

**16 September 2013****Agenda Item: 14**

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE**

### **YOUNG PEOPLE'S BOARD OFFICER GROUP REPORT**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To update members of the Committee on the progress of the Young People's Board and for members to discuss and consider how the Board might further influence Council policy and service delivery.

#### **Information and Advice**

2. The Children and Young People's Participation Team, within the Young People's Service, is responsible for developing and facilitating young people's participation structures within Nottinghamshire including the Young People's Board. A structure chart of young people's participation is included as **Appendix 1** to this report.
3. The Young People's Board is a constituted group of young people, aged 11 to 19 years, including several representatives from each of the seven district based Scrutiny, Advisory and Development Boards (SADB) and the various County wide youth forums, including the Pioneers Disabled Young People's Forum. The elected Nottinghamshire Members of the UK Youth Parliament chair the SADB and the Pioneers Forum and therefore are also members of this Board.
4. The 'No Labels' Children in Care Council (CiCC), which represents Nottinghamshire's Looked After Children, is well represented at the Board.
5. The Board is chaired by an annually elected young person. Councillor Liz Plant, Vice Chair of the Children and Young People's Committee, and the Group Manager of the Young People's Service are the only permanent adult members of the Board.
6. The purpose of the Young People's Board is:
  - to give young people a voice in shaping and developing the Young People's Service in Nottinghamshire
  - to enable young people to influence and shape the design, development and delivery of services that impact on children and young people
  - to give young people in Nottinghamshire a collective and influential voice on matters of interest and importance to them

- to ensure that service provision is better coordinated and has a young person centred approach
  - the Board can scrutinise any areas of interest or concern. This can be triggered by a concern raised by an individual contacting a member of the Board or via an issue raised through the SADB structure.
7. Recently the Board has been involved in examining the support services available to Young Carers which includes inviting representatives responsible for those services from the Authority and the voluntary sector to attend a meeting of the Board to answer their questions. This resulted in the services involved having a better understanding of 'hidden young carers' and how to access them. The Board also developed a DVD, through external funding they applied for, to highlight the issues of young carers with their peers, which they are delivering through school assemblies.
  8. The Young People's Service consults with the Young People's Board about strategic developments in its practice; recent examples of this have been changes in its Statement of Purpose, the Service's 2013/14 opening pattern and the revision of the Nottinghamshire Youth Work Delivery Standards in March 2013.
  9. Members of the Board have been trained to inspect and assess the quality of current Youth Work provision and make suggestions for improvements through a comprehensive programme of unannounced mystery shopper visits followed by formal reports and action plans that the Board monitors through re inspections. They are now taking place in the Library Service and will soon start in Primary Health Care settings, to offer a similar inspection programme for their provision.
  10. The participation of primary school aged children is facilitated by a specialist post within the Children and Young People's Participation Team which uses a 'play work' approach to gain the ideas and needs of this group for particular projects e.g. the installation of new play ground equipment. Where appropriate these children, as they reach the age of 11, are encouraged to join their local Scrutiny Advisory and Development Board.
  11. Two examples of the impact the Board has made recently, to services provided for children and young people include: a group of Looked After Children have successfully redesigned the six-monthly assessment booklets used by Children's Social Care which increases the participation of young people and their willingness to complete the task; and the Board has been consulted by Nottinghamshire's Safeguarding Children Board on its proposals to keep young people safe from accidents including those at pedestrian crossings. The Board carried out surveys of young people's thoughts on these issues through the Scrutiny Advisory and Development Boards.
  12. The Government's Positive for Youth progress report issued in July 2013 indicates that Nottinghamshire's participation activity with young people meets or exceeds the expectations in this area of the Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities on Services and Activities to Improve Young People's Well-being, issued in June 2012.

## **Other Options Considered**

13. None, as the children and young people's participation structure in Nottinghamshire already meets the requirements of the Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities on Services and Activities to Improve Young People's Well-being, issued in June 2012.

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

14. The Young People's Board is an ongoing part of Nottinghamshire's Participation Strategy for children and young people.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

15. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, 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.

## **Implications for Service Users**

16. The Young People's Board's activity enhances the Council's Youth Offer to Children and Young People in accordance with the requirements of the Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities on Services and Activities to Improve Young People's Well-being, issued in June 2012.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

That:

- 1) the progress of the Young People's Board be noted
- 2) Members discuss and consider how the Board might further influence Council policy and service delivery.

**Derek Highton**  
**Service Director, Youth, Families and Culture**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

Chris Warren  
Group Manager, Young People's Service  
T: 0115 9774430  
E: [christopher.warren@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:christopher.warren@nottsc.gov.uk)

## **Constitutional Comments**

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

## **Financial Comments (KLA 09/08/13)**

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

## **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Young People's Board Statement of Purpose

Nottinghamshire Youth Work Delivery Standards, March 2013

Government's Positive for Youth progress report, July 2013

Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities on Services and Activities to Improve Young People's Well-being, June 2012

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

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

All.

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