

Title of paper:	CYP Participation Strategy action plan 2016-17		
Report to:	Children's Partnership Board		
Date:	22 March 2017		
Relevant Director:	Alison Michalska, Corporate Director for Children and Adults	Wards affected: All	
Contact Officer(s) and contact details:	Jon Rea, Engagement and Participation Lead Jon.rea@nottinghamcity.gov.uk		
Other officers who have provided input:			
Relevant Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) priority:			
Safeguarding and supporting children and families: Children, young people and families will benefit from early and effective support and protection to empower them to overcome difficulties and provide a safe environment in which to thrive.			x
Promoting the health and wellbeing of babies, children and young people: From pregnancy and throughout life, babies, children, young people and families will be healthier, more emotionally resilient and better able to make informed decisions about their health and wellbeing.			x
Supporting achievement and academic attainment: All children and young people will leave school with the best skills and qualifications they can achieve and will be ready for independence, work or further learning.			x
Empowering families to be strong and achieve economic wellbeing: More families will be empowered and able to deal with family issues and child poverty will be significantly reduced.			x
Summary of issues (including benefits to customers/service users):			
<p>Participation is the meaningful involvement by citizens in decisions which affect their lives. We use the term participation to describe the work that takes place to engage, enable and empower citizens to have a voice, to be heard and to have what they say make a difference to their lives and those of other citizens.</p> <p>The Children and Young People's Participation Strategy 2015-19 was adopted by the Children's Partnership Board in December 2015 as part of its commitment to empowering children and young people to have their say and be involved in decisions which affect their lives.</p> <p>This report gives a brief summary of achievements during the first full year of the Strategy action plan and signposts areas for further work and consideration going forward.</p>			
Recommendations:			
1	The Board recognises the importance of the work done across the Children's Partnership to support children and young people to be involved in decisions which affect their lives and the contribution it makes to the work of the Partnership.		
2	The Board approves the direction of the Participation Strategy and asks all partners to		

	continue to contribute to the successful delivery of the action plan.
3	Partners are asked to consider specific areas of participation work for inclusion in the 2017-18 participation action plan.

1 BACKGROUND AND PROPOSALS

1.1 Background

The Children and Young People's Participation Strategy 2015-19 and accompanying year-on-year action plan was developed in response to changes to the wider strategic environment around Children's Services including the Munro Report, local plans and strategies such as the Family Support Pathway and Early Help, the growing engagement needs around skills education and knowledge economy growth, and opportunities for greater partnership work around engagement and participation in the public and voluntary sectors.

The strategy reconfirms the commitment by the Children's Partnership to the values laid out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular Article 12 which asserts the right of the child to be involved and have a say in decisions which affect their life.

The strategy defines the vision, the drivers and the three principle definitions of participation that we use to describe the processes, activities and culture around the voice of the child: namely **individual**, **social** and **public** (or group) participation. Although these offer opportunities for distinct approaches and specific outcomes the objective in all areas of participation is fundamentally the same: to engage, enable and empower children and young people to play a meaningful and wherever possible equal role in decision making.

1.2 Activity and performance in 2016-17

Performance indicators

The Nottingham Plan commits the local authority to 'Consult young people on important decisions and involve them in the Council's decision making process' (NP25)

There are two performance indicators for this which the Engagement and Participation lead is accountable for.

- 1) Number of participation events held per annum – target 60 events
- 2) Number of children and young people participating – target 1000 CYP

To the end of February 2017 performance for the period 2016-17 the following had been achieved:

- 1) Number of participation events held = 55 plus 11 planned for March

Overall: **66 events held**

- 2) Number of children and young people participating = 822 plus 244 estimated in March

Overall: **c.1066 Children and Young People engaged**

Action plan activity

Each year the Participation Strategy action plan identifies areas where work needs to be continued or developed. Actions are developed in accordance with the needs of the

Partnership, however there are inevitable constraints around time and resources available so good planning and foresight is helpful to ensure priority is given to the most important work. Partners are encouraged to contribute to the development of the action plan and identify areas for prioritisation.

The following is a breakdown of activity in the three areas of participation in 2016-17 and some of the areas for further development in 2017-18:

1.2.1 Individual Participation

Individual participation encompasses the processes and practices that support the voice of the child in statutory areas including Children in Care and Children under Child Protection Orders, as well as those engaged by non-statutory targeted and specialist services including Priority Families, Common Assessment Framework, Special Educational Needs and Disability, Young Carers, Child Sexual Exploitation and Youth Offending Teams. Among these cohorts are many of the most vulnerable children and young people in the city who stand to benefit most from opportunities to participate.

In 2016-17 we have:

- introduced a new online app MOMO (Mind of MY Own) to support children and young people receiving targeted and specialist services to capture their views and feedback on their experiences;
- supported DCT and SEND colleagues with preparation for inspection readiness, and developed a new specification for combined CYP and Parent and Carer participation programmes in 2017-18;
- monitored the level and quality of participation of children and young people receiving specialist and targeted services through the Quality Assurance Strategy process, including audits of Children in Need, Child Protection and LAC reviews;
- supported the development of Participation Plans for young people accessing Youth Offending Team services.

Areas for further development in 2017-18:

- Support roll-out of MOMO training across Children's Social Care and monitor uptake by Children in Care and other cohorts accessing the app;
- Develop social media communication with Children in Care and Care Leavers via the *Face Up* Facebook page and other online communication channels;
- Support the Futures in Mind programme to develop co-productive participation opportunities for young people in Mental Health pathways;
- Support participation of children and young people in the development of services addressing child sexual exploitation and domestic violence risks.

1.2.2 Social Participation

Social participation covers 'everyday' participation, involving children and young people engaged through universal as well as targeted services, including through education provision and community-based activities and facilities.

In 2016-17 we have:

- designed and delivered co-productively with young people three termly Youth Council meetings, one in each of the three localities, with over 20 young people involved in co-production activity and 75 young people attending;
- supported development of a school-based CYP engagement programme for Opportunity Notts (including launch of the programme at Primary Parliament);
- supported participation in youth voter registration programmes through activities and planning with the Voter Registration Officer.

Areas for further development in 2017-18:

- Extend opportunities for children and young people with SEND to participate in social settings through the new combined CYP and Parent and Carer SEND participation arrangements;
- Improve processes for capturing and recording information from social participation into Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and strategic commissioning work;
- Work with the National Citizenship Service to ensure more City resident young people are targeted and recruited into the programme;
- Work with colleagues on the Prevent programme to improve opportunities for participation of young people in the design and delivery of Prevent programme engagement activities.

1.2.3 Public Participation

Public Participation is a well-established field of participation activity through which Children's Partnership partners can interact with children and young people in a variety of structured settings. The calendar of participation forums and groups is organised in the annual *Participation in Governance* programme. This includes the Council's monthly Youth Cabinet youth leadership group meetings, termly Primary Parliament events, monthly Children in Care Council meetings, and regular community-of-interest forums supported by the local authority such as Action for Young Carers. In addition, there are a number of locality-based and voluntary sector supported participation groups and activities in the city which link with the programme.

In 2016-17 we have:

- engaged the Youth Cabinet in consultation around the development of new strategies and plans including the new Health and Well-Being Strategy, the Council budget proposals, the Cultural Education Framework, the One Nottingham priority theme of Aspiration, and the Youth Offending Team engagement strategy;
- ensured CYP representation and enquiry on various strategic boards and operational steering groups, including securing a position for a young person on the One Nottingham board;
- through Youth Cabinet, designed and delivered with young people the Youth Cabinet Schools' Conference to explore the theme of Transition for the Education Improvement Board;
- through Youth Cabinet, designed and delivered the Debate Science! Youth Parliament programme to 60 young people from Nottingham, and six delegates at the European Science Parliament event in Manchester;

- produced with Primary Parliament new tools for Marketing and Communications based on the words children choose to use and not use, and used these in the development and launch of the *Looking After Each Other* campaign;
- through the Children in Care Council, developed young person-written questions for use by the locality Fostering and Adoption panels in the recruitment of new carers;
- through Children in Care Council, reviewed and refreshed the Children in Care and Care Leaver Have Your Say survey, and delivered the 2016 survey process through to assessment and presentation to Corporate Parenting Board;
- supported strategic commissioning through involvement of young people in tender specification and tender marking for drug and alcohol services and leaving care accommodation, and supported recruitment of Public Health posts through panel representation;
- ensured young people's co-productive involvement in the Stemcity science engagement partnership plan, including planning for the Festival of Science and Curiosity, representation at Horizon 2020 NUCLEUS project meetings and the new SMART City engagement plan;
- participated in Nottingham in Parliament Day with three Youth Cabinet members;
- used the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Week Challenge to engage Children in Care Council and Youth Cabinet members in a programme of shadowing and co-productive work activities with Councillors and Council services.

Areas for further development in 2017-18:

- Develop opportunities for children and young people in Takeover Week 2017 activity and increase the number of Children's Partnership partners taking part;
- Further develop opportunities for participation in the SMART cities engagement plan Festival of Science and Curiosity programme, and emerging Civic Technology agenda.

1.2.4 Resources and workforce development

In 2016-17 we have:

- ensured work linked to post-Ofsted improvement plan has been met and reported;
- developed the Participation in Steering group (PSG) membership to better reflect the breadth of Children's Partnership interests;
- conducted a research trial into the *Sharing the Future* participation model with colleagues from the University of Nottingham to validate the approach;
- supported voluntary sector training in engagement and participation using *Sharing the Future* and supported Early Help Play and Youth team with development of their CYP participation plans.

Areas for further development in 2017-18:

- Develop online resources for *Sharing the Future* and other participation tools;
- Develop Children's Services induction materials around engagement and participation.

1.3 Management and governance arrangements

The CYP Participation Steering Group (PSG) is the officer group which oversees the implementation and development of the strategy and seeks to ensure the successful delivery of the action plan.

The principal role of PSG members is to ensure that a) the participation needs of their service or professional area are properly represented and addressed in the strategy and annual action plan and b) that issues and risks around participation (future implementation, development and/or mitigation) are identified and addressed.

Group members are champions for participation who own deliverable actions in the annual action plan, disseminate information across their service or professional area and model best practice with other colleagues, partners and citizens.

The group is chaired by the Engagement and Participation Lead and is currently represented by the following service areas and personnel:

- Children in Care Team;
- Children's Social Care;
- Early Help Play and Youth Team;
- Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Board;
- SEND Reforms Board;
- Small Steps Big Changes;
- Voter Registration;
- Youth Offending Team.

The Participation Strategy and accompanying action plan is governed by the Children's Partnership Board and accountable to the Portfolio Holder for Early Intervention and Early Years.

2 **RISKS**

- 2.1 Failure to implement the Participation Strategy and accompanying annual action plan leaves the Children's Partnership at risk of failing to meet Ofsted and other statutory inspection criteria.

3 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The Engagement and Participation Lead has a budget of £15,000 per annum to support the delivery of the Participation Strategy Action Plan including the *Participation in Governance* programme. Additional support for participation comes via commissioned services and discreet service budgets which are variable.

4 **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The strategy supports the fulfilment of statutory duties around Children in Care, Child Protection and SEND.

5 **CLIENT GROUP**

- 5.1 All children, young people and families including carers of children and young people.

6 **IMPACT ON EQUALITIES ISSUES**

- 6.1 The Participation Strategy is inclusive of all young citizens and their families and is delivered in partnership with other citizen-focused engagement programmes and structures, for example Age Friendly Nottingham Strategy.

7 OUTCOMES AND PRIORITIES AFFECTED

- 7.1 The Participation Strategy impacts on all outcomes and priorities.