

Title of paper:	Participation in Governance Programme and Youth Council Update		
Report to:	Children’s Partnership Board		
Date:	24 th June 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, Michael Nicholson and Chloe Mullins Youth Cabinet representatives on Children’s Partnership Board Umar Hussain, PATRA Business Support Officer, REC Team		
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):			
This report:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides an update to the Board on the activities of the Youth Cabinet in the first quarter of 2015/16• Outlines forthcoming programme meetings and event and highlights opportunities for Board partners to work with the group			
Recommendations:			
1	The Board recognises the important contribution made by the Youth Cabinet and its related children and young people’s participation forums to decision making in the city		
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		

1. BACKGROUND AND PROPOSALS

The Youth Cabinet is the Nottingham City Children's Partnership's youth leadership group. Supported by the Engagement and Participation lead it is responsible for co-producing the annual Participation in Governance programme to ensure children and young people have a voice in decision making processes across the local authority.

Membership of the Youth Cabinet is drawn from young people aged between 16 and 21 (up to 24 for those with SEND) from or living in Nottingham who are involved in youth projects, further and higher education, volunteering, apprenticeships, work and/or training and who wish to contribute to youth leadership activity and decision making in the city. The group currently has an active membership of around 16 members.

The first quarter of 2015/16 has been a particularly busy period for the Youth Cabinet.

Creative Quarter ENTER programme

ENTER is the Creative Quarter's two month long festival programme celebrating young people's enterprise and creativity. The two-month long programme held over May and June consists of a varied programme of events to encourage enterprise, entrepreneurialism, creativity, technology, skills development and networking, and generally promote the Creative Quarter as a resource for young people.

The Youth Cabinet initially worked with the organisers of the ENTER programme to help them identify ways to engage those young people who would not normally engage with CQ activities. A number of engagement approaches were suggested and deployed by CQ including working through local area youth teams to disseminate the ENTER programme.

In addition Youth Cabinet organised two events specifically for the ENTER event calendar:

1. A Saturday workshop on how to use the participation model *Sharing the Future*. This was held at the Vintage Warehouse on lower Parliament Street on Saturday 23rd May. 20 young people took part, creating peer to peer participation activities from the four areas of the model: Sharing Ideas and Information, Sharing Views and Experiences, Sharing Decision Making and Sharing Leadership. The workshop was a great success and demonstrated the ease with which the *Sharing the Future* model can be used to generate simple but highly effective participation activities in any setting. The group who took part was aged between 16 and 21 included Youth Cabinet members as well as young people from Russell Youth Club, the Chat'bout group, Bluecoat School and students from the University of Nottingham.
2. A Youth Council meeting was also developed for the ENTER programme. Held on Wednesday 28th May the meeting, entitled *Young People's Health and Well-Being in the 21st Century* explored young people's health and emotional well-being issues and the relationship with health and technology. 40 young people aged between 10 and 19 took part were drawn from youth projects across the three localities, supported by NCC Play and Youth workers. Workshops were delivered by partners from the Strategic Commissioning Team and Game City. Findings from the strategic commissioning workshop will inform the current Child Development review while the Game City workshop led to the young people creating 'paper app' participation games to take back and implement in their youth clubs and project groups.

YouConf 2015

The other major activity of the first quarter has been the participation of Youth Cabinet members at YouConf2015 in Karlsruhe, Germany, an event held in early June to mark Karlsruhe's 300th anniversary.

A dedicated report on the conference is available separately but in summary the conference brought together young people from Karlsruhe's four sister cities, Nottingham, Nancy (France), Timisoara (Romania) and Krasnodar (Russia) with young people from the German hosts. Over a seven day period young people 40 young people from the five countries worked together to explore themes around creating the future city, developing through different workshops activities, products and processes to support young people's empowerment and develop their future leadership potential to innovate and deliver change in our cities. A delegation of nine represented Nottingham including eight members of the Youth Cabinet.

YouConf2105 was a unique international gathering that demonstrated the power of using creative youth work embedded with participation principles to approach issues around shared urban development issues. The legacy is one of lasting friendship between the participating European nations and a real enthusiasm amongst all the young people and supporting staff involved to use the conference as a springboard for future work.

A number of potential future next steep projects are currently being considered including a bid for EU Horizon2020 funding around getting more young people into STEM careers. This is an area in which both Nottingham and Karlsruhe have a very strong record and offers a realisable platform for future exchange work with the YouConf2015 partners.

Future Youth Council and Primary Parliament

The next Youth Council and Primary parliament events will take place in the Autumn term, during late October and early November. Dates and details will be confirmed shortly and circulated to Board members.

The theme of Participation in Governance programme during the Autumn term will be Education, Work and Training and Board partners are invited to work with Youth Cabinet to potential participation activities that will support their decision making.

In the meantime Youth cabinet continues to meet monthly on the first Wednesday of each month and Board members and their representatives are always welcome to bring issues to the agenda.

2. RISKS

None

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None .

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None

5. CLIENT GROUP

Children and young people

6. IMPACT ON EQUALITIES ISSUES

None

7. 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.

8. CONTACT DETAILS

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