

From: Vale Youth Forum  
Sent: 11 October 2021 13:31  
To: Moore, Neil (Cllr) <NMoore@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk>  
Subject: Vale Youth Forum

Neil,

I've seen today the proposals for the youth cabinet and Big Voice going to cabinet today.

I understand that attempts were made to consult with the youth forum via the Chair of trustees and that no response has been received. We're sorry that as the case, we have had a similar challenge.

The proposal to widen participation is generally sound although the removal of the Youth Mayor post is a disappointing downgrade. Participation should be wider than just youth groups organised by the youth service. The absence of Barry Youth Council, the Vale Youth Forum and voluntary youth groups is particularly disappointing.

The reference to difficulties on filling youth cabinet posts is baffling as the Forum was asked by Councillor McAffer not to hold elections to replace youth cabinet members until after a consultation event planned for early 2020. That event has never taken place.

The proposals for the Big Voice are something else and it is disappointing that the Vale Council is setting up an additional organisation to the Forum with apparently little, if any, involvement from the Voluntary Sector.

All of the consultations undertaken by the Forum with young people and trustees, including you, have emphasised the need for an independent Forum. The political makeup of the Vale changes frequently and for as long as there has been a Vale Council support for meaningful consultation with young people has waxed and waned as the ruling administration changed. There's no reason to believe that this will not continue to happen.

As we emerge from lockdown the need for the independent, inclusive youth voice for the Vale, as offered by the Youth Forum, has never been greater and we are working hard to get it fully functioning again as restrictions are lifted.

Conway and Helen

Conway Hawkins  
Co-ordinator / Cydlynnydd  
Vale Youth Forum

Helen Payne  
Deputy Chair