



Title of paper:	Participation in Governance Programme and Youth Council Update	
Report to:	Children's Partnership Board	
Date:	25 th March 2015	
Relevant Director:	Alison Michalska, Corporate Director of Children and Adults	Wards affected: All
Contact Officer(s) and contact details:	Jon Rea, Engagement and Participation Lead Jon.rea@nottinghamcity.gov.uk , 0115 8764817	
Other officers who have provided input:	Charlotte Croft and Michael Nicholson, Youth Cabinet representatives on Children's Partnership Board Michelle Zviripayi, NCC Project Support Officer	
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.		
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.		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>This report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a brief round-up to the Board on the work of the Youth Cabinet in 2014/15 • Outlines the programme and priorities of the Youth Cabinet in 2015/16 and opportunities for Board partners to work with the group 		
Recommendations:		
1	The Board recognises the contribution made by the Youth Cabinet to ensuring children and young people influence decision making within the Children's Partnership	
2	That Board partners continue to use the findings of participation work to inform plans and strategies for service improvement for children and young people across the Children's Partnership	
3	The Board supports the work of the Youth Cabinet and its associated participation forums in 2015/16	

1. BACKGROUND AND PROPOSALS

2014/15 has been a very busy year for the Youth Cabinet and its associated groups and forums.

Membership of the Youth Cabinet is drawn from young people aged between 16 and 21 from or living in Nottingham who are involved in youth projects, further and higher education, volunteering, apprenticeships or training and who wish to contribute to youth leadership activity and decision making in the city. The group currently has 16 members.

Participation in Governance programme

Participation is the active involvement of citizens in decision making. For children and young people this involvement can take place in three different settings; *individual*, *social* and *group*. Youth Cabinet offers opportunities for involvement in a group participation setting.

As previously reported to the Board, under the Participation in Governance programme children and young people are supported to participate in decision making in the Children's Partnership through regular events like Youth Council and Primary Parliament.

The activities of specialist forums like the Children in Care Council and the Special People Group (SEND) are also influenced by the Youth Cabinet agenda, while group members contribute to a variety of participation programmes and partnership work.

The Youth Cabinet's thematic programme of meetings, events and group work enables children and young people to participate alongside decision makers and contribute to the design, development and delivery of strategies and plans for service improvement. The programme enables partners to plan engagement and participation with various participation groups and engage larger number of children and young people through Youth Council and Primary Parliament events.

Youth Cabinet

In 2014/15 Youth Cabinet members contributed to the following Boards:

- Children's Partnership Board
- Nottingham City Growth Board
- Equality and Fairness Commission

It contributed members to the following management and steering groups:

- STAC Education and Training Group
- Young Creative Awards steering group
- One Nottingham Autumn Forum steering group
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It met in consultation with the following senior decision makers:

- Ian Curryer, CEO of Nottingham City Council, on young people's participation in the Growth Board and the STEMWORKS partnership
- Cllr David Mellen, for consultation on the proposed Council Budget
- Cllr Sam Webster, on the development of a Council motion on young people

In addition advice, guidance and consultation services were provided to the following partners:

- Nottingham City Children and Adult Safeguarding Board

- Strategic Commissioning Team
- Youth Offending Team
- Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust
- SRE Health partners
- NGY
- Early Citizen/Institute of Mental Health, University of Nottingham
- Creative Quarter
- National Citizen Service
- NCC Democratic Services

Youth Council and Primary Parliament

Youth Council is a large general meeting of young people from across the city, held once a term. Meetings are themed and involve focused activity workshops as well as activities to develop participation skills.

The themes are Education, Work and Training (Autumn term), Safe Lives and Positive Communities (Spring term), Health and Well-being (Summer term).

Primary Parliament are for Year 5 and 6 children and are organised in conjunction with the Nottingham Learning Trust. These meetings have the same thematic content and general structure as Youth Council but workshop activities are different and age appropriate.

In 2014/15:

- 120 young people took part in Youth Council meetings
- 170 children took part in Primary Parliament meetings

Topics in focus have included:

- Sexual health and relationships
- Healthy eating
- Science and technology careers
- Staying safe at home, at school and in the community
- Things to do, places to go, people to talk to

Findings from this work have fed into a wide variety of strategies, service plans and review analysis including the Child Development strategic commissioning review and Safeguarding participation planning.

Other Youth Cabinet activity in 2014/15

- Youth Cabinet members were involved in planning and delivering sessions on voting and voter registration to over 350 16-17 year olds on the National Citizenship Service
- Members have also provided bespoke training sessions to NCS.
- Support for the STEMWORKS plan launch
- Exchange visit to Newcastle Youth Council, the Centre for Life and Baltic Centre to learn about STEM engagement and develop *Sharing the Future*

Sharing the Future

Through the STEMWORKS and Early Citizen programmes Youth Cabinet has been a key stakeholder partner in the development of a new model for citizen participation, *Sharing the Future*.

Sharing the Future has been included in our Participation Strategy and is now being used to plan and deliver citizen engagement in a wide number of settings. It has been adopted as the participation model by STEMWORKS and Early Citizen as well as by Lincolnshire County Council for their new participation strategy.

2015/16 programme

Youth Cabinet is now planning its 2015/16 programme and invites partners from the Children's partnership to engage with it to identify their participation needs and plan appropriate engagement activities.

A full programme of Youth Council and Primary Parliament events is planned to cover the three terms, in addition to regular monthly Youth Cabinet meetings.

YouConf2015

Youth Cabinet members will represent Nottingham at YouConf2015 in Karlsruhe this coming June in an event to mark Karlsruhe's 300th anniversary. Preparation work and findings from the conference will help identify further ways for young people to engage in decision making around city development issues. Engagement in this work from Board partners is welcome.

1. RISKS

None

2. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

An annual budget of £15,000 is required to deliver the Participation in Governance programme.

3. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None

4. CLIENT GROUP

Children and young people

5. IMPACT ON EQUALITIES ISSUES

None

6. OUTCOMES AND PRIORITIES AFFECTED

This work contributes to the following CYPP outcomes:

- **Stronger Safeguarding**, through improving the skills and confidence of children and young people and empowering them to have a voice that is heard;
- **Raising attainment**, through improving young people's focus on their personal development and skills and providing opportunities for learning in informal settings;
- **Improving attendance**, by motivating them to take a more active role in their own personal and educational development and improving their understanding of how organisations and institutions work and benefit them.

7. CONTACT DETAILS

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