

17 October 2012**Agenda Item: 8****REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER, YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE****YOUNG PEOPLE'S BOARD PROGRESS REPORT****Purpose of the Report**

1. To update Members of the Sub-Committee on the progress of the Young People's Board.

Information and Advice

2. The Children and Young People's Participation Team within the Young People's Service are 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 Countywide youth forums, including the Pioneers Disabled Young People's Forum. The Nottinghamshire Members of the National Youth Parliament chair the SADB and therefore are also members of this Board.
4. The 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 Lynn Sykes, Chairman of the Early Years and Young People's Sub-Committee, along with 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. This 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 which 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 and the revision of the Nottinghamshire Youth Work Delivery Standards.
9. A sub-group of the Board was involved with a consultancy exercise on the future delivery mechanism for youth work in Nottinghamshire to establish if young people thought that the commissioning of this provision would improve the quality of the service they receive.
10. 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 in conversation with the Library Service to offer a similar inspection programme for their provision.
11. 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 eleven, are encouraged to join their local Scrutiny Advisory and Development Board.
12. 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 annual opening pattern of the Council's Young People's Centres and Mobiles has moved to a Countywide fixed pattern, to enable young people to be clear when they are available, and therefore increase their use, after a consultation process carried out by the Board.
13. Future development of the Board includes their wish to be involved in further scrutiny and inspection of services provided for children and young people. These include a proposal to deliver a 'secret shopper' inspection service for Libraries and involvement in the new Health Watch scheme and the peer inspection process of the Youth Service in the spring of 2013.

Other Options Considered

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

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

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

Statutory and Policy Implications

16. 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.

Implications for Service Users

17. This report continues the Council's drive to involve service users in designing and monitoring service delivery and encouraging young people to become involved as active citizens in Nottinghamshire

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the report be noted.

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Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (NDR 25/09/12)

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

Background Papers

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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