

17 October 2012

Agenda Item: **6****REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER, YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE****NOTTINGHAMSHIRE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH PARLIAMENT:  
ELECTIONS FOR THE 2013-2014 SITTING****Purpose of the Report**

1. To update the Sub-Committee on the preparations for the election of the Nottinghamshire Members of the National Youth Parliament for the 2013-2014 sitting.

**Information and Advice**

2. The UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) enables young people to use their energy and passion to change the world for the better. Run by young people for young people, UKYP provides opportunities for 11-18 year-olds to use their voice in creative ways to bring about social change. UKYP was launched at the House of Commons in July 1999 and held its first sitting in February 2001 in London. There are currently over 600 elected MYPs (Members of Youth Parliament). Now in its eleventh year, UKYP continues to develop and improve. Decision makers are listening to what young people are saying. More and more young people are voting in UKYP elections. The Council, through the Young People's Service, has been involved in facilitating the process of elections and supporting the individual MYP representing the County since the Youth Parliament's inception.
3. The role of an MYP includes meetings with MPs and local councillors, organising events, running campaigns, making speeches, holding debates, and ensuring that the views of young people are listened to by decision makers. The most important aspect of any MYP's role is to make sure they represent the views of the young people in their constituency and to remain politically neutral. Nottinghamshire MYPs have been involved in the lobbying and development of skate parks and open spaces for young people, working with Primary Care providers to ensure that appropriate safe areas are available to young people in Accident and Emergency Units in hospitals and raising the issue of keeping safe and avoiding abusive relationships for young disabled people.
4. A recent announcement from the British Youth Council, which facilitates the National Youth Parliament, has altered the start of the term of office for Members of the Youth Parliament from the calendar year to the financial year.
5. This has altered the draft plans for the elections of the eight representatives from Nottinghamshire; these will now take place in 2013 between 21 January and 28 February. These elections take place in Schools, Libraries, Children's Homes and Young

People's Centres and via the voluntary youth sector in their individual groups or clubs. It is expected that in excess of 14,000 young people will take part in the voting process.

6. Nottinghamshire's eight members of the Youth Parliament are aged from 11 to 16 years and are elected to represent one of the seven districts and the views of disabled young people from across the County.
7. A celebration of the achievements of the outgoing Nottinghamshire Members of the Youth Parliament and the inauguration of the new cohort to their elected positions will take place for the young people and their families/carers at an event, on the evening of Friday 8 March 2013, at County Hall.

### **Other Options Considered**

8. As this is a report for noting, it is not necessary to consider other options.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

9. Involvement in the election process for the Nottinghamshire Members of National Youth Parliament by at least 25% of all 11 to 16 year olds, forms part of the Council's drive to increase the participation of young people in decision making and assist in their preparation for adult citizenship.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

10. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That the report be noted.

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### **Constitutional Comments**

11. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

**Financial Comments (NDR 25/09/12)**

12. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

**Background Papers**

None.

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

C0085