

Title of paper:	YOUTH CABINET Q3 & Q4 REPORT		
Report to:	CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP BOARD		
Date:	20.3.19		
Relevant Director:	ALISON MICHALSKA	Wards affected: ALL	
Contact Officer(s) and contact details:	JON REA Jon.rea@nottinghamcity.gov.uk		
Other officers who have provided input:			
Relevant Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) priority or priorities:			
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>This report summarises the work of various participation groups, events and activities that support children and young people's decision-making, convened through the CYP Participation Strategy and delivered through the Participation in Governance Programme calendar.</p> <p>The PiGP programme provides opportunities for a wide range of children, young people and their families and carers to participate in decision-making activities across the remit of the Children's Partnership Board and other Council-held strategic plans.</p> <p>Board partners are alerted to the achievements of these participation activities, and the forthcoming challenges and opportunities for participation work in the coming year.</p>			
Recommendations:			
1	The Board acknowledges the contribution made by children and young people to the work of the Children's Partnership Board and wider Council partners.		
2	The Board considers the opportunities and challenges outlined in the report, and reiterates its support for children and young people's active participation in decision-making.		
3	Board partners continue to support work done under the CYP Participation Strategy, and contribute to the refresh of the strategy in 2018-19.		

1. BACKGROUND AND PROPOSALS

1 Overview

This report details children and young people's participation in decision-making activity over the Q3 and Q4 period, as guided by the Children and Young People's Participation Strategy, and summarises the outcomes of engagement work completed through the Participation in Governance Programme (PiGP) in 2018-19.

2 Participation in Governance Programme 2018-19

PiGP is the principal work programme for the Children and Young People's Participation Strategy, and aligns the various participation forums, standing groups and bespoke activities into a calendar of events for the academic year, themed around the three main areas of decision-making and consultation: Learning and Earning (Autumn term); Safe Lives, Positive Neighbourhoods, Smart City (Spring); Healthy, Creative You (Summer).

PiGP enables the fulfilment of the Corporate Plan requirement to involve children and young people in Council decision-making activities. The two performance indicators for this a) Number of events and b) Number of participants. In 2018-19, PiGP achieved the following performance:

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2018-19 Total
Events (Target 60)	12	19	12	18	61
Participants (Target 1000)	208	272	238	511	1239

3 PiGP groups and activities

3.1 Youth Cabinet

3.1i In a busy Q3 period, the Youth Cabinet met with the Lord Mayor and Sheriff for discussions about young people's priorities, and heard about the role of the Civic Office. Youth Cabinet also offered both major political parties the opportunity to discuss their forthcoming manifestos for the May 2020 local elections. The group subsequently met with Rebecca Langton from the Council Leader's office to comment on the draft Labour manifesto. Members stressed the importance of creating opportunities for young people to undertake work experience through work placements, shadowing and employer visit programmes.

3.1ii In Q4 Youth Cabinet met with Cllr David Mellen to contribute to the Council's budget consultation. Areas of concern and interest raised through this consultation included:

- * Proposed reduction in Youth Service posts - counter-intuitive to be reducing posts while knife crime and other public safety issues on rise
- * New initiatives needed to tackle knife crime in school and in extra-curricular settings

- * Creating more opportunities for young entrepreneurs
- * Improving information on pathways to training and good jobs
- * The commercial and shared use potential of Council assets to offset losses in Government revenue – need to get young people's ideas for this

Elsewhere, Youth Cabinet members took part in the judging of the 2018-19 Jean Case youth awards, and also met for consultation with:

- Andrew Napier, Comms & Marketing lead for the Metropolitan Growth Strategy, to advise on how to reach young people with virtual and traditional marketing with the aim of raising awareness of training routes and career options for the 15+
- Catherine Kirk, RSE Lead, and Jane Hyland, PSHE Healthy Schools Lead, to advise on the RSE and Emotional Health and Well-being strategies, and consider ideas for RSE day on June 27th

3.1iii Youth Cabinet currently has 14 active members from a diverse range of backgrounds, including school, college and university students, and full-time workers including apprentices, and unemployed young people. The group accepts members from Year 11 upwards, and is supported by post-21 alumni, enabling involvement up to the age of 24. The group has recently been delighted to welcome members of other youth participation groups into Youth Cabinet, including young people from the Pythian Club, and Action for Young Carers. The group welcomes association with other participation groups and forums.

3.1iv Esther Akpovi currently represents Youth Cabinet on the One Nottingham Board, who also represents the group on the Children's Partnership Board, along with Eliza Larmond.

3.1v Larelle Flowers recently marked ten years of involvement in Council-led participation work. Larelle took part in work on the formation of the Children in Care Council in 2009, and has been involved ever since, becoming a member of the Youth Cabinet in 2017 while continuing with the CiC Council in a mentoring role. Larelle recently gained a youth work apprenticeship place with Nottinghamshire County Council, who will benefit greatly from his skills, experience and passion for young people's voice. His contribution to our work has been tremendous.

3.2 Youth Council

3.2i The Autumn Term Youth Council event in Q3 provided an opportunity for focus on the Learning and Earning theme, exploring work-readiness and apprenticeships through discussion, role-play and presentation. 25 young people from five of the city's six locality-based youth teams, generously hosted by young people from Bulwell Riverside, who organised the session timetable, guided groups through the day and made lunch for everyone. Partners included both the Metropolitan Growth Strategy and the Crime & Drug Partnership, who worked with young people to explore how issues like drug and alcohol abuse could affect young people's chances of progressing into good jobs. In addition, the group were joined by two colleagues on work exchange from the City of Ningbo Government, who immersed themselves in the role-play workshops and gave insights into young people's life in China.

3.2ii Youth Council in Q4 meanwhile has been merged with the Early Help Play and Youth Team's celebration event on 22th March, 6.30pm – 9pm at the Council House. Looking forward to Summer Term, the July edition of Youth Council is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 24th July, during the first week of the school summer holiday.

3.3 Primary Parliament

3.3i Ideas for promoting careers featured in the Q3 Primary Parliaments, while a discussion on technology challenges of the future led to a range of green-themed projects to take back to

schools. These included an air pollution-monitoring project supported by the Council's Clean Air team and Ignite! The results from this project were showcased at the Real Science in Schools Symposium during FOSAC19 (see below Section 3). The Q4 sessions in mid-March have focused on RSE and literacy, with consultations on the new Central Library development and the 'Big reader? Big future!' reading campaign, and work around activities to celebrate and spotlight RSE Day in June.

3.3ii One Nottingham has sponsored Primary Parliament for the past three years, enabling essential administration and facilitation support for the programme. However, this agreement ends this summer, so a new sponsor is needed for academic year 2019-20. Discussions are underway with education partners to secure future support, while suggestions for other sponsorship avenue are also welcome. Meanwhile One Nottingham is warmly thanked for its previous sponsorship, which made so much good work happen.

3.4 Children in Care Council and Your Voice care leavers' groups

3.4i CiC Council members met with Ofsted inspectors in Q3 to share experiences of care services. In the final Ofsted judgment, there was positive assessment of the way in which the Council listens to voice of CiC and involves them in decision making, and the CiC Council/Your Voice were picked out for praise by inspectors.

3.4ii Work in Q4 has focused on helping the Nottingham Children and Young People's Safeguarding Board understand young people's perspective on staying safe. Three members of the CiC Council designed and delivered a training event for children's social care workers, part of the Every Colleague Matters programme. 14 staff took part in the training, and took away positive actions to share with team members, and there were key messages for the Safeguarding Board lead to share with Board partners.

3.4iii CiC Council remains a strong participation group rooted in regular meetings and mixed programme of partner engagement and social/personal development activities, helping aid confidence, expression and decision-making skills. The group has an active membership of 12 young people, plus additional involvement from Your Voice members for joint consultation. Continual recruitment enables fresh members to be brought in, as others graduate out.

3.5 Other targeted and specialist participation groups

3.5i In Q4 young people from the Action for Young Carers' took part consultation on the proposed new Carers' Strategy, exploring views and experiences of carer identification, existing provision and future needs, and carers' life-balance requirements.

3.5ii With regard to SEND engagement, a programme of participation activities is currently being put together by Futures under the new Integrated Advice & Support Services contract, guided by the CYP Participation Strategy and mapped against the PiGP themes and events calendar.

4 Takeover Challenge

4.1 Takeover Challenge Week each November is a chance for local governments and other public sector institutions to give young people experience of decision making in a work environment. This year the Council supported a small number of shadowing days with Councillors, and also supported two members of the Children in Care Council to spend a day in Eat Culture kitchen at Loxley House, cooking a menu designed by other children in care.

4.2 While Takeover Challenge Week is a valuable opportunity for both young people and the Council, it is a time and labour intensive exercise requiring significant support from partners in both planning and delivery. Consideration needs to be given as to whether a repeat of the

programme is possible in 2019-20, and the what expectation there should be on Board partners to take on greater involvement in planning and managing the work.

5 Festival of Science and Curiosity (FOSAC)

5.1 Since its launch in 2015, FOSAC has developed into one of the principal platforms for CYP engagement and participation, providing an opportunity for partners to deliver a range of science, technology and creativity-based learning activities aimed at the whole family. Activities are strongly participative, encouraging shared and peer-to-peer learning, supporting self-led curiosity journeys. FOSAC aims to build confidence in people to ask questions, try new things and make choices. The programme is mostly free, and takes place in schools, the city centre and across neighbourhoods in and around the Nottingham area and the A52 corridor to Derby (in line with the Metropolitan Growth Strategy aims).

5.2 FOSAC19 in February was the fifth edition of the annual festival and its most successful yet. Indicative returns show more than 6,500 people took part in over 40 different FOSAC activities, at some 25 plus venues. While the event programme aims to be fully accessible, a number of specific SEND-friendly activities were incorporated into FOSAC19, with 'SEND Sunday' activities at 38 Carrington Street and Wollaton Hall.

5.3 A highlight of FOSAC19 was the second Real Science in Schools Symposium, which saw c.150 students, teachers, parents, Councillors, officers and FOSAC partners gathered to celebrate and share learning from the wide range of real science project research and application taking place in schools across the City and wider D2N2 region. Speeches by the Sheriff and Director of Education preceded a fascinating showcase of science and technology work taking place in local classrooms, which is helping inspiring STEM careers and skills learning, and supporting the Nottingham City Education Improvement Board's priority work to embed the Gatsby Benchmark standards for practical science teaching.

5.4 The recent establishment of a FOSAC board and not-for-profit trading company is the first part of a five-year sustainability strategy aiming to secure the long-term embedding of the festival in the city's cultural landscape, and broaden stakeholder support and sponsorship. Interest from within the D2N2, Metropolitan Growth Strategy, and Midlands Engine areas is offering new opportunities for partnership and audience development, enabling greater reach for our participation-led approach to learning engagement. The Council is represented on the FOSAC Board by the Director of Education, John Dexter and supported by Cllr Leslie Ayoola, and Lorel Manders from the One Nottingham partnership, which has been a long-time supporter and sponsor of the project.

6 University links

6.1 Work to strengthen the partnership with the city's universities has resulted in a number of pieces of work. Members of Youth Cabinet and the CiC Council took part in Nottingham Trent University's forum on post-Brexit democratic engagement, and will be supporting further participation events in April. NTU students are working on a programme of student parliament activities with local schools, supported by the Engagement Lead. Meanwhile the University of Nottingham has pledged to support Youth Council activities in 2019-20 through student volunteering time, and the provision of UoN venues and amenities. It is hoped that this partnership work will make an important contribution to the sustainability of area-based youth participation activity.

7 Proposed review and refresh of CYP Participation Strategy

7.1 The CYP Participation Strategy was launched in 2015 as a five-year plan for developing and maintaining children and young people's voice and influence in Council decision-making

processes. Its objectives are reflected as an action in the Council's Corporate Plan, with key performance indicators around the number of participation-focused engagement events held each year and the number of participants in them.

7.2 A review of the CYP Participation Strategy is proposed for 2019-2020, with the objective of refreshing the strategy to align with the new Corporate Plan, post-May 2020. Key factors to be considered will be:

- taking account of changes to staffing and resources in Council teams, in particular Early Help Play and Youth Team
- how the new area-based voluntary group and funding arrangements for CYP activities enable participation culture
- changes to sponsorship arrangements for Primary Parliament, and increasing partnership with academy trust and Nottingham Schools Trust;
- developing opportunities for partnership with external supporters including universities;
- utilising the increasing importance of partnership engagement platforms such as FOSAC for wide-spread whole-family participation.

8 Forthcoming work

8.1 In 2019-20 Q1 the participation focus will be on the theme of 'Healthy, Creative Me'.

8.2 Youth Council and Primary Parliament sessions will host workshops on healthy weight with the Public Health team, and take part in consultation on the emerging Sustainability Plan to 2050. Youth Cabinet members will continue work on RSE and PHSE strategies and RSE Day.

8.3 CiC Council members will support the assessment of the CiC and Care Leavers Have Your Say survey, and identify priorities for future Corporate CiC Council meetings.

8.4 A programme of civic engagement activities for Ningbo exchange schools is planned for July, enabling local and visiting students to take part in discussion and decision-making together at the Council House, supported by the Lord Mayor and Sheriff.

8.5 A new PiGP calendar for the 2019-20 academic year will be published in July, and distributed to Children's Partnership Board members. Partners are encouraged to discuss their 2019-20 participation needs with the Engagement and Participation Lead at the earliest opportunity.

2. RISKS

This work contributes directly to the fulfilment of a Corporate Plan commitment and is accountable through quarterly monitored performance indicators. Loss of this work programme would significantly impact on the Council's ability to meet this commitment.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Engagement and Participation core budget is currently £12,000 per annum, from which the full programme of participation work is delivered, with additional bespoke fund-raised monies where available. One Nottingham have previously provided £3,000 per annum in sponsorship for the Primary Parliament programme. The loss of this revenue in 2019-20 will potentially impact on the ability of the Engagement Lead to deliver the programme in its current form and may result in a reduction of availability of places for schools.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None

5. CLIENT GROUP

All children, young people, families and carers

6. IMPACT ON EQUALITIES ISSUES

The programme provides a range of opportunities for public/group participation by vulnerable and protected characteristic groups, including SEND children and young people, young carers and the children in care and care leavers. Students from special schools participate equally with mainstream school students in Primary Parliament sessions

7. OUTCOMES AND PRIORITIES AFFECTED

All priorities of the CYPP are positively impacted by the empowerment and active involvement of children and young people.

8. CONTACT DETAILS

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