

<b>Title of paper:</b>	Youth Cabinet Q4 16/17 & Q1 17/18 update		
<b>Report to:</b>	Children’s Partnership Board		
<b>Date:</b>	5 July 2017		
<b>Relevant Director:</b>	Alison Michalska, Corporate Director for Children and Adults	<b>Wards affected:</b> All	
<b>Contact Officer(s) and contact details:</b>	Jon Rea, Engagement and Participation Lead <a href="mailto:Jon.rea@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">Jon.rea@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a>		
<b>Other officers who have provided input:</b>			
<b>Relevant Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP) priority:</b>			
<b>Safeguarding and supporting children and families:</b> 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
<b>Promoting the health and wellbeing of babies, children and young people:</b> 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
<b>Supporting achievement and academic attainment:</b> 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
<b>Empowering families to be strong and achieve economic wellbeing:</b> More families will be empowered and able to deal with family issues and child poverty will be significantly reduced.			x
<b>Summary of issues (including benefits to customers/service users):</b>			
Update on work of the Youth Cabinet and associated CYP Participation in Governance programme groups and activities in Q4 16/17 and Q1 17/18.			
<b>Recommendations:</b>			
<b>1</b>	The Board acknowledges and supports the achievements of children and young people engaging in participation and active citizenship work through the Participation in Governance programme and the work of the Youth Cabinet.		
<b>2</b>	Board partners are asked to consider how they can use the CYP participation in Governance programme to further participation in their organisational strategies, plans and processes.		

# **1 BACKGROUND AND PROPOSALS**

## **1.1 Background**

It has been a busy time for engagement and participation work, with a full programme of Youth Cabinet, Primary Parliament and Youth Council meetings, plus a dedicated programme of focused consultation with SEND children and young people between January and March; and the delivery of the third Festival of Science and Curiosity (February 2017), which offered a large scale public platform for participative engagement with children and young people.

N.B. The activities of the Children in Care Council in this period are detailed elsewhere in reports to the Corporate Parenting Board so this report will focus on the above groups only.

Work in Q4 16/17 focused around the theme of 'Safe Lives, Positive Communities, SMART Cities'; while in Q1 17/18 the focus shifted to the theme of 'Healthy, Creative You'. In this period we have worked with the following partners:

- Nottingham SMART City
- Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
- 'Future in Mind' Mental Health programme
- Opportunity Notts
- Cultural Education Partnership
- Stemcity
- Nottingham Citizen's Panel

The improving weather after Easter usually offers more opportunities to get out and about with engagement activities, giving us more scope to do interesting and exciting activities. However, it should be noted that both the winter and spring school terms are proving increasingly busy for students and the pressure of exam revision, in particular, is having an impact on participation in group work and availability of young people for other active citizenship roles.

## **1.2 CYP Participation in Governance groups**

### **1.2.1 Youth Cabinet**

The increasing pressure of academic study, post-New Year has resulted in a change to the timetable for Youth Cabinet meetings. Henceforth monthly meetings will now run from September to March. However, from Easter to the end of summer term, meetings will now be bi-monthly, with an April-May meeting and June-July meeting, and no meeting in August. This will give a total of nine Youth Cabinet meetings per year.

The group continues to be supported by the Engagement and Participation Lead and also attended by the Voter Registration Lead. Membership of the group currently numbers ten young people aged between 16 and 21, with members having the following profiles:

- 1 = Studying for GCSE's at Secondary School
- 5 = Attending City school sixth form or further education colleges
- 3 = In apprenticeship positions at Nottingham City Council
- 1 = Self-employed

The group has room for up to around 14 to 16 members and is currently open to nominations by partners for new young people to join. Criteria for membership is not strictly defined: usually members have experience of active citizenship volunteering in another context and would like to build their skills, knowledge and experience of youth leadership through membership of Youth

Cabinet. Membership commitment is a minimum of one year, though a commitment of 2+ years is generally preferred. Recruitment of new members is currently taking place through Early Help Play & Youth services; however, other Board partners are encouraged to put forward prospective members if they feel they have the necessary experience, temperament and attitude for the role.

Workwise, in January the Youth Cabinet completed a consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Early Intervention and Early Years on the proposed City Council budget for 2017-18. At a combined March/April meeting members received presentations and took part in consultation with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and the Future in Mind mental health programme. A Youth Cabinet member subsequently attended a Future in Mind co-production event and will be reporting back in the June/July meeting. At the May meeting members met with Craig Finney from Nottingham Citizen's Panel and discussed how to engage young people with adult focused engagement opportunities; and how to support young people to maintain involvement in active citizenship when they reach adulthood.

Two Youth Cabinet members have contributed significantly to corporate decision-making activities in this period; one became a member of the One Nottingham Board while another sat on two stakeholder panels for the recruitment of new Public Health consultants.

### 1.2.2 Primary Parliament

Primary Parliament sessions in March featured workshops with around 130 year 5 and 6 students looking at the potential for SMART technologies to create safe, positive communities. The students emphasised the importance to them living in a clean city, the need to reduce pollution and environmental damage, and professed a hope that technology would make us safer. Many of the students demonstrated a high level of personal ambition towards knowledge economy careers and the desire to do more in and out of school to support their learning and development, e.g. through code clubs and after school technology projects, but also through social and outdoors events such as community picnics. Students also took part in a SMART Culture treasure hunt in the Market Square, identifying SMART technologies and things of cultural significance. They then completed a questionnaire activity for the Cultural Education Framework.

With all Primary Parliament activities there is an opportunity for schools to develop further work around the theme when they return to school. This helps federate learning and leads to the gradual growth of participation opportunities in primary settings. As a result of the SMART City workshops William Booth Primary School are now developing a relationship with the REMOURBAN project currently taking place in Sneinton.

In June the Primary Parliament sessions addressed the 'Healthy, Creative You' theme with two new workshops. The first was a Nature Participation workshop conducted in the grounds of Nottingham Castle, in which the students conducted a range of learning investigations exploring how to stay healthy and be creative in nature. In partnership with the Microscopical Society, whose Education and Outreach lead is based at UoN, students conducted a MicroSafari and a nature audit of flora and fauna in the Castle grounds. They then wrote haiku poems with volunteers from Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust.

In the second June workshop entitled 'Don't Be a Fossil!' students used the Opportunity Notts framework to plan their personal summer holiday activity programmes, then made sock puppet 'Dinosox' and created their own puppet show dramas to explore the opportunities, benefits and barriers to getting out and about this summer. These will be taken back to school and performed.

In the afternoon discussion, students shared their learning and their views and experiences about health and creativity with the Joint Chairs of the Children's Partnership Board. Their wide ranging views on how to get children more involved and active in nature were captured for inclusion in the Healthy Environment Action plan, part of the city's overall Health and Well-Being Strategy.

It is worthy of note that we now have all five specialist primary schools regularly engaged in Primary Parliament, with no differentiation in programme. This has had a very positive impact on all children taking part and helped foster a strong spirit of togetherness and inclusion.

As part of the further development of the Primary Parliament programme, a new Primary Cabinet event is being piloted this coming July. Featuring around 12 participating children from the two June events, Primary Cabinet will give the Joint Chairs an opportunity to have a focused engagement with those Primary Parliament attendees who demonstrate strong leadership and peer representation skills. If successful we hope to institute this in the annual calendar.

### 1.2.3 Youth Council

Youth Council is now an integral part of the Early Help team's Neighbourhood Play and Youth work plan, with young people and staff working co-productively with the Engagement and Participation Lead to plan, design and deliver day-long programmes of creative and participatory activities for up to 40 young people from across the city each time.

The Youth Council session held at Oliver Hind Youth Centre in February focused on how to build safe, positive and SMART communities. Through role-play, modelling and fun quiz workshops, young people identified priorities and ideas for action around the future city. There was a focus on improving access to transport for young people by making buses cheaper and creating more opportunities for young people to travel and do things in other parts of Nottingham (and so break down barriers between areas and generations). With regard to the SMART City agenda the idea of 'gamifying' the city to enable better cultural interaction through technology such as mobile apps. This corresponds with both ideas in the SMART City engagement strategy and the emerging Cultural Education Framework.

Joint Chair of the Children's Partnership Board Cllr Sam Webster, and ward councillor Cllr Nighat Khan attended the afternoon discussion workshops where presentations were made of the concepts and ideas emerging from the morning workshops. The findings from the workshops and discussions will inform the SMART City engagement strategy as well as the further development of the Youth Council programme.

The next Youth Council event is scheduled for July 28<sup>th</sup> at NGY on Castle Gate. While the theme is 'Healthy, Creative You' the event will also function as a celebration of the 30 or so young people from across the localities who have been involved in planning Youth Council over the past 18 months; and as a planning session to determine the scope of the next 12 months of activity in the 2017-18 school term.

### **1.3 SEND engagement programme**

A dedicated programme of face-to-face engagement with SEND children and young people took place in Q4 16/17. The engagement focused on how those CYP with SEND access information, advice and support services (IASS), particularly as they prepare for adulthood. Young people from Oak Field School designed a bespoke engagement tool for the consultation, a game called *Choices* that offers participants multiple ways to have their say using talking, drawing, dancing and play, and over 50 young people from seven different school and community settings took part. The findings from the engagement have been fed back to the IASS strategic commissioning lead for inclusion in the analysis phase.

A new contract for engagement work with SEND CYP and their parents and carers went live on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Between April 2017 and March 2018 Rainbow Parents Carers forum will be providing opportunities to get involved and have your say around the SEND reform implementation agenda and strategic commissioning priorities.

## 1.4 FOSAC17

The 2017 Festival of Science and Curiosity, also known as FOSAC17, was the third annual festival delivered by the Stemcity science engagement partnership. The festival is about inviting the people of Nottingham to share what they know, ask questions and take an active role in finding out the answers. It is one of Nottingham's key science communication and public engagement events and gives an opportunity for all the different educational and cultural institutions in Nottingham promoting STEM learning to engage creatively with the public. It also features a range of activities that tie in with the Participation in Governance programme and support hands-on participation in science and technology learning.

The FOSAC17 programme featured over 40 separate street-level science engagement activities and more than 2500 members of the public took part directly in them, predominantly children, young people and their families. In addition, the festival received significant local media coverage and social media presence. Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, with 100% of those asked stating that they agreed or strongly agreed with the statements 'I've enjoyed the event' and 'I would like to see more events like this'. Next year's festival will take place on the 14<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018.

## 2 **RISKS**

2.1 None identified.

## 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 Children, young people and young adults aged 9 - 21

## 6 **IMPACT ON EQUALITIES ISSUES**

6.1 Work contributes to active citizenship and community engagement.

## 7 **OUTCOMES AND PRIORITIES AFFECTED**

7.1 All CYPP strategic priority and CYPP cross-cutting theme of Children and Young People's participation in decision making.

## 8. **CONTACT DETAILS**

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