



Title of paper:	Youth Cabinet research	
Report to:	Children's Partnership Board	
Date:	29.6.11	
Relevant Director:	Ian Curryer	Wards affected: All
Contact Officer(s) and contact details:	Jon Rea Jon.rea@nottinghamcity.gov.uk 0115 8764817	
Other officers who have provided input:		
Relevant Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) objectives(s):		
Stronger safeguarding – With a key focus on ensuring that there are high standards of safeguarding across all agencies and that the Partnership takes a pro-active approach to the elimination of domestic violence.		
Healthy living – With a key focus on increasing the proportion of children and young people who have a healthy weight.		x
Reducing substance misuse – Partnership work to lessen the impact on children of parental drug and alcohol misuse and to reduce drug and alcohol misuse amongst children and young people.		
Raising attainment – Raising the attainment levels and increasing engagement in employment, education and training.		
Improving attendance – Improving rates of attendance at both Primary and Secondary as a key foundation of improving outcomes.		x
Summary of issues (including benefits to customers/service users):		
<p>The Youth Cabinet, on behalf of the Youth Council has been asked to lead two pieces of research on behalf of the Children's Partnership Board:</p> <p>a) Research into healthy weight b) Research into school attendance</p> <p>This work is intended to inform future policy development and operational decision making around these challenges and other impact on other related issues. The Board is asked to support the work and ensure the learning outcomes from the work are utilised to their best value.</p>		
Recommendations:		
1	The Board agree that young people-led research provides an opportunity for fresh insight into these two strategic challenges of this kind, and supports the Youth Cabinet in their work	
2	The Board are asked to note the different styles and approaches to gathering user views utilised in this research, and are asked to consider how they can contribute to each research agenda	
3	The Board agree to receive and consider the findings of the research positively when submitted, and wherever possible support the innovative approaches and change actions suggested by the research	
4	The Board agree to support the research work with resources commensurate with the	

proposed activities to ensure high quality engagement and participation by users, including making provision for research officer time to ensure the research outputs are robust for analysis and planning purposes

1. BACKGROUND AND PROPOSALS

Youth Cabinet work for Children's Partnership Board

The Youth Cabinet is the steering group for youth engagement and participation in the city and represents the Youth Council and other associated forums in strategic partnership decision-making. The Youth Cabinet has been asked to lead two pieces of research on behalf of the Children's Partnership Board to provide fresh insight into and propose innovative solutions for two Children and Young People's Plan strategic priorities, Healthy Weight and Improving Attendance.

a) Research into healthy weight

Peer-to-peer research into what motivates children, young people and families to maintain healthy weight and look at what can be done to encourage more people to maintain healthy weight. This research contributes to Children and Young People's Plan strategic priority 2, Healthy Living.

The Youth Cabinet has already held meetings with Ian Curryer and Cllr David Mellen to discuss the main features of the healthy weight issue and look at how a youth-led approach could give fresh insight and provide new ideas to tackle the problem.. Proposed research activities include:

- Bulwell EIP CYP forum meeting, July 1st 2011. Workshops for 10 – 13 year olds leading to new ideas for how to tackle healthy weight.
- A citywide youth conference for 14 – 19 year olds around Decade of Better Health themes, August 10th 2011. Discussion workshops looking at healthy weight and other related health and well-being issues, with input from expert witnesses, leading to resolutions and innovative ideas for new approaches
- Core Cities youth health and well-being conference, February 2012
- Primary Parliament (years 5 and 6) - workshop and questionnaire work (date tbc)
- Youth Council and area youth forums – workshop and questionnaire work (date tbc)
- Parent and carer research activities – tbc

b) Research into school attendance

Developing and delivering research activities to identify the causes of low school attendance by some children, particularly in primary schools, and what can be done to improve attendance.

As with above this research will be conducted through workshop activities at Primary Parliament and Youth Council, and with EIP CYP forums and area youth forums. It is envisaged that this project could also involve young people going into primary schools to conduct research with younger children, subject to appropriate support being in place. This work contributes to CYP strategic priority 5, Improving Attendance. All the research work carried out by the Youth Cabinet will be supported throughout by the Engagement and Participation lead to ensure proper safeguarding measures are in place.

Research plans and timetable

The action plans for each research area, incorporating all the work referenced above, are currently being developed by the Youth Cabinet. It is envisaged that the majority of activities for both research areas will take place between July and October 2011, with findings collated and presented

to Board by December 2011. Some pieces of work, including a planned engagement with young people from across the Core Cities group will take place between December and March 2012 and will feed into the main research findings as appropriate.

2. RISKS

All user engagement activities will be subject to standard safeguarding and health and safety risk assessment and mitigation procedures.

Risk of not doing: lack of user voice in decision making process. Opportunity cost of overlooking innovative, cost-effective user-led approaches to resolving challenges.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Resources needed to support research activities and events, e.g. providing venues, food, transport, materials. A budget has been identified in Early Intervention to support children and young people's participation. Partners such as Decade of Better Health have also been identified as funding partners for specific events and activities.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None identified

5. CLIENT GROUP

(Groups of children, young people or carers who are being discussed in the report)

All city children and young people and their parents and carers

6. IMPACT ON EQUALITIES ISSUES

The proposed research activities will engage a diverse spectrum of user groups to ensure a broad spectrum of opinions and experiences, and be designed to allow for ease of participation. The research findings will provide policy makers and operational planners with new insight into the needs and aspirations of children and young people and their families, enabling more inclusive decision making.

7. OUTCOMES AND PRIORITIES AFFECTED

(Briefly state which of the CYPP objectives and priorities will be affected)

Healthy living – With a key focus on increasing the proportion of children and young people who have a healthy weight.

Improving attendance – Improving rates of attendance at both Primary and Secondary as a key foundation of improving outcomes.

8. CONTACT DETAILS

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