



SOUTH WALES POLICE HEDDLU DE CYMRU

**EARLY IDENTIFICATION & INTERVENTION
STRATEGIES, FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK OF
OFFENDING**

**(A project for Crime Reduction through Partnership
Approaches)**

**Submitted by: Police Constable 147 C. WARLOW
Youth Crime Reduction Officer
C/o Bridgend Police Station,
Brackla Street,
Bridgend.**

Telephone No. 01656 655555 ext 21824

Facsimile No. 01656 679553

Email Address.bridgenddivpol@btinternet.com

Endorsing Officer: _____ .Rank: _____.

Youth Crime Reduction Officers

**Early identification & intervention
strategies**

**For Young People at Risk of
Offending**

Bridgend Division
South Wales Police

Proposal for the 2003
Tilley Award

SUMMARY

As a result of analysis of local calls and consultation with local communities it was apparent that Youth Annoyance and related low level criminal and sub-criminal behaviour was a major concern to many people. It also related to a disproportionate amount of calls when related to the amount of people engaged in the offending behaviour. This resulted in Anti-social behaviour becoming a Divisional Policing target.

Police responses often found that no criminal behaviour had taken place or that it was difficult to identify the culprits with any likelihood of securing a conviction. This was often compounded by local residents being reticent about identifying offenders or making statements, giving the erroneous impression that the Police Service was at best indifferent to the problem.

These findings were coupled with research into truancy, which shows clear links between non-attendance at school and the risk of later involvement in crime.

It was also clear by looking at the recidivist criminals within the division that the majority had followed a well-trodden path beginning with truancy and anti-social behaviour. Experienced Police Officers would be able to chart the criminal career of an offender and identify the "Nursery School" where the offender started.

In light of this it was decided that more attention should be paid at an early stage in an effort to identify 'at risk' young people and then to use interventions to prevent their slide into criminal behaviour.

HISTORY

This coincided with the devolving of the post of Youth Liaison Officer to Divisional level in April 2001. At this time the Divisional Commander decided to employ an extra officer making a total of three and to broaden the role from the traditional school visits.

The three officers appointed were each given one of the three sectors within the division, namely Porthcawl, Bridgend and Maesteg. They maintained the core role as Youth Liaison Officers servicing over 90 schools and some 26,000 young people from Nursery to College. The inputs to the schools

were adapted so that they all address either Force or Divisional policing objectives. Special emphasis is placed on the consequences of young peoples' actions, not only to them but also to their families, their victims and to the wider community. (Appendix 1 – Schools Flyer.) (Appendix 2 – Map of Sectors.)

WIDENED ROLE

The officers concerned were given an open brief by the divisional commander, to develop the role. Historically there had sometimes been a lack of understanding of the role by operational officers and the Youth Crime Reduction Officers or YCRO's were keen to rectify this by opening a dialogue and offering themselves as an additional resource. Individual officers being offered assistance with youth problems on their beats.

It was also identified at an early stage that with only three officers that the Police would not be able to offer a panacea and that other agencies would have to become involved. As they often had information about the same young people that were of interest to the Police a symbiotic relationship would probably provide the best results. This was like opening Pandora's Box, there were agencies that dealt with young people everywhere, they were almost unanimously supportive. The agencies that work with the YCROs include schools, the education welfare department, youth groups, Communities that Care, detached youth workers, trading standards, Education Business Partnership, Neighbourhood Watch, Wise for Life project and the Bridgend Youth Focus Project. The final project is financed by the European Social Fund and the wages of the Officers were used in the bid as part of the match funding. (Appendix 3 – Youth Focus Partnership.)

IDENTIFICATION

Firstly it was important to find out where the problems were geographically and secondly to find out who our targets were.

The first point was dealt with by means of a Youth Annoyance database developed by a divisional officer using Excel. This gives the user the chance to identify youth annoyance hotspots; it can be furthered interrogated to give details down to individual streets. This information is then available to Community Beat Officers who are then able to plan their patrol to include the hotspot at an appropriate time. (Appendix 4 – Example of Database.)

To achieve the second objective the YCROs had to accept that young people could be divided into three generic groups within the division.

Group one is by far the largest, these are young people that regardless of any Police action are, due to family circumstances, education, social inclusion and other external factors, extremely unlikely to engage in any long term criminal activity

Group two is numerically the smallest; these are young people who for the same reasons are at great risk of becoming involved in criminal activity.

Group three are the young people who are at increased risk of engagement in criminal activity during a window of time that makes them particularly vulnerable. This could be for any number of reasons including, bullying, truanting, or family problems.

Groups two and three were therefore the target groups. Strategies were devised to divert these young people and isolate those who were determined to pursue an anti-social or criminal path.

INTERVENTION STRATEGIES.

The multi agency approach started paying dividends almost immediately with agencies making referrals to each other often through the YCROs who were able to suggest another agency or Police department that was best placed to assist.

Examples of how this has started to work in practice include a series of arson attacks in derelict flats in the Porthcawl sector; this was then followed up by the stoning of the fire service upon their attendance. The YCRO was able to collate the calls through the database and immediately visited the relevant schools in the area. This was in conjunction with a series of high visibility patrols in conjunction with the local CBO and the placement at the scene of an information caravan in conjunction with the Fire Service. The young people involved were drawn to this and the message was passed directly to the target audience. The result was a reduction from 60 arson-

related calls in the three months prior to the initiative to 3 in the three months following the intervention.

The second example again involved derelict buildings in the Maesteg area they were not only a magnet to young people but they were providing ammunition to stone the local bus service which was then suspended due to fears for passenger and driver safety. This was the only form of public transport in the area. The action taken was again an immediate input into the relevant schools highlighting the dangers and also the consequences. This was coupled with joint high visibility patrols with local CBOs and the YCRO and pressure on the local authority to clear the site. The buildings were cleared ahead of schedule, youth annoyance calls dropped to zero and the bus service resumed with a greatly reduced incidence of stoning.

On another occasion a CBO reported to his YCRO that there had been a large amount of anti-social behaviour over the previous weekend in a local valleys community. It involved under age drinking and general low level disorder, it was well in excess of the norm and appeared to have been a pre-organized event. He also had information relating to the store that supplied a quantity of the underage sales. The information was received on a Monday morning, due to the excellent relationship with the relevant secondary school, immediate access was given to the appropriate year assemblies, where appropriate advice was given as to the likely consequences of such unacceptable behaviour. The school in turn fed back relevant information as to the culprits. In addition the YCRO contacted trading standards enforcement officer and the divisional licencing officer who put pressure on the offending store to work alongside us. The whole process was initiated within a couple of hours and completed by the following weekend. This was then reinforced by high visibility Policing and five months later there have been no repeat incidents.

The YCROs are also being used proactively before problems arise; several workshops have been run at locations that young people who do not access mainstream facilities attend. These have included general open discussions which in one case has resulted in the young people having access to the local Community Council to air their views, Stop and Search sessions in which the rights and responsibilities have been highlighted to groups. Local officers are then told that their local young people are well informed in order to ensure that pertinent questioning is not misconstrued as cheek.

THE WAY FORWARD

The department has found that the joined up approach has already brought benefits. Joint anti-truancy patrols with the Education Welfare Officers are now being further refined to include teachers and joint home visits where any issues like bullying that may be a contributory factor can be dealt with.

The YCROs are now a first point of call for many CBOs who require assistance with a youth problem on their beat.

All three officers are developing a mentoring role in the secondary schools and PRU with the more challenged young people. This has not only been very rewarding for the individual officers but has made a real impact on some of the youngsters. One teacher has written from the PRU to state that she had seen a real change in the attitude of her class towards the Police and towards their own expectations.

The department has been exceptionally well received by outside agencies and has been regularly featured in the local media.

Other plans in the pipe line are a joint project with Bridgend College drama department to produce a peer led drama workshop about anti-social behavior, this will then be tour the local secondary schools.

The role of the YCRO continues to develop as they find out what does and doesn't work. This can be measured on a personal level for instance if a truant returns to school or on a divisional scale when youth annoyance calls drop in a problem area. The Divisional commander initially remarked that the results of this project would not be felt for five to ten years and whilst this is undoubtedly true for the reduction of the next generation of criminals the early signs and immediate successes seem to bode well for the future.

PC147 WARLOW
PC 3543 STEWART
PC 4207 MORGAN

APPENDIX 1 – SCHOOLS FLYER

Amazing Free Offer From South Wales Police

PC 147 Chris Warlow
Youth Crime Reduction Officer
Maesteg Police Station,
Commercial Street, Maesteg.



As most of you know I am now in my second year in post and keen to build on a busy first year. There are thirty four schools in my area so I continue to operate on a first come first served basis. Please call me and say what you want or find out what I can offer to fit in with your particular school's needs. It is often possible to tailor my input to fit within the curriculum. The topics listed below are colour coded as follows :-

Topics

Medicines & needles

Bobby the Car

Communications

People who help us

Stranger Danger

"

Swearing and

drinking

Waste sorting

"

Personal Safety

Crime & Consequences

Parental Safety

Anti-Bullying

Staying Safe at Home

Home

Work

Primary Schools

Primary Schools in Maesteg

Secondary Schools



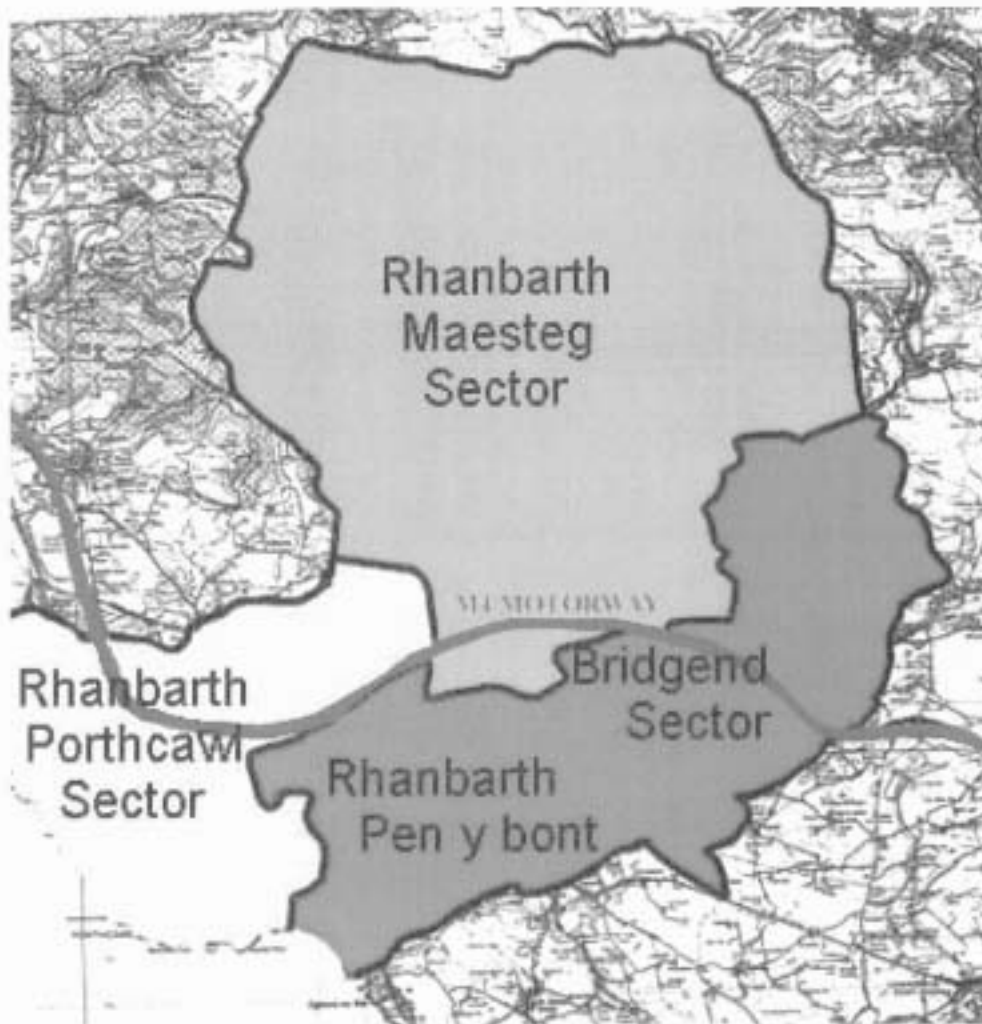
Please Contact Chris on the
telephone numbers below

Office: 01656 869540

Mobile: 07816 321752

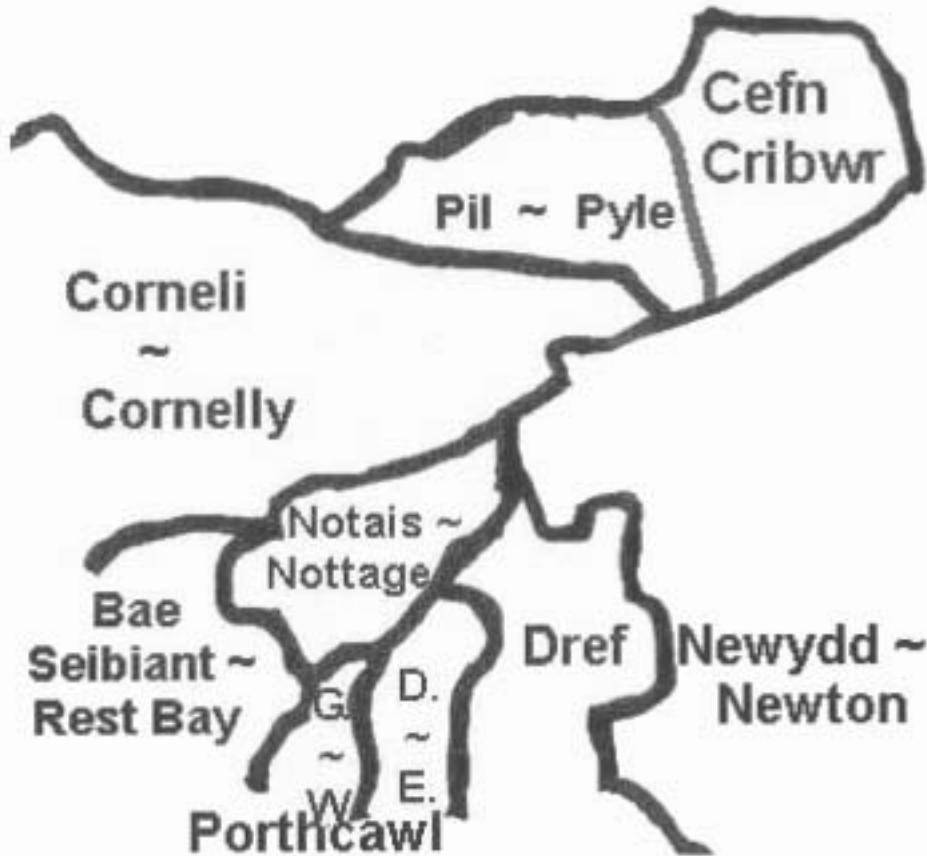


APPENDIX 2 – MAP OF SECTORS



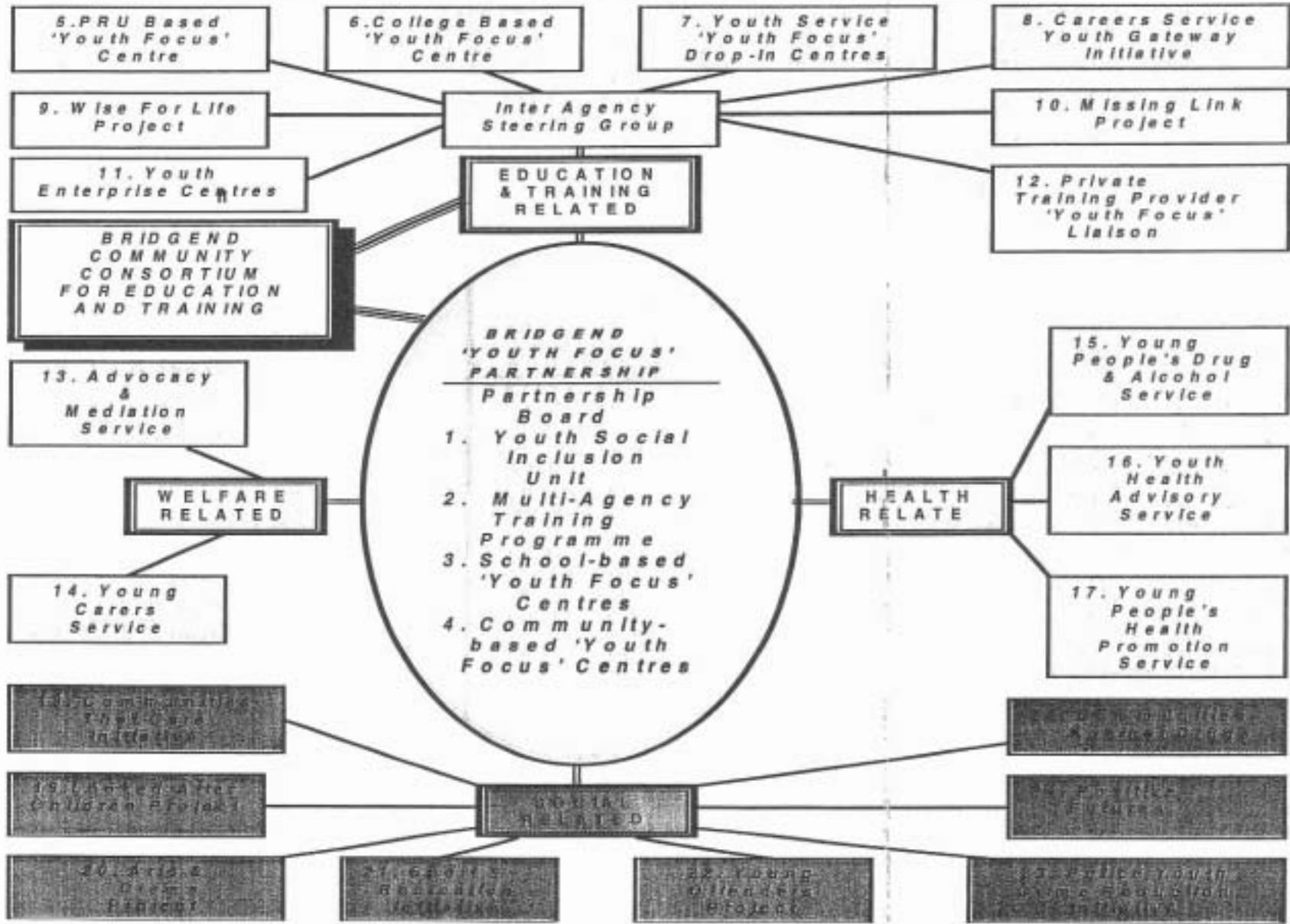
- 3... Pendre
- 4... Llidiard ~ Litchard
- 5... Morfa
- 6... Castell Newydd ~ Newcastle
- 7... Cefn Glas
- 8... Llangewydd & Brynhyfryd





APPENDIX 3 – YOUTH FOCUS
PARTNERSHIP

SCHEMA FOR THE BRIDGEND 'YOUTH FOCUS' PARTNERSHIP (JULY 2002 - NOVEMBER 2004)



TWENTY-FIVE LINKED COMPONENTS

The 25 linked components are:

1. YOUTH SOCIAL INCLUSION UNIT

The purpose of the Youth Social Inclusion Unit is to oversee and coordinate the management of the Bridgend 'Youth Focus' Partnership. This involves providing secretariat support for the Partnership Board as well as coordinating, monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the operational elements of the linked services and their contribution to the overall programme aims and objectives. The service will be provided by Bridgend Education, Leisure & Community Services on behalf of the Partnership Board.

2. MULTI-AGENCY TRAINING PROGRAMME

The purpose of the Multi-Agency Training Programme is to provide a comprehensive multi-agency training structure which prepares professionals from a wide range of different disciplines to work in partnership with one another to fulfil the overall aims and objectives of the Bridgend 'Youth Focus' Partnership. The programme will be coordinated by the Bridgend Education, Leisure & Community Services in liaison with an inter-agency steering group.

3. SCHOOL-BASED 'YOUTH FOCUS' CENTRES

The purpose of the School-based 'Youth Focus' Centres is to provide support centres in the nine secondary schools and the two special schools within the county borough. The centres will be dedicated to supporting vulnerable young people at serious risk of dropping out of education during important stages in learning and skills development. Other linked services will also provide support for young people in the centres and there will be formal links with the appropriate zonal Community-based 'Youth Focus' Centres. The service will be provided by each school and by networking across schools.

4. COMMUNITY-BASED 'YOUTH FOCUS' CENTRES

The purpose of the Community-based 'Youth Focus' Centres is to engage young people at risk of social exclusion in their own localities and to enable them to make informed decisions about important issues and concerns which affect their lives and well-being. The centres will provide a location where young people can meet and feel secure in discussing issues, whilst at the same time providing a base from which specialist advice, guidance and support can be provided from the linked services. The service will be provided by Bridgend Youth Service, in liaison with various voluntary sector youth services.

5. PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT-BASED 'YOUTH FOCUS' CENTRE

The purpose of the PRU-based 'Youth Focus' Centre is to provide transitional support as part of the Bridgend Behaviour Support Service for young people who are out of mainstream or special school education. The centre will seek to aid the smooth transition of the clients into further education, training or employment. The service will be provided by the Bridgend Behaviour Support Service.

6. COLLEGE-BASED 'YOUTH FOCUS' CENTRE

The purpose of the College-based 'Youth Focus' Centre is to enable young people at serious risk of social exclusion to access appropriate advice, guidance and support whilst pursuing work sampling opportunities and courses at Bridgend College. The service will be provided by Bridgend College, in liaison with Bridgend Behaviour Support Service.

7. YOUTH SERVICE 'YOUTH FOCUS' DROP-IN CENTRES

The purpose of the Youth Service 'Youth Focus' Drop-in Centres is to provide additional transitional support for young people who have left school and have had difficulties with the transition into further education, training or employment after leaving school. The service will be provided by Bridgend Youth Service in liaison with ELWa (Education & Learning, Wales).

8. CAREERS SERVICE YOUTH GATEWAY INITIATIVE

The purpose of the Careers Service Youth Gateway Initiative is to seek to ensure that young people are given appropriate advice, guidance and support in choosing appropriate routes of progression into further education, training and employment. The service will be provided by Careers Wales (Mid Glamorgan) in liaison with ELWa and by networking with other linked services within the partnership.

9. WISE FOR LIFE PROJECT

The purpose of the Wise For Life Project is to support secondary school pupils aged between 14-15 years of age who have the poorest levels of attendance, motivation and behaviour to enhance their prospects in preparing for the transition into adult life. The project is coordinated by the Mid Glamorgan Education Business Partnership in liaison with South Wales Police.

10. MISSING LINK PROJECT

The purpose of the Missing Link Project is to offer support to 15-18 year olds who are either rejecting conventional educational, further educational, training and employment seeking routes, or have lost contact with appropriate support services. The project is coordinated by the Bridgend Youth Service, in liaison with Careers Wales (Mid Glamorgan) and the Bridgend Education Welfare Service.

11. YOUTH ENTERPRISE CENTRES

The purpose of the link with the Bridgend Youth Enterprise Centres is to provide additional routes of progression for young people during their transition into further education, training and employment, when these are considered in line with their occupational aspirations. The link will be provided by the Bridgend Economic Development Unit.

12. PRIVATE TRAINING PROVIDER 'YOUTH FOCUS' LIAISON

The purpose of the Private Training Provider 'Youth Focus' Liaison is to provide young people with work sampling opportunities to aid them in their transition into adult life and occupational decision-making. The link service will be provided by the Bridgend Behaviour Support Service, in liaison with other members of the Bridgend 'Youth Focus' Transition Programme Inter-Agency Steering Group. The purpose of the Inter-Agency Steering Group is to oversee and manage the contribution of the 'Education & Training Related' services in seeking to meet the overall aims and objectives of the Bridgend 'Youth Focus' Partnership. The Steering Group has representatives from: Bridgend Secondary and Special Schools; Bridgend College; Bridgend Behaviour Support Service; Bridgend Education Welfare Service; Bridgend Youth Service; Careers Wales (Mid Glamorgan); ELWa (Education & Learning, Wales); Mid Glamorgan Education Business Partnership; Chamber Training; and the Bridgend CCET (Community Consortium for Education & Training).

13. ADVOCACY & MEDIATION SERVICE

The purpose of the Advocacy & Mediation Service is to ensure that all young people in the area have an opportunity to resolve the inequalities, conflicts and unmet needs which might lead to alienation and crisis. It also seeks to reduce the incidence of young people becoming alienated and separated from their families, carers, schools and communities. The service is provided by the Children's Society working closely with the Bridgend Personal Services (Social Services Division).

14. YOUNG CARERS SERVICE

The purpose of the Young Carers Service is to respond to the needs of young carers, by seeking to ensure that they receive the support necessary to reduce the difficulties they face through their caring responsibilities, and by enabling them to live their lives the same way as other young people of their age. The service is provided by NCH (Cymru) working closely with the Bridgend Personal Services (Social Services Division).

15. YOUNG PEOPLE'S DRUG & ALCOHOL SERVICE

The purpose of the Young People's Drug & Alcohol Service is to provide an equitable, efficient and effective drug and alcohol treatment and rehabilitation service dedicated to the needs of young people, and to contribute to reducing social exclusion amongst young people. The service is provided by Pontypridd & Rhondda NHS Trust working closely with the Bridgend Local Health Group.

16. YOUTH HEALTH ADVISORY SERVICE

The purpose of the Youth Health Advisory Service is twofold: (1) to reduce unplanned teenage pregnancies; and (2) to empower young people to make positive health choices which affect their well-being. The service is provided by Bro Morgannwg NHS Trust working closely with the Bridgend Local Health Group.

17. YOUNG PEOPLE'S HEALTH PROMOTION SERVICE

The purpose of the Young People's Health Promotion Service is to support professionals who work with young people in developing their skills in supporting health promotion programmes. The service is provided by the Health Promotion Unit of the Bridgend Local Health Group.

18. COMMUNITIES-THAT-CARE

The purpose of the Communities-That-Care Initiative is to build safer communities where young people can thrive and achieve personal fulfilment as members of their communities. Specifically, it aims to develop and implement evidence-based community-led action plans in targeted communities within the county borough. The service is provided by Communities-That-Care (UK) working closely with the Bridgend Youth Service.

19. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN PROJECT

The purpose of the Looked After Children Project is to ensure that Looked After Children (LAC) access and benefit from the developing framework of opportunities for young people at serious risk of social exclusion. The service is provided by Bridgend Personal Services (Social Services Division).

20. ARTS & DRAMA PROJECT

The purpose of the Arts & Drama Project is to provide opportunities for young people to develop confidence and self-esteem by working with others through the medium of the creative and performing arts. The service is provided by the Bridgend Arts & Entertainment Services.

21. SPORTS & RECREATION INITIATIVE

The purpose of the Sport & Recreation Initiative is to enable young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to access appropriate sport and recreation activities at leisure facilities throughout the county borough in line with the personal choices of the individuals concerned. The service is provided by the Bridgend Sport & Recreation Service.

22. YOUNG OFFENDERS PROJECT

The purpose of the Young Offenders Project is to support in the rehabilitation of young offenders back into their local communities following attendance at penal institutions. The service will be provided by the Bridgend Youth Offending Team.

23. POLICE YOUTH CRIME REDUCTION INITIATIVE

The purpose of the Police Youth Crime Reduction Initiative is to develop a partnership between the Police, schools and other agencies who work with young people in order to reduce the level of youth crime across the county borough. The service is provided by South Wales Police (F Division).

24. POSITIVE FUTURES

The purpose of Positive Futures is, via a partnership scheme, to target disadvantaged and disaffected young people (or those at risk of becoming disaffected), and to encourage them to become active participants in a needs-based education and sports programme. The service is provided by Bridgend Youth Service.

25. COMMUNITIES AGAINST DRUGS

The purpose of the Communities-Against-Drugs Initiative is to provide the nucleus of a substance misuse prevention team to take forward and manage the Bridgend Substance Misuse Prevention Strategy. The service will be provided by the Bridgend Youth Service on behalf of the Bridgend Local Action Planning Team and the Partnership Board.

APPENDIX 4 – EXAMPLES OF DATABASE

Captor	Date	Time	Ward	Street Name	Specific if applicable	Problem
242	01-Jan-02	1.08	Blackmill	Lewistown Road		Youth found unconscious in road
388	01-Jan-02	1.44	Felindre	Goychurch Road	Murco Garage	youths causing disturbance in garage shop
447	01-Jan-02	2.03	Pyle	Sychamore Avenue		youths shooting air gun at IP's letter box
537	01-Jan-02	2.33	Pen y Fal	Pen Yr Heol	27	Youth with Psychiatric problems
606	01-Jan-02	2.56	Oldcastle	Cowbridge Road	Terry Refrells	6 youths fighting o/s
718	01-Jan-02	3.37	Bryncoch	Jubilee Crescent	77	Youths from 89 have shouted abuse at IP.
1146	01-Jan-02	11.51	Caerau	North Street	27	Youth throwing stones & snow at windows
1320	01-Jan-02	14.38	Morta	Maes y Felin	29	Youths banging on m/vehicle O/s
1387	01-Jan-02	15.26	Caerau	Nantyllyllon Terrace	16	Suicide Threat
1417	01-Jan-02	15.49	Penpysg	High Street	27	Youths causing annoyance
1494	01-Jan-02	16.47	Morta	Highland Place		Youth assaulted by other youths
1500	01-Jan-02	16.51	Oldcastle	Brynteg Avenue	7	Vehicle bring damaged by a youth/blue carton
1632	01-Jan-02	18.49	Caerau	Talana Terrace		Youths constantly kicking/door/disturbance
1727	01-Jan-02	19.55	Brackla	Clos y Wern		Youths pouring water into road to make it icy
1878	01-Jan-02	22.07	Morta	Wynndham Street		Youths messing about with cctv cameras
1886	01-Jan-02	22.13	Morta	Wynndham Street		Youths fighting O/S
80	02-Jan-02	1.46	Porthcawl West	John Street	Charity Shop	youths o/s the shop/acting suspiciously
228	02-Jan-02	9.23	Newton	Allison Court		2 youths overdosed on amphetamine
595	02-Jan-02	14.31	Morta	High View	42	Youths causing annoyance
680	02-Jan-02	15.26	Cornelly	Heol Fach	82	Youths causing problems to occupant
688	02-Jan-02	15.30	Maesteg West	Court Street	32	Kids swearing & spitting at IP's property
692	02-Jan-02	15.33	Caerau	Hearts of Oak Cottages	10	Youths causing annoyance
1051	02-Jan-02	19.10	Caerau	Tudor Estate	Car Park	IP in car park being attacked by youths
1291	02-Jan-02	22.07	Maesteg West	Brynmawr Place	7	4 youths acting suspiciously
95	03-Jan-02	3.03	Newcastle	Tondu Road		Youths seen to tamper with a vehicle
169	03-Jan-02	8.17	Oldcastle	Cowbridge Road		Youths climbing into a window
641	03-Jan-02	15.11	Newcastle	Angel Street	Newbridge Fields	Youths being abusive and throwing sand
663	03-Jan-02	15.21	Cefn Cribwr	West Avenue	21	Youths kicking football into peoples gardens
674	03-Jan-02	15.27	Brackla	Brackla Way	Triangle	Youths at rear stealing crates
677	03-Jan-02	15.29	Morta	Adare Street		Youths throwing Glass bottles onto road
707	03-Jan-02	15.51	Ynysawdre	Bryn Road	Heritage park	Concern for youths playing on frozen lake
907	03-Jan-02	17.48	Maesteg West	Talbot Street	21	Children playing football in street
993	03-Jan-02	18.40	Cefn Glas	Ysbyd y coed	1	Youth annoyance
1072	03-Jan-02	19.41	Ynysawdre	Bryn Road	Railway Station	Damage to train shelter