

Title of paper:	Youth Cabinet report		
Report to:	Children's Partnership Board		
Date:	19.12.12		
Relevant Director:	Ian Curryer	Wards affected: All	
Contact Officer(s) and contact details:	Jon Rea, Engagement and Participation Lead, 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.			x
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.			x
Raising attainment – Raising the attainment levels and increasing engagement in employment, education and training.			x
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):			
The Youth Cabinet is the senior youth leadership group for children and young people's participation in the Nottingham Children's Partnership.			
A summary of the work carried out by the group in 2012, and their priority areas and draft work programme for 2012 is presented to the Board for comment.			
Recommendations:			
1	The Board is asked to note the achievements of the Youth Cabinet and consider how their 2013 work will inform decision making across the Children's Partnership.		
2	The Board agree to continue to provide resource support to the Youth Cabinet and its associated children and young people's participation forums.		

1. BACKGROUND AND PROPOSALS

The Youth Cabinet is the senior youth leadership group for children and young people's participation in the Nottingham Children's Partnership. The group is made up of between 12 and 16 young people with experience of youth voice volunteering, who dedicate voluntary time to support the Children's Partnership with a variety of engagement, participation and consultation activities.

The Youth Cabinet and its associated participation forums; the Youth Council, the Primary Parliament and the Children in Care Council provides a structure for the active involvement of young citizens in partnership decision making at both strategic and operational level. Through this structure every year the voices of hundreds of children and young people from across the city are heard and input into decision-making processes.

The work of the Youth Cabinet and its groups are arranged around three theme areas: Community Safety and Positive Neighbourhoods; Health and Well-being; and Education, Work and Training. An annual work programme arranged around these themes enables partners to meet and interact with a wide range of children and young people from schools, youth and play provisions; listen to their views and experiences; develop insight to support decision making; and develop co-productive relationships for commissioning activity. This approach ensures that young citizens' views are embedded in decision making processes in line with the Children and Young People's Plan cross-cutting theme number four, and fulfil the aspirations of the Family Pledge, including the promises made to citizens in the Children and Young Peoples' Charter and the Children in Care Charter.

In addition, through the Youth Cabinet senior young people are able to take on and develop leadership roles and represent the voice of their peers in a range of strategic and operational contexts. Three members of the Youth Cabinet sit on the Children's Partnership Board. Two members sit on the Equality and Fairness Commission as Youth and Deputy Youth Advocates; two represent Nottingham City in the UK Youth parliament; and all contribute to various workstreams under the One Nottingham 2020 plan (including the Young Creative Awards), Science City and Growth Plan work, SLMG recruitment and selection activity. They also support civic events and take on youth ambassador roles as required. Meanwhile members of the associated Children in Care Council contribute to the Corporate Parenting Board and action plan, are involved in quality assurance of CiC Services through the annual 'Have Your Say' survey, and play a significant role in Safeguarding inspections.

This work is directly supported by the Engagement and Participation Lead Officer but relies on a full range of partners being actively involved to empower children and young people to develop their participation skills, ensure their views make an impact on decision making, and feedback outcomes in a timely and transparent way.

A presentation by members of the Youth Cabinet, detailing their work of 2012 and their priorities and 2013 draft work programme will be presented at the board meeting and circulated to partners after the meeting.

2. RISKS

- The Youth Cabinet and its participation forums are one of the key ways that the Children's Partnership meets its Family Pledge promises.
- Good practice in children and young people's participation is a key aspect of all statutory inspection criteria.
- The structure fulfils the requirements for co-productive working contained in the local authority's Commissioning Cycle model.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Activities to support the Youth Cabinet annual work programme are supported by the Early Interventions and Partnership team through the Youth Opportunities Fund budget.

Partners undertaking work with the Youth Cabinet need to consider how they will provide sufficient resources to make engagement meaningful and worthwhile for participants. Providing suitable accommodation, food, refreshment and travel are part of the scene-setting for successful engagement work, while rewards and incentives are an established way to recognise the contribution of unpaid participants. Staff time and material costs should also be considered.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None identified.

5. CLIENT GROUP

All children and young people

6. IMPACT ON EQUALITIES ISSUES

Programme activities are open to all children and young people and those with access and inclusion needs are supported to participate.

7. OUTCOMES AND PRIORITIES AFFECTED

CYPP cross-cutting theme number four: To engage with and listen to service users and stakeholders in developing our services.

8. CONTACT DETAILS

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