

<b>Title of paper:</b>	Youth Cabinet Q3 Update Report	
<b>Report to:</b>	Children's Partnership Board	
<b>Date:</b>	18 January 2017	
<b>Relevant Director:</b>	Alison Michalska, Corporate Director for Children and Adults	<b>Wards affected:</b> ALL
<b>Contact Officer(s) and contact details:</b>	Jon Rea, Engagement and Participation Lead, <a href="mailto:jon.rea@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">jon.rea@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a> , tel. 07957202333	
<b>Other officers who have provided input:</b>		
<b>Relevant Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) priority:</b>		
<b>Safeguarding and supporting children and families:</b> Children, young people and families will benefit from early and effective support and protection to empower them to overcome difficulties and provide a safe environment in which to thrive.		X
<b>Promoting the health and wellbeing of babies, children and young people:</b> From pregnancy and throughout life, babies, children, young people and families will be healthier, more emotionally resilient and better able to make informed decisions about their health and wellbeing.		X
<b>Supporting achievement and academic attainment:</b> All children and young people will leave school with the best skills and qualifications they can achieve and will be ready for independence, work or further learning.		X
<b>Empowering families to be strong and achieve economic wellbeing:</b> More families will be empowered and able to deal with family issues and child poverty will be significantly reduced.		X
<b>Summary of issues (including benefits to customers/service users):</b>		
Update of Quarter 3 activity of Youth Cabinet and associated work under the CYP Participation in Governance Plan.		
<b>Recommendations:</b>		
<b>1</b>	The Board recognises the work done by the Youth Cabinet and associated participation forums in enabling and empowering children and young people to have a voice in decision making processes.	
<b>2</b>	Board partners use the CYP Participation in Governance programme to engage with children and young people in order to involve them in decision making.	

# **1 BACKGROUND AND PROPOSALS**

## **1.1 Participation in Governance programme 2016-17**

The CYP Participation in Governance programme for academic year 2016-17 provides opportunities for Children's Partnership Board partners to engage with children and young people in a variety of settings according to age and community of interest. Meetings take place through the three terms and each term has a different theme, linked to Early Help Play & Youth team themes:

This term the theme has been around Learning and Earning – Education Work and Training, with a focus on transition experiences, developing skills for transition to adulthood, and aspiration.

### **Youth Council event**

A successful Youth Council meeting, organised by young people and workers in the North locality and supported by members of the Youth Cabinet was delivered to 20 young people at The Ridge play and activity centre in Top Valley in October. This was the second Youth Council event organised and delivered by the Play and Youth team and marked the progress. Among those engaging with the young people were the Council's HR team, Lifeline Journey and Cllr Webster.

### **Youth Cabinet Schools' Conference**

In November the Youth Cabinet hosted a special conference for secondary school students to explore views and experiences around the theme of transition. 36 students from 9 city secondaries attended and enjoyed rich discussion around the themes of transition from KS2 to KS3, and from KS4 into sixth form, college, work and beyond.

The workshop's activities explored what students were excited about, what they were anxious about and what they needed to know more about. In general issues around the need to know more were most prevalent and the conference threw up a number of practical ideas for supporting transition a lot of which centred on helping Year 6 students get to know the new school environment they were going into and become familiar with all the new faces there.

For the KS4 students exploring transition beyond secondary school the issues were about two things in particular: getting early support for decision making about next steps and understanding options available; and confusion and anxiety over the new GCSE exam grading system.

The event was opened by Cllr Sam Webster and presentations were made to the Sheriff of Nottingham, Cllr Jackie Morris.

A full report on the findings will be presented by young people to the Education Improvement Board.

### **Primary Parliament**

Two successful Parliament events in November saw 135 KS2 children from 33 city primaries engage in workshops, activities, discussion and presentation around the theme of 'Learning and Earning'. Partners included the Library Service and Opportunity, while the events also

took part in the official launch activity for Looking After Each Other, with the children creating social media material for the LEAO campaign.

In work with the Library Service the children helped with the design and production of the new Local Studies app, while work with Opportunity Notts focused on activities to broaden and enrich experiences for work and training.

In Primary Parliament the focus is on developing understanding of issues through shared dialogue then encouraging and supporting children to create ideas and plan projects for positive change in their schools and local communities. The next round of Primary Parliament is in March 10<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> when we will be exploring Healthy, Creative You. Theme topics already in development include healthy eating and the link to emotional well-being.

As part of these meetings schools will also be taking part in a research activity for the development of the Sharing the Future participation model, which the Council is developing with researchers from the University of Nottingham's Institute of Mental Health.

### Children's Commissioner's Takeover Days

November 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> saw eight young people from the Children in Care Council and four from the Youth Cabinet take part in Takeover Day, a national initiative of the Office of the Children's Commissioners designed to spotlight young people's participation in decision making by giving them high profile roles. Councillors, MPs and council managers took part supporting the programme, while a group of young people worked with the Comms and Marketing Team developing a new social media strategy for Children in Care and another group 'took over' the kitchen in Loxley Restaurant and designed and cooked a menu based on their choices. Feedback from everyone involved has been positive so involvement next year is definitely worth considering subject to resources.

### SEND engagement

A plan of face to face engagements with young people in city special schools and learning support units has been put in place for Quarter 4. The engagement will be co-produced with students from Oak Field School and with delivery supported by the Council and Rainbow Parents Carers Forum. Ten engagements are planned to involve all five city special schools plus mainstream schools with significant learning support units. The themes of the engagement will be around preparing for adulthood and getting information, with findings feeding into the strategic commissioning review for Integrated Advice and Support Services and the SEND project board. More details on the engagement in the Youth Cabinet Q4 report in spring.

### Youth Cabinet planning

Throughout Q3 Youth Cabinet members have continued to help shape the CYP Participation in Governance programme agenda, and have given their time and expertise to a number of partners including Creative Quarter, Public Health and the EIB. At their annual awards evening with the Sheriff members also undertook an horizon scanning exercise and identified the following issues as priorities for further investigation and participation work in 2017:

- Youth mental health
- Healthy weight and eating and the link with addictive behaviour
- The engagement needs of young people excluded from school
- Financial education for children and young people, including morality and ethical issues around money
- Involving young people in play and early years work to develop skills and empathy

- Opportunities for young adults to be involved in active citizenship
- Creating more opportunities for children and young people to participate in decision making

Members thanked the Sheriff and Portfolio Holders Cllr Mellen and Cllr Webster for their continued support for the agenda. The group also expressed their collective wish to see Cllr Morris continue her great work on behalf of children and young people beyond the end of her civic office in May.

## **2 RISKS**

- 2.1 This work supports the Council Plan commitment to involve children and young people in decision making and the embedding of their voice in the Children and Young People's Plan.

## **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 This work is supported by the Engagement and Participation budget of £15,000 per annum which covers the delivery of the core Participation in Governance programme and some additional bespoke engagement work with children, young people and families including work carried out for strategic commissioning purposes. The Engagement and Participation Lead actively seeks additional bespoke funding where available to support and enrich existing and new projects.

## **4 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 None

## **5 CLIENT GROUP**

- 5.1 All children and young people in Nottingham City.

## **6 IMPACT ON EQUALITIES ISSUES**

- 6.1 The Participation in Governance programme offers opportunities to a diverse range of children and young people. Activities include engagement work targeted at young people with disabilities and special educational needs, Children in Care and young carers.

## **7 OUTCOMES AND PRIORITIES AFFECTED**

- 7.1 All CYPP strategic priority and CYPP cross-cutting themes of Children and Young People's participation in decision making.