



STRONG HERITAGE | STRONG FUTURE  
**RHONDDA CYNON TAF**  
TREFADAETH GADARN | DYFODOL SICR

## **CABINET STATEMENT**

**TITLE: E3+**

**DATE: 21<sup>st</sup> June 2006**

**BY: Councillor Clayton Willis, Cabinet Member for Open Government,  
Human Resources and Youth Services**

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Members will be aware of the Council's recent budget priority commitment for Youth Services.

This statement is intended to update the Council on a radical new initiative to be rolled out across Rhondda Cynon Taf from September 2006 which is intended to re-engage and energise young adults and children back into constructive and meaningful activities in a safe environment.

The E3+ Youth Scheme builds upon the original concept pioneered by Porth Community School.

This initiative involves the school remaining open to children and the community until 5.00pm providing exciting activities and projects from archery to volleyball, circus skills to salsa. As part of the scheme the barrier of transport is removed so there is no hindrance to participation.

As a Cabinet we were so impressed by the provision this scheme provided, we knew it was only fit and proper that such a resource should be available to every child across Rhondda Cynon Taf.

That is why we took the bold decision to invest in this revolutionary scheme and provide a dedicated officer team to help roll out and facilitate this programme across the County.

Porth County School recently won a UK award for the E3 project as one of the best examples of a community school.

The Leader of the Council considers it essential that we learn from this best practice and that the Council takes the lead in supporting other schools to develop their own E3 initiative. As a result, the Leader has instructed the Director of Strategic Policy and Continuous Improvement to ensure that the Council:

Delivers E3+ County Borough wide – Proactively encouraging other schools across the County Borough to adopt similar approaches to E3 that are tailored to meet each individual school and its community's needs; and develops E3+ as a New Youth Service Fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Our investment supports Porth County to extend E3 to 8pm, offering further extra-curricular activities, and a subsidised healthy meal and this funding also supports the roll out of the concept across other schools.

As a pilot, two schools have selected to take forward the scheme in 2006/07. They are Aberdare Girls and Tonyrefail Comprehensive.

As pilots, these schools will offer provision until 5.00pm, developing and delivering activities that capture the interest and imagination of the children in the area.

Although the point of delivery for activities is the school, the Council will have a key role to play in enabling these E3 pilots to develop and we will need to take the lead in encouraging schools down this route.

Over the next six months we will be monitoring the success of these schools, learning what works well and what needs to change with the intention of inviting three schools to be added to the programme in 2007/08. It is recommended that these schools be selected on the basis of the extensive data that Fframwaith (the Children's Partnership) holds, which highlights which wards and areas have, for example, the highest rates of substance misuse, youth annoyance, single parent families and Looked After Children to allow our investment to have the greatest impact.