

Title of paper:	Youth Cabinet Q3 17/18 update		
Report to:	Children's Partnership Board		
Date:	13.12.17		
Relevant Director:	Alison Michalska Corporate Director 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):			
Update on work of the Youth Cabinet and associated CYP Participation in Governance programme groups and activities in Q3 2017-18.			
Recommendations:			
1	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.		
2	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

A busy Autumn programme of Youth Cabinet, Primary Parliament and Youth Council meetings, and the annual Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge provided a range of opportunities for children and young people's participation in Q3.

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.

The thematic focus of Q3 was 'Earning & Learning', in line with Early Help strategic goals of 'A Learning City' with results of consultations feeding into strategic planning through the refresh of the Employability Strategy and associated programmes such as the Futures' 'Aspire' programme.

In this period, we have worked with the following partners:

- NCC Economic Development team
- NCC Energy Behaviour Change Team
- European Capital of Culture 2023 bid team
- Stemcity partners

1.2 CYP Participation in Governance groups

1.2.1 Youth Cabinet

The September meeting provided an opportunity for the group to help scope forthcoming work around the earning & learning agenda, in particular planning the October 25th Youth Council meeting. The group welcomed young people and staff from Central and North locality Play and Youth teams for a joint working session around the theme of 'Barriers to Jobs for Young People'. The group agreed a structure for the October 25th meeting (summarised below), including youth-led workshops and an invitation to Cllr Webster to join the event to hear feedback on findings.

The November meeting, which took place during Takeover Challenge week again welcomed Cllr Webster to go over the findings of the event and discuss next steps. It was agreed that the Youth Cabinet and Youth Council would work on establishing better links with business leaders and industry representatives to help businesses better connect with the issues facing young people as they prepare for the world of work.

The Children's Partnership Board's Youth Cabinet representatives are Zartasha Zahied and Adil Malik.

Takeover Challenge

Activities took place to mark Takeover Challenge Week 2017, which took place 6th – 10th November. Takeover Challenge is promoted by the Office of the Children's Commissioner for England, and supported locally by the Board. It was the second consecutive year we have participated in the scheme, which promotes participation of children and young people in decision-making in both public and private sector organisations.

Activities included a takeover of Loxley House restaurant by members of the Children in Care Council, who devised and cooked a special menu; young people from Youth Cabinet and the CiC Council working with the Council's communications team to develop a new blog for children in care and care leavers; Councillor buddying with Portfolio Holders and Civic Office; and the welcome of a new Youth Cabinet representative on to the One Nottingham board.

1.2.2 Primary Parliament

Primary Parliament sessions in November continued the focus on Earning & Learning. Over 100 year 5 & 6 students from 30 City primaries, including three special schools, took part in the sessions, which were supported by a broad team of colleagues from the Research, Engagement & Consultation team, Education Partnerships, Energy Change Behaviour Team, Stemcity and various school trust partners.

Students worked through a programme of design thinking-based workshops to design, build and market a solar powered kit car. Themes of sustainability and low carbon energy technologies were used as the platform for exploring jobs of the future, with the workshops designed to discover students' attitude and ability to working in teams, the skills needed for engineering, design and marketing work, and what support the students' thought they would need to be prepared for knowledge economy jobs. The kit car designs were presented to Cllrs Mellen and Webster with the Sheriff in attendance throughout helping with the kit car construction and feedback sessions. In addition to follow up assemblies and class presentations of their work, some schools will showcase their work in the Festival of Science and Curiosity in February.

Overall, the level of aspiration to skilled jobs across a wide range of sectors was very high. Findings will be included in the current consultation for the Employability Strategy.

To follow up the events, a Primary Cabinet event will be held on 14th December, where a group of year 6 students will discuss findings from the Primary Parliaments with Portfolio Holders and enjoy a tour of Loxley House and a special Christmas meal.

1.2.3 Youth Council

A Youth Council event on the theme of 'Earning & Learning' was held at Take 1 Studios, Gregory Boulevard, Hyson Green during October half-term holiday, designed and delivered in partnership between the Engagement and Participation Lead, Early Years' Play & Youth Teams, Youth Cabinet and the host Take 1. Cllr Webster attended the workshop presentations and consultation session.

Five locality-based Play & Youth teams from took part in the event, as well as young people from Take 1, and members of the Youth Cabinet - 25 young people in total, aged between 12 and 19, plus supporting workers. In addition to the development gains for the young people and workers, the outcomes of the day included information from the consultation being fed into the refresh process for the Employability Strategy (and associated work including Future's Aspire programme.)

A warm-up activity, developed by the Youth Cabinet, explored 'Barriers to Good Jobs for Young People'. Participants were asked to mark in order of importance what they felt were the most significant barriers to young people getting the jobs they want, with 4 being highest and 0 lowest.

'Lack of skills' came out top as a barrier as might be expected. Other areas that figured strongly as barriers included 'lack of networking and references', 'lack of relevant experience', 'low self-esteem of applicants'. In some cases, 'social class and background' was cited as a significant barrier.

Two workshops, developed by young people, focused on two of the themes emerging from the Barriers exercise: one explored the issues of bias/discrimination in the recruitment process through role-play; the other how to develop skills for planning and presentation through a Dragon's Den simulation. Following the two workshops, the young people shared their views and answered questions directly related to the Employability Strategy refresh.

A summary of the answers to these questions is as follows:

1. How can we support learners to increase their awareness of and understanding of the world of work?

- Interview role-plays and mock interviews
- More work experience opportunities, from an earlier age
- Getting information from professionals (though not specified who), job fairs
- Youth clubs with computers to do CVs
- Workshops on how to fill in applications and training on how to do an interview
- Jobs available for 14-16 year olds so they can learn about work earlier on

2a. Which specific employers do we need to engage with to increase awareness of different industries and jobs?

- Public sector jobs e.g. Nursing; Council departments and emergency services
- Sport clubs and companies
- Business based jobs – Capital One, Experian, Boots
- Professional, highly-qualified job such as architects
- Engineering companies such as Rolls Royce,
- Catering companies like McDonalds

2b. How do we engage them?

- Opportunities to talk directly to them, via social media, email or phone
- Visit programmes to companies and business centres
- Job fairs, more talks at school and at youth clubs etc.

3a. Do you have any inspirational examples from the world of work?

- Hospital staff
- Virgin Media because their staff are professional
- Youth workers
- Sports personalities and famous actors
- Family members
- Bill Gates, because he's been so successful and made lots of money

3b. Have these helped raise your aspirations?

- Teachers have helped raise my aspirations

3c. Who else would inspire young people?

- Youth workers

- Famous people who are role models
- Family members who have done well

4. What support do learners need to help them identify the relevant skills achievements and needed for the world of work?

- Exposure to more inspirational people
- Give young people tours at work places, show them what can be achieved at work
- Help with compiling CVs, conducting mock interviews, how to fill in applications, how to do an interview
- Work experience,
- Job Fairs
- Being told about what kind of jobs are available in the world of work, what jobs are needed, what they are and what they pay
- More people to go into schools and talk to students about opportunities, especially when they are preparing to leave school
- Careers advisers and workshop activities available at all schools and youth clubs.

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

Jon Rea, Engagement and Participation Lead
 Strategy and Commissioning Directorate
 Nottingham City Council, Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham, NG2 3NG
 Tel: 0115 8764817 Mob: 07957 202333
 Email: jon.rea@nottinghamcity.gov.uk