

<b>Title of paper:</b>	Opportunity Notts'	
<b>Report to:</b>	Children's Partnership Board	
<b>Date:</b>	02 July 2014	
<b>Relevant Director:</b>	Alison Michalska, Corporate Director Children & Adults.	<b>Wards affected:</b> All
<b>Contact Officer(s) and contact details:</b>	Martin Smith, Sport, Outdoor Learning and Adventure Services Manager 0115 947 6202 martin.smith@collegest.org.uk	
<b>Other officers who have provided input:</b>		
<b>Relevant Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) objectives(s):</b>		
<b>Stronger safeguarding</b> – 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.		
<b>Healthy living</b> – With a key focus on increasing the proportion of children and young people who have a healthy weight.		X
<b>Reducing substance misuse</b> – 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.		
<b>Raising attainment</b> – Raising the attainment levels and increasing engagement in employment, education and training.		X
<b>Improving attendance</b> – Improving rates of attendance at both Primary and Secondary as a key foundation of improving outcomes.		X
<b>Summary of issues (including benefits to customers/service users):</b>		
<p>Exposure to a broad range of experiences both within the family, school and other non-school settings directly relate to a young person's life chances and personal development. Recent research has shown that cultural, sporting and other outdoor activities contribute to the development of character and resilience, which in turn directly influences social mobility, learning and skill development.</p> <p>Nottingham provides many opportunities for young people to broaden their horizons, however, the pathways to these opportunities are often unclear. In response to this and the desire to help young people achieve their full potential we have developed a simple programme, made up of a series of challenges, that can be used to support and encourage young people to take part in more activities. We would like to see young people challenging schools, other youth settings and their own families to provide opportunities to undertake the programme and contribute to a young person's journey into adulthood.</p> <p>Opportunity Notts provides five levels of challenge for young people aged from 5 – 16. It will be a simple on-line 'tick list' of 'things to do', evidenced through a verbal report to their peers under adult supervision, once they have completed a section. A certificate with a list of their achievements will be issued and there are a number of 'offers' available from organisations and attractions across the City to incentivise progress onto the next section.</p>		

The resulting certificates can be used to illustrate a young person's achievements and by the time they are 16 or 18 would demonstrate to employers or further education establishments their wider achievements in addition to just academic achievement.	
Recommendations:	
1	The Report is noted.

## BACKGROUND AND PROPOSALS

There is a 'growing body of research highlighting how character traits and resilience are directly linked to being able to do well both at school and in the work place.' (Paterson et al, 2014, 'Character and Resilience Manifesto'. All Party Parliamentary Group on Social Mobility)

Recent research and reports have shown that young people who have access to a broad range of experiences engage more readily with learning and develop skills more suited to employer's needs. Extra- curricular activities play a key role. In 2012 the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (1) found a strong and consistent correlation between involvement in school sport and educational attainment, for example (p38). Recent research in the US has also found that team sports made a 'significant and consistent difference to students' academic grades'. Engaging in sport has also been linked to increased education aspirations and commitment to school (p39)

There is also evidence that there are impacts relating to other forms of extra curricular activities including music. It has been reported that being involved in an orchestra had a 'positive impact on children's personal and social development, including increase confidence, self-esteem, team working skills and expanded social networks'.

Further, engagement with the 'outdoors' has been recognised as having a positive effect on non-cognitive skill development and recent research has indicated that 'outdoor adventure programmes are a promising tool to promote the health and well-being of young people'. The need to develop such non-cognitive skills is beginning to gain momentum both within this country and abroad. In fact, even the Singapore Government is reviewing its curriculum. The Minister of Education recently stated that they wanted to make their curriculum more student-centric, to be centred on values and character development. 'Character development is about developing social emotional competencies...Personal values such as grit, determination and resilience enable the individual to realise his or her potential' (2)

Our Service has long recognised the value of engaging young people in a wide range of experiences beyond the classroom and developing some of the personal traits highlighted above. We feel that to broaden young people's horizons is to broaden their minds and it is to this end we have developed 'Opportunity Notts'.

Opportunity Notts brings together a range of progressive real world learning experiences, for young people in Nottingham, that help to broaden their knowledge of themselves, the city they live in and the wider world.

Broadening the horizons and raising the aspirations of the young people and families we work with in Nottingham.

Helping young people feel secure and relaxed in the way we act and the place we live.

Developing healthy lifestyles and helping people make informed lifestyle choices.

Developing the life skills needed to make mature decisions.

Engaging children and young people in learning through broad, balanced and varied experiences.

Making a positive contribution to our neighbourhoods, the city and beyond.

Preparing young people for the world of work.

Being proud of the city we live in.

The programme is a simple 'tick list' of activities for young people to undertake. There are five levels of activity, not necessarily linked to age but which have a progressive theme. They range from 'climbing a tree' and 'rolling down a hill' at the first level to going on to 'learn to play a musical instrument', visit an Art Gallery and raise some money for a 'worthy cause', to taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme. A more detailed outline of the programme is attached to this report.

The activities could be undertaken through families, nurseries, voluntary organisations, schools, youth centres and family and community centres; in fact, any child setting. It is about putting that individual young person first and foremost with everything else being there to facilitate their experience. We hope that young people will begin to ask child settings to undertake such activities.

Many of the experiences are low cost / no cost and involve a huge range of community partners from across the city. Young people will be able to keep their own unique on-line record of progress, which can be 'signed off' by the relevant venue or leader. There will also be recognition of the young person's achievement at each level of progress from the local authority through certificates and other rewards.

It is hoped that for schools, participation in the programme will illustrate their commitment to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum that will contribute towards increased attainment, progress and engagement. Progress through the experiences will lead into many other initiatives that exist across the city for the benefit and development of children and young people.

We have presented the idea to young people, staff and partner organisations across the City and they have all been extremely positive in their feedback.

A more detailed outline is presented in the Annexe.

Cummings et al, 2012, 'Can Changing Aspirations and Attitudes Impact on Educational Attainment? A Review of Interventions, Joseph Rowntree Foundation  
Singapore Ministry of Education, Mr Heng Swee Keat, Minister of Education, Opening Address at the Ministry of Education Work Plan Seminar, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011

## **1. RISKS**

(Risk to the CYPP, risk involved in undertaking the activity and risk involved in not undertaking the activity)

There are only very limited risks with this proposal, only opportunities.

## **2. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Costs currently include the development of the website £10,000, of which £5,000 is funding secured from One Nottingham and the remaining £5,000 has been allocated from within the Sport, Outdoor Learning and Adventure Service Budget.

There is an additional cost of on-going maintenance of the website, Domain name and some officer time identified to support the programme, which can be readily absorbed into the service.

## **3. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

None

## **4. CLIENT GROUP**

(Groups of children, young people or carers who are being discussed in the report)

All young people

## **5. IMPACT ON EQUALITIES ISSUES**

This will be a universal provision, with in built flexibility to allow it to adapt to need.

## **6. OUTCOMES AND PRIORITIES AFFECTED**

The programme will contribute towards developing healthy outcomes for young people by encouraging increased physical activity and linking and signposting to many of the initiatives promoted by the Healthy Schools team and PSHE in general.

By making some sense and raising the profile of the huge number of opportunities available to young people to broaden their horizons we hope the initiative will help improve attendance and contribute to pupil progress and attainment at school.

In providing a wealth of opportunities that impact on character and resilience we hope that the initiative will contribute towards the employability and improved future life chances of young people.

## **7. CONTACT DETAILS**

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