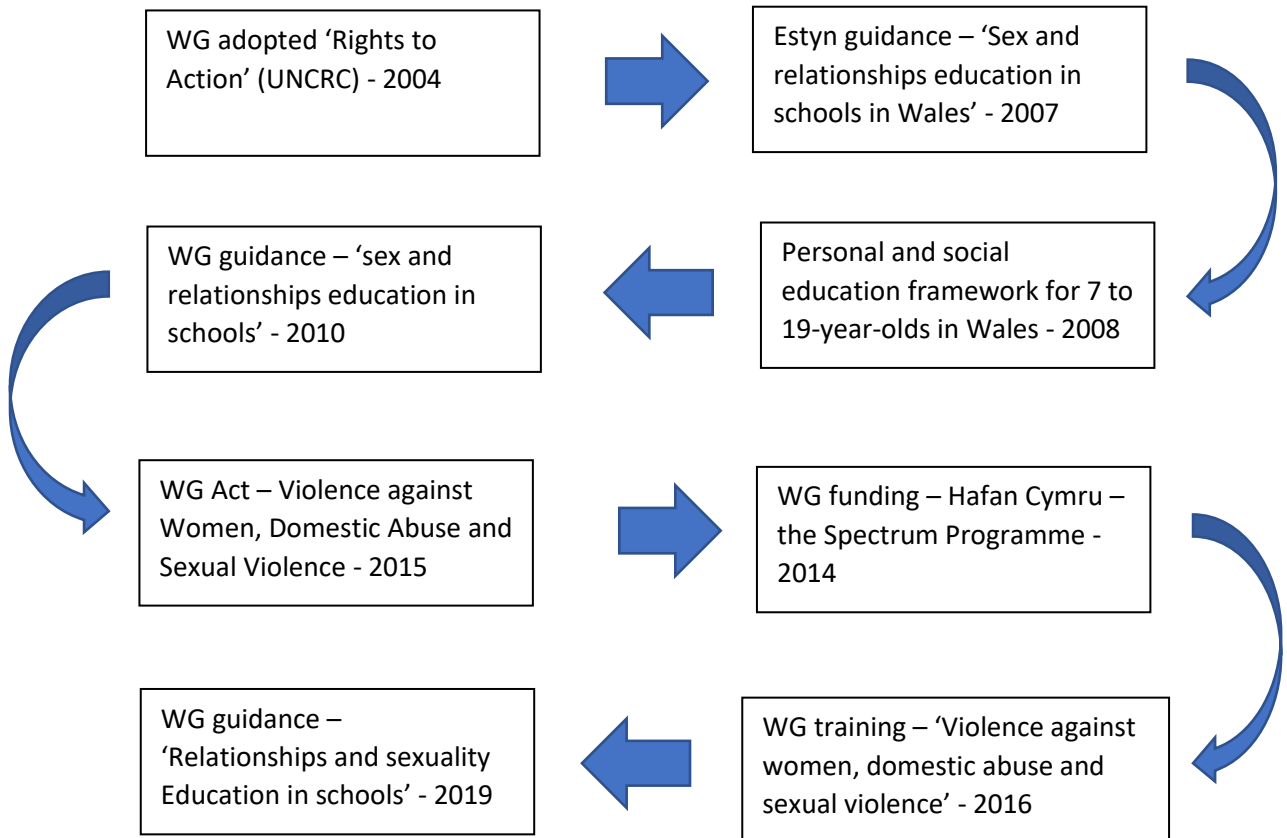
“ensuring the County Borough is one of the safest places in Wales, with high levels of community cohesion and where residents feel safe” and “good schools so all children have access to a great education”

11. CONCLUSION

- 11.1 It is hoped that the Crime and Disorder Committee consider themselves to be well informed and have a clear understanding of the progress made in relation to deliver appropriate healthy relationships initiatives up to the end of the academic year 2020-21.

The local authority will continue to work in close partnership with the regional school improvement service and all its schools to ensure that strong progress is made towards delivering an impactful and sustainable curriculum.

Appendix 1: Timeline of curriculum development



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