



meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

date 29 March 2007

agenda item number

REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES

Bassetlaw District Youth Assembly

The Bassetlaw District Youth Assembly supported by Nottinghamshire County Council and Bassetlaw District Council took place on Tuesday, 6 March 2007 and enabled young people to come together to discuss and speak out about issues that affected them and their local communities. It also gave the young people the opportunity to meet with local councillors and members of the Youth parliament and to take part in workshops running throughout the day looking at the youth assembly and participation, team building/problem solving and crime awareness. This event was the perfect opportunity for young people to banish their negative image and reach out, speak up and ignite change within Bassetlaw.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Presentation

A presentation of Awards took place at the Newark Town Hall on Tuesday, 27 February 2007 on behalf of the Newark Open Award Duke of Edinburgh's Award Group. A total of 68 Awards were presented - 29 Bronze, 25 Silver and 14 Gold. The Awards were presented by the Chairman of Nottinghamshire County Council, Councillor Peter Barnes and myself.

Councillor Peter Barnes gave a short speech expressing his thanks to all the local organisers, parents and volunteers who provided the backbone for the training and support at a local level.

I finished off the evening with a vote of thanks, underlining Nottinghamshire's successes within the Award, Nottinghamshire's leading position within the Midlands area in terms of Awards gained and the balance of boys and girls completing their Award.

First Annual Citizenship Conference

Nearly half of the County's secondary schools were represented at the first annual citizenship conference in the Rufford Suite on 15 March 2007. Thanks to colleagues for participating in the event. The day was all about participation. Teachers and councillors tried out new material to help teach local government in the County's schools. Special thanks to Sarah Copeland,

Advanced Skills Teacher from Carlton-le-Willows Comprehensive for her work on this over the last year.

I believe Citizenship education is an idea whose time has arrived underlined by its compulsory status in secondary schools. Pupils seem to think so - 'We don't just answer questions like in other classes. We have discussions and hear what others think' and 64% of Year 8 pupils say their student council can change things in their school. We heard at the conference that schools are providing better quality teaching on the subject, more schools have specialists and our most successful schools have Citizenship in the curriculum.

As councillors we can play our part in this agenda. So, I am proposing in addition to having our own 'Take your councillor to school day' on 18 May 2007, we step up the pace on developing links between councillors and schools. Improving the Participation of Children and Young People is one of my key objectives. I will make some recommendations shortly suggesting how county councillors can participate.'

Members Seminar on the Nottinghamshire Children and Young People Plan

A seminar was held on 13 March 2007 to brief members on the Children and Young People Plan (CYPP) for 2007-2009 and its importance to the external inspection processes during 2007 and 2008. The seminar was well attended by members, officers and partner representatives. An informal interactive approach allowed for plenty of questions and discussion making this a very successful event.

Members suggested ideas for future involvement as the Children and Young People's Department (CYPD) prepare for the Joint Area Review (JAR) in May 2008. This is a wide ranging inspection involving all the organisations delivering services to children and young people across Nottinghamshire.

It is hoped that this successful seminar will be the start of an ongoing dialogue with members on the important processes taking place in the Children and Young People's Department over the next 14 months.

Building Schools for the Future

It has been confirmed that Nottinghamshire will enter the BSF programme in Wave 6 and this is anticipated to be around Spring 2008. Preparations are underway to prepare and consult on a CYPS strategy for change which will integrate many of the council's corporate strategies and other work with partners within the county. This is a requirement of BSF. Work is already progressing within schools in BSF tranche 1 to put together individual school visions within the context of the county's strategy for change, which highlight the aspirations of schools and their communities, shared values, the development of learning, partnership working, the extended schools agenda and meeting community needs.

I have visited all the schools in tranche 1 and enjoyed vibrant discussions with headteachers and senior managers who are working hard to consider the

needs of learners and communities for the next ten years. This is an exciting and challenging process and it has been inspiring to share the aspirations of those involved and to appreciate how much all of us share the ethos and values of children's services and meeting community need.

Leadership in Early Years

Nottinghamshire Early Years has recently been involved in a national programme to develop leadership in Early Years. As one of only six authorities chosen the Nottinghamshire programme has involved a group of nurseries, play groups and a children's centre.

The government funded programme has helped develop leadership in each setting so that the best is provided for children. As a further development leadership networks are being set up so that the leaders in the original programme can share their expertise and support others in similar positions.

The good work done in Nottinghamshire has been celebrated in a recent DfES publication.

Nottinghamshire County Council Youth Service opens new multi media venue at the Old Library, Mansfield

On 15 February 2007, the Vice Chairman of Nottinghamshire County Council, Councillor John Allin and myself officially opened The Old Library Young People's Arts Centre on Leeming Street in the heart of the cultural quarter of Mansfield.

The £319,000 renovation of 'The Old Library' building by Nottinghamshire County Council has brought together a range of facilities and expertise dedicated to the delivery of youth arts work across the County, whilst still giving local performers and the community a space to express their creativity.

COUNCILLOR JOYCE BOSNJAK

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services

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