

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Services Scrutiny Committee
DATE OF THE MEETING	22 September 2015
ITEM	TRAC Scheme
CABINET MEMBER	Cllr Gareth Thomas

1. Introduction to and Background of TRAC

1.1 TRAC is a scheme that is led by the 6 LA's to provide the appropriate skills and support for the county's most vulnerable pupils and young people. This is done to equip the cohort to succeed and achieve their potential in education, training or work and thus reduce NEET numbers and those who are at risk of becoming NEET in the Area.

1.2 Denbighshire County Council is the lead body for managing and monitoring a regional business plan and serves as a direct link with WEFO officers on behalf of the 6 LAs. The TRAC scheme is included within the Regional Skills and Employment Scheme and is also approved by the North Wales Ambitions Board.

1.3 TRAC is funded through the Europe Social Fund (West Wales and the Valleys Programme, Priority Axis 3 (Youth Employment and Attainment), Specific Objective 2 (Reducing the number of young people aged 11-24 at highest risk of becoming NEET)).

1.4 The aim is to commence the scheme in September 2015 until August 2018 with a possible extension until August 2020.

1.5 The scheme's objective will be to "adopt a method to identify vulnerable pupils at an early stage and respond to their requirements through providing them with an appropriate curriculum and support".

1.6 The regional/LA TRAC scheme has to respond to specific requirements noted within the Youth Engagement and Development Framework (YEPF). The framework provides LAs with a strategic and key role to plan, develop and implement systems to ensure that young people have better participation in education, training, work. The TRAC scheme contributes towards the following targets in the framework:

- Number of young people between 16-18 who are not in education, employment or training - 9% by 2017.
- Proportion of young people between 19-24 who are not in education, employment or training in Wales compared to the whole of the UK by 2017.

1.7 Gwynedd TRAC projects at the schools is aimed towards learners in years 7-13 who have been identified as those most at risk of losing interest in education. It is expected that these learners will have complex needs linked to their social problems, behaviour, educational needs and emotional well-being and mental health. Through enabling learners to have access to tailored support and provision/ alternative programmes, TRAC will re-instil interest and motivate learners, boost learners self-confidence and self-respect, and promote learners aspirations to achieve their maximum learning potential, and thus reduce the risk of becoming NEET. (not in education/training/work).

1.8 A small number of pupils in Gwynedd are not in mainstream education at the end of year 11 due to several different factors including illness. This scheme will provide these pupils with more opportunities and support in an effort to reduce the number of pupils who disengage.

2. System for Identifying the Target Group and Refer to TRAC:

2.1 The target group is identified through 2 steps (see table below).

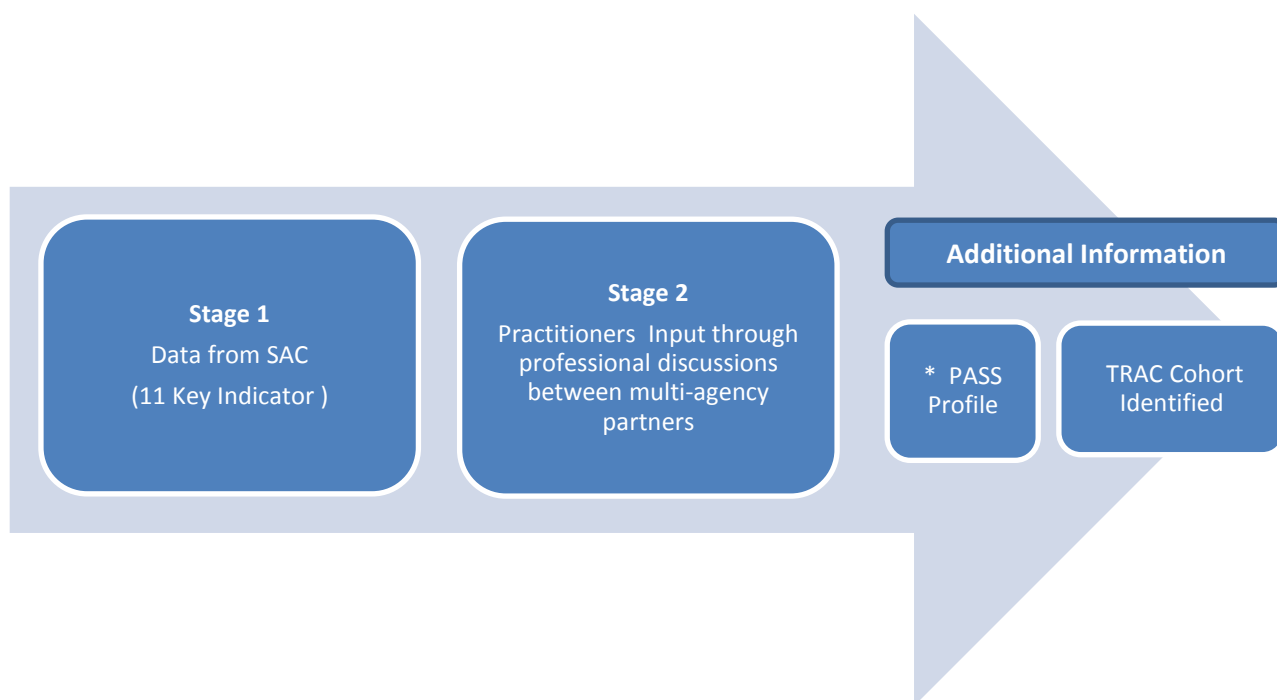
2.2 Step 1 is the LA's Early Identification System. Gwynedd and Ynys Môn have developed an Early Identification System through using a set of indicators that systematically identifies those learners who are at most risk of becoming disengaged from education, employment and training. The system has been run at every secondary school during 2014-15 and every LA across the north has now adopted the system.

2.3 The system is steered by data already available through SIMS, and the 6 LA's across the area have commissioned the CAPITA company to install the system on the education department's database namely ONE. This will ensure that the LA has complete control with regard to target group identification and monitoring.

2.4 The Early Identification System forms part of a process that will be used by schools and the LA, to identify pupils requiring support/additional/specialist provision before reaching the post -16 transition phase. The aim is that the early identification system, through use of the Liaison Manager, is used to support partners to develop more relevant and effective interventions as well as note gaps in local provision.

2.5 Schools, LA and the Liaison Manager will also use additional information that is found through multi-agency Partnerships method (Area Admission Panel) and this forms Stage 2

of the process of identifying learners who are at risk of becoming disengaged post 16 and lose interest:



2.6 Number in target group for the scheme is 480 learners.

3. Current Situation:

3.1 Current Provision

Currently, learners at risk of becoming disengaged receive a range of support and interventions through the following mainstream provision:

1. Youth Workers at a small number of secondary schools
2. Counselling located at a school
3. Educational Welfare Services
4. Extended Work Experience Programme jointly commissioned with Isle of Anglesey Local Government
5. 14-19 Alternative Curriculum
6. Inclusion Units within secondary schools
7. Social Inclusion Officer
8. Pupils Deprivation Grant

3.2 However, it was noted through consultation/mapping with secondary schools as well as discussions with key partners, that additional support and interventions are essential, but that they are unavailable for a substantial cohort of disengaged learners. Whilst benefitting from the above ventures, they require further one to one tailored support due to the type of obstacles they face following their disorganised life experiences, emotional problems and mental health problems.

3.3 Funding arrangements from the school year 2015/16 imply a reduction in the LA's budgets and the grants that target at risk pupils such as 14-19 Network. As a consequence, this intensifies the need for TRAC to plan in a coherent manner with all departments and agencies who provide provision for these pupils. TRAC do this through the key elements within the engagement framework (YEPPF);

Early Identification System (SAC)

- Use a standard and consistent system throughout the county/area to identify pupils at most risk through SAC, PASS

Brokerage

- Broker and co-ordinate services and appropriate provisions for learners through central TRAC team.
- Establish Area Admissions Panels

Tracking

- Monitor, report and provide more robust evidence on progress, data and learners results through the SAC and Area Admissions Panels.
- Establish tracking system during pre to post 16 transfer phase.

Provision

- TRAC focuses on 3 specific elements of the provision
 1. Enrich Alternative Curriculum Provision through the local framework.
 2. Enhance the Support Pack
 3. Support the process during bridging phases

Accountability

- The TRAC Scheme is led and managed within education services.
- Accountability arrangements will occur at a local and regional level.
- Success Indicators.

Sustainability

- Achieve an ambitious programme to continue and develop the European post sponsored service 2018-2020 to continue with the scheme
- Develop multi-agency protocols and systems to share resources and give value for money.
- Invest in systems that can be included within mainstream provision.
- Early Identification System that form part of the LA's schools mainstream systems.

4. TRAC Scheme Outcomes:

Ouput	Target
Number of participants at risk of becoming NEET (11-24)	480
Number of participants at risk of becoming NEET (11-24) – Boys	244
Number of participants at risk of becoming NEET (11-24) – Girls	236
Participants aged 11-13	180
Participants aged 14-16	255
Participants aged 16-19	45
Below Level 2 (NQF) (Basic Skills & Level 1)	175
Level 2	45
Participants Achieve other Positive Results	270
Participants with a disability / Health condition limits work	26
Immigrants / BME / Minorities	18
Participants with care/child care responsibilities	10
Results (within 4 weeks of leaving)	
Number of participants at risk of becoming NEET (11-24) gaining qualifications when leaving.	72
Number of participants at risk of becoming NEET (11-24) in education or training when leaving	215
Number of participants at less risk of becoming NEETS when leaving	238

5. TRAC Scheme funding:

Expenditure	Total Cost	Match Funding	Grant Total
Human Resources	24,794.66	0.00	24,794.66
Marketing	6,000.00	0.00	6,000.00
Overall Costs	219,728.48	194,416.69	25,311.79
Regional Management Costs	39,934.32	3,427.24	36,507.08
Staff	1,464,856.51	439,888.51	1,024,968.00
Training (Pupils Courses)	223,617.47	0.00	223,617.47
Transport and Travel	78,270.00	0.00	78,270.00

Total Expenditure 2,057,201.44
Grant Match Funding 637,732.44
1,419,469.00

Rate of Intervention 69.00