

Rhondda Cynon Taf Youth Engagement and Participation Service

Address: Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, Headquarters, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale, Tonypany, CF40 2XX

Website: www.rctcbc.gov.uk

Contact: Nicola Cornwall, Youth Engagement and Participation Team Leader on 01443 744000

E: nicola.j.cornwall@rhondda-cynon-taff.gov.uk

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Summary

South Wales local authority, Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) has developed a pioneering approach using Agored Cymru units and qualifications to implement the Welsh Government's [Youth Engagement and Progression Framework, Implementation Plan and National Youth Work Strategy for Wales](#).

This approach has been developed by [RCT Youth Engagement and Participation \(YEP\) Service](#) as part of the local authority's two-year plan for effectively implementing the [framework](#).

RCT secondary schools are working in partnership with other education services to deliver education and training programmes specifically designed to:

- engage learners and help them to develop their skills in literacy, numeracy and digital literacy,
- create opportunities for learners to achieve nationally recognised qualifications,
- support young people to overcome barriers to learning, and
- provide opportunities for young people to progress into further learning, employment, volunteering and self-employment.



The accredited education and training programmes cover a range of subject areas including health and wellbeing, voluntary and community involvement and, enterprise and employability.

Since the approach was developed, all RCT secondary schools have become Agored Cymru recognised centres and can deliver Agored Cymru units and qualifications.

The YEP service has also allocated two full-time members of staff to each secondary school tasked with delivering a range of engagement activities using Agored Cymru units and qualifications.

Background

Launched in October 2013, the Welsh Government's [Youth Engagement and Progression Framework](#) was designed to encourage local authorities and other education and training organisations in Wales to work more effectively together to reduce the number of young people who are at risk of disengaging or have disengaged from learning and education.

The Framework is supported by the Welsh's Government's [Youth Engagement and Progression Framework, Implementation Plan](#).

Local authorities are required to develop and submit their own action plan to the Welsh Government detailing how they would effectively implement the plan over a two-year period.

As part of their action plan, RCT YEP Service developed an innovative approach using education and training programmes.

The approach aims to:

1. Deliver a meaningful range of qualifications that link to the Qualification and Credit Framework and contribute toward school performance thresholds,
2. Develop a coordinated and consistent approach to the delivery of accreditation opportunities across the service that links to formal education,
3. Use the sector-leading Vulnerability Profiling mechanisms to effectively target YEP service provision and deploy resources, and
4. Ensure that data is used more effectively to identify and address issues and monitor outcomes.

The Qualifications

The 14-19 qualifications were designed by Agored Cymru's team of Welsh education specialists.

All the units and qualifications were mapped against Welsh educational frameworks such as [Careers and the World of Work](#), [Personal and Social Education](#), and [the Youth Entrepreneurship Strategy for Wales](#), as well as other priority areas.

All the qualifications are available in Welsh:

- Entry 3 to Level 3 Window on Wales (Wales, Europe and the World)
- Entry 1 to Level 2 Personal and Social Education
- Entry 1 to Level 2 Work Related Education
- Entry 3 Modern Foreign Languages including British Sign Language
- Level 1 and 2 Young People's Participation

The qualifications are available in a range of sizes to allow for a growing confidence in an individual's learning and an increase in education engagement.

The Impact on Learners

Derek James, RCT Youth Engagement and Participation Service Manager said:

"The approach we have adopted will ensure that all qualifications delivered by the YEP service are meaningful and contribute towards formal education.

This new approach is sustainable and will ensure that we can clearly evidence the contribution we are making to key education outcomes."

What Next?

Agored Cymru is currently working in partnership with RCT and other stakeholders to develop an 'enterprise and employability package' designed to engage, equip and empower learners with the skills they need.