

Title of paper:	Youth Cabinet report	
Report to:	Children's Partnership Board	
Date:	27.11.13	
Relevant Director:	Alison Michalska	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):		
<p>The Youth Cabinet is the senior youth leadership group for children and young people's participation in the Nottingham Children's Partnership.</p> <p>A summary of the work carried out by the group in 2013, and their priorities areas and draft work programme for 2014 is presented to the Board for comment.</p>		
Recommendations:		
1	The Board notes the achievements of the Youth Cabinet and assesses how their 2013 work has impacted on decisions made within the Children's Partnership.	
2	The Board agrees to continue to provide resources to support the work of the Youth Cabinet and its associated children and young people's participation forums under the CYP Participation in Governance programme	
34	Board members promote the CYP Participation in Governance programme and support the recruitment and participation of more children and young people in the programme.	

1. BACKGROUND AND PROPOSALS

The Youth Cabinet is the senior youth leadership group for the Children and Young People's Participation in Governance programme. This programme ensures that the voice of young citizens is heard across the Nottingham Children's Partnership. The Youth Cabinet group is made up of between 12 and 16 young people aged 16-19 (or up to 24 for disabled young people) who have experience of involvement in other participation forums or who have demonstrated leadership in other active citizenship projects and contexts. Youth Cabinet members must be resident in Nottingham or attend school or college in the city and/or access services here. Members are unpaid and expect for occasional minor rewards and incentives they do all their work on a voluntary basis.

In addition to the Youth Council the CYP Participation in Governance programme consists of the Youth Council and Primary Parliament, both of which meet once a term, and the Children in Care Council which meets monthly. Together these groups provide 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.

In 2013 the Youth Cabinet has met and worked with the following strategic partners:

1. Children's Partnership: three youth representatives (Uzair Hashmi, Natalie Robinson, Holly White).
2. Growth Board: youth representative on the board (Natalie Robinson).
3. One Nottingham: steering group and panel support for Young Creative Awards.
4. NCC Early Intervention: participation in scoping of future EI work programme.
5. NCC Operating Model programme: participation in evaluation of draft model.
6. Strategic Commissioning team: co-productive working in pre-pathway and analysis phase of Child Development 0-18 strategic commissioning review.
7. Police and Crime Commissioner: support for development of new Police and Crime plan.
8. Crime and Drugs Partnership: themed Youth Council session on reducing anti-social behaviour through youth-led positive activities.
9. Equality and Fairness Commission: youth advocate on the board (Natalie Robinson).
10. UK Youth Parliament: Curriculum for Life programme.
11. British Youth Council: Social Inclusion review.

This year the group has also delivered or supported delivery of the following operational activities:

1. Peer to peer focus group interviews with over 350 CYP for the Child Development 0-18 strategic commissioning review.
2. Designed and delivered workshops in skills for social action projects to over 200 young people on the National Citizenship Service (Summer and Autumn programmes).
3. Youth Council and Primary Parliament sessions.
4. Lord Speaker Baroness D'Souza visit programme, July 13.
5. Recruitment of new Director of Children's Services.
6. Michael Varnam Award .
7. Workshop sessions for Tap the Gap students.
8. Pies and Pledges (Dec 13).
9. North of England Education Conference Youth Conference, Jan 14.

In addition the group has carried out the following civic and ambassadorial work

1. UK Youth Parliament representation: four youth representatives (Uzair Hashmi, Natalie Robinson, Holly White, Rhea Badwal).
2. British Youth Council UK Ambassador for Europe: one representative (Natalie Robinson).
3. UKYP Curriculum for Life project: lead Uzair Hashmi.
4. PCC investiture.
5. European MEP visit and Sheriff's Dinner.

A presentation by members of the Youth Cabinet, detailing their work of 2013 and findings, along with and their priorities and 2014 draft work programme will be presented at the board meeting.

2. RISKS

The Youth Cabinet and its associated participation forums are one of the key ways that the Children's Partnership meets the Children and Young People's Plan cross-cutting theme to embed citizen voice in the partnership, as well as the current manifesto commitment to actively involve children and young people in Council decision making. In addition the structure fulfils the requirements for co-productive working contained in the local authority's Commissioning Cycle model.

Good practice in CYP participation which provides evidence of CYP involvement at both individual and group level throughout their journey through services is a key aspect of all statutory inspection criteria, including the new Ofsted Safeguarding and Multi-agency inspection frameworks.

The CYP Participation in Governance programme is clearly identified as part of our universal offer in the Participation briefing prepared as part of our inspection readiness preparations.

Failure to deliver on the programme risks reputational damage in any or all of the above areas and in the case of any inspection could result in the Council achieving a significantly lower assessment rating.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Activities to support the CYP Participation in Governance 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 4: To engage with and listen to service users and stakeholders in developing our services.

8. CONTACT DETAILS

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Report to Children's Partnership Board

27th November 2013

Presented by:

Uzair Hashmi

Natalie Robinson

Holly White



Nottingham City Youth Cabinet overview

Areas of work

- Overseeing CYP Participation in Governance programme
- Support for strategic partnerships
- Delivery of operational work
- Civic and ambassadorial roles

Major achievements in 2013

- Co-production of Child Development 0-18 strategic commissioning review
- Design and delivery of National Citizenship Service programme elements
- UK Youth Parliament Curriculum 4 Life campaign
- BYC UK Youth Ambassadors' Social Inclusion research project



Co-production of Child Development 0-18 strategic commissioning review

- Involvement in SCR governance
- Peer-to-peer survey for analysis phase
- Survey methodology
- Findings and insight
- Next step actions



Design and delivery of National Citizenship Service programme elements

- One Nottingham partnership work
- Design of peer-led workshop training programme to support social action projects
- Delivery outcomes
- Impact and implications



UK Youth Parliament Curriculum 4 Life campaign

- Campaign context
- Local activity
- Survey results and findings
- National impact
- Implications and next steps



BYC UK Youth Ambassadors' Social Inclusion research project

- British Youth Council remit
- UK Youth Ambassador role
- Scope of Social Inclusion project
- Local activity and findings
- Reporting process and impact
- Implications and next steps



2014 CYP Participation in Governance programme

Spring Term - Safe Communities and Positive Neighbourhoods

- Child Development 0-18 Strategic Commissioning Review planning
- Neighbourhood working and ward-based plan priorities

Summer Term - Health and Wellbeing

- Building healthy relationships
- Breaking down the stigma surrounding mental health

Autumn Term - Education and Training

- Curriculum 4 Life
- Work experience and careers guidance



Recommendations

- Continue current funding for CYP participation
- Improve strategic partners' engagement with Youth Cabinet
- Provide a standing slot for Youth Cabinet at Children's Partnership Board meetings
- Recognise National Citizenship Service as a driver of young people's participation and respond to rapid growth of programme
- Provide more opportunities for children and young people to take part in leadership activities and decision making across the authority