

# GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET



## Report to the Cabinet

**Meeting Date:** 7th March 2017  
**Cabinet Member:** Councillor Mair Rowlands  
**Contact Officer:** Catrin Thomas, Senior Manager Community Learning  
**Contact Number:** 01286 679 913 (32913)  
**Item Title:** Ad-TRAC Project

### 1 DECISION SOUGHT

Give approval to the Head of Economy and Community to accept the offer of grant to the value of £1,203,437, following Welsh European Funding Office approval, to deliver the Ad-TRAC Project in Gwynedd.

Commit match funding of £492,095 towards the project.

### 2 REASON WHY DECISION IS NEEDED

The level of financial commitment requires Cabinet approval.

### 3 INTRODUCTION

3.1 Gwynedd Council in conjunction with the other north Wales Local Authorities, Llandrillo-Menai Group and Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board have applied for a grant from the European Social Fund (ESF) to deliver the Ad-TRAC Project across the region. Llandrillo-Menai Group is the project lead on behalf of the partners.

3.2 Ad-TRAC is a multi-agency partnership to support the engagement and progression of 16-24 year olds who are not in education, training or employment by providing them with intense personalised support packages that will improve their engagement in learning and work.

3.3 The aim of the project is to :-  
Reduce the number of 16-24 year olds who are not in education, training or employment.

## 4 REASON AND JUSTIFICATION BEHIND THE DECISION

4.1 This project will support Gwynedd Council's implementation of the Welsh Government's Youth Progression Framework. The Youth Progression Framework and Ad-TRAC form part of the Children and Young People priority to ensure preventative Services for vulnerable groups of children within the Council's Strategic Plan, and the proposed Gwynedd Plan for 2017-18.

4.2 The Ad-TRAC delivery plan and budget are attached in Appendix 1.

4.3 This project will support vulnerable Young people to reach their full potential in education, and employment by providing intensive, individual support so that they are equipped with the confidence and skills to return to education, move on to training or enter employment. By achieving this, the project will reduce the number of 16-24 year olds who are not in education, training or employment. The project aims to achieve the following :

Measure	Target
Number of 16-24 year old Young people who are not in education, training or employment supported by the project.	450
Number of young people supported who enter employment	90
Number of young people supported who gain a qualification.	90
Number of young people supported who return to education or move on to training.	77

4.4 The project's budget for Gwynedd will secure an additional £1.2 million towards activities to support vulnerable Young people in the county.

4.5 Llandrillo-Menai Group, as project lead, will re-pay operational costs to Gwynedd Council.

	£
Project Cost	£1,695,532.85
Match-funding (staff time)	£ 492,095.20
ESF Grant	£1,203,437.65

4.6 The project's match funding has been identified and secured via staff time from the Youth Service (Economy and Community Department) and the Leaving Care Service (Children and Families Department), along with income received from the project.

4.7 The Youth Progression Framework and the Ad-TRAC project currently sit within the Youth Service. The project is Managed by the Youth Progression Manager, who also leads on the 11-24 Youth Progression Framework across the council. The Manager will report on the projects performance to the Council's Strategic Youth Progression Group.

4.8 The council is currently re-designing the Youth Service following Her Gwynedd. Future changes to the Youth Service could impact upon the continued management of the Youth Progression Framework and the Ad-TRAC Project from April 2018 onwards.

4.9 The project will create 7 new posts to include a Project Manager, monitoring officer, and 5 engagement workers. These posts are in addition to the 6 posts already identified as match-funded posts for the project (referred to in 4.6 above). The team will all have specific roles to work directly with young people to provide them with intensive one to one support to move them closer to education, training and/or work. Redundancy costs for the duration of the project will be repaid through the grant; however any redundancy costs outside the lifetime of the project will need to be paid by the authority.

4.10 Gwynedd Council will be required to adhere to the requirements of the European Social Fund (ESF) via a contractual agreement with WEFO, and therefore it is necessary to ensure that the Council has the resources to comply. All other risks relevant to managing grants such as meeting monitoring requirements, auditing, finance management, performance management have been assessed and are included in the full Risk Assessment included in appendix 2.

## **6 NEXT STEPS & TIMETABLE**

We are waiting WEFO's approval and offer of grant during March 2017. The project will run for 3 years from April 2017- March 2020, and will be in a mobilisation stage for the first three months to allow for recruitment and establishing the staffing structure. The project will be supporting young people directly from June 2017.

## **7 ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION**

### **Views of the Statutory Officers**

#### **Chief Executive**

"This project is certainly beneficial as it supports that specific group of 16-24 year old young people who are not in Education, Training or Employment. The Council's match-funding (which is staff time and posts) has been identified and confirmed. Therefore I support the intention to accept the offer of grant."

#### **Chief Finance Officer**

"I confirm that this worthwhile project is not dependant on additional financial resources from the Council, as the intention is to use current posts as the required match funding. I support the intention to accept the offer of grant."

#### **Monitoring Officer**

"No comments from a propriety perspective."