

## NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S YOUTH OFFER

***We want Nottinghamshire to be a place where Young People feel respected and have their voices heard; where they can take part in lots of fun and exciting activities; where they can find information and get advice about things that are important to them; and if things aren't going as well as they could be, they can talk to someone who understands what they are going through and get the support they need.***

The Nottinghamshire Youth Offer entitles all young people to access service which ensures that they:

### ***Feel respected and have their voices heard:***

To provide opportunities for young people to get involved in the democratic processes that affect them, to have their views heard and to participate as active citizens in their communities.

This will be achieved by:

- Ensuring Nottinghamshire County Council staff listen and respond to young people's views, ideas, comments and complaints
- Consulting with young people as service users on the quality of provision
- Actively supporting young people to be involved in the design and delivery of local activities and premises, including giving them the power to influence how some of the local budget is spent
- Applying Nottinghamshire Children's Trust Participation Strategy and standards
- Providing a structure of participation across Nottinghamshire for all young people to access
- Providing support and training for young people attending youth forums and the Young People's Board
- Organising the local elections to the UK Youth Parliament and supporting those young people elected to carry out their duties

### ***Can take part in lots of fun and exciting activities:***

All young people can access a wide and varied range of fun, exciting and challenging activities, that encourage young people to develop a sense of achievement, to be healthy, to stay safe, to be better prepared for adult life and that supports their personal and social development.

This will be achieved by offering activities that:

- Are available at times that young people want them – evenings and some weekends (including Friday and Saturday nights) and periods during the school holidays
- Take place in premises that are accessible, welcoming, safe, warm, attractive and equipped to deliver a wide range of high quality activities appropriate to the needs and interests of local young people
- Are offered free of charge or at an affordable cost to young people and their families
- Are located in places accessible to young people

- Are culturally appropriate, celebrate diversity, promote respect for others and strengthen community cohesion
- Reflect and respond to the needs of the local young people and their communities
- Are planned, delivered and evaluated in partnership with young people
- Are well publicised – young people know when and where activities are taking place
- Meet appropriate quality standards

***Can find information and get advice:***

Children and young people will be able to access information on activities in their local area and get access to services that can offer information support and guidance.

This will be achieved by:

- Public website and social media that provides up to date information on what activities are available locally and links to other services, support agencies and information providers
- Ensuring information is fully accessible to children and young people and available in a variety of formats
- Offering support to access confidential, impartial and non-judgemental information, advice and support from any of the Youth Service units
- Working with partner agencies and young people to provide a co-ordinated and effective response to young people's information, advice and support needs

***Can talk to someone who understands what they are going through and get the support they need:***

To provide services that are relevant to the additional support needs of young people, and a skilled workforce who understand and who can respond to a wide range of issues that impact on the lives of young people.

This will be achieved by ensuring that:

- Young people know where to go or who to speak when problems arise
- Young people are included in any action plans that involve them
- Relevant policies and procedures are followed to ensure the safety of young people
- Vulnerable groups of young people will be offered the opportunity to engage in tailored interventions and activities
- Where appropriate, children and young people (and their families) will be offered the Early Help Assessment to establish the best package of services and support
- Professionals work together to provide whole packages of support and facilitate smooth transitions between services