



**Notice of meeting of  
Young People's Working Group**

**To:** Councillors Looker (Chair), Runciman (Vice-Chair), Ayre, Bowgett, Douglas and Aspden

**Date:** Wednesday, 14 April 2010

**Time:** 5.00 pm

**Venue:** The Guildhall, York

**AGENDA**

**1. Declarations of Interest**

At this point Members are asked to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in the business on this agenda.

**2. Minutes** (Pages 5 - 10)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2009.

**3. Public Participation**

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered their wish to speak regarding an item on the agenda or an issue within the Working Group's remit can do so. The deadline for registering is **5:00 pm on Tuesday 13 April 2010**.

**4. Options for the Future of the Children and Young People's Champion** (Pages 11 - 14)

This report invites Members to have an exploratory discussion about the future of the Children and Young People's Champion, now that the present incumbent's term of office has expired. Should Members want to recommend changes, these will be put to the Executive in due course – and ultimately to Full Council, if they involve changes to the constitution.

**5. An update on the York Youth Community Action Pilot** (Pages 15 - 18)

This report provides Members with an update on the new pilot project to promote community volunteering opportunities amongst York's 14-16 year olds.

**6. An oral update on the possibilities for developing Young People's facilities in the City Centre.**

**7. Any other business which the Chair considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972**

Democracy Officer:

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For more information about any of the following please contact the Democracy Officer responsible for servicing this meeting

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
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### **Holding the Executive to Account**

The majority of councillors are not appointed to the Executive (40 out of 47). Any 3 non-Executive councillors can 'call-in' an item of business from a published Executive (or Executive Member Decision Session) agenda. The Executive will still discuss the 'called in' business on the published date and will set out its views for consideration by a specially convened Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC). That SMC meeting will then make its recommendations to the next scheduled Executive meeting in the following week, where a final decision on the 'called-in' business will be made.

### **Scrutiny Committees**

The purpose of all scrutiny and ad-hoc scrutiny committees appointed by the Council is to:

- Monitor the performance and effectiveness of services;
- Review existing policies and assist in the development of new ones, as necessary; and
- Monitor best value continuous service improvement plans

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**MEETING OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORKING GROUP****Agenda item 1: Declarations of interest**

The following Members declared standing personal interests in the items on the agenda.

Councillor Aspden- **Governor of the Danesgate Centre, Fulford Cross**  
**Member of National Union of Teachers**  
**Employee of North Yorkshire County Council**

Councillor Bowgett- **Governor of St Paul's Nursery School**  
**Parent of two children at Millthorpe School**

Councillor Looker- **Governor of Park Grove School,**  
**Governor and Chair of Canon Lee School**

Councillor Runciman- **Governor of Joseph Rowntree School**  
**Governor of New Earswick Primary School**  
**Governor of York College**  
**Trustee of York Theatre Royal**

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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

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MEETING	YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORKING GROUP
DATE	19 OCTOBER 2009
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS RUNCIMAN (VICE-CHAIR), AYRE, BOWGETT, ASPDEN AND ALEXANDER (SUBSTITUTE)
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLORS LOOKER AND DOUGLAS

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#### **8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were invited to declare at this point in the meeting any personal or prejudicial interests they might have in the business on the agenda.

No other declarations were made apart from standing declarations which were attached to the agenda.

#### **9. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

The Chair informed the Committee about recent changes to the membership of the Young People's Working Group following meetings of the Executive and the Full Council.

At their meeting on 8 September 2009, the Executive had appointed Councillor Alexander, Young People's Champion, as a co-opted, non-voting member of the Young Peoples' Working Group.

The Member and Deputy Member of the Youth Parliament for York had been appointed by the Council on 15 October 2009 to join YPWG as co-opted, non voting members.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Young People's Working Group, held on 22 July 2009 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

#### **10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

#### **11. ESTABLISHING A YOUTH COUNCIL IN YORK-AN UPDATE**

Members received a report updating them on the establishment of the new York Youth Council.

Officers reported that the first meeting of the Youth Council had been a success and that most schools had agreed to send two representatives to be part of the Youth Council.

Members asked about the composition and schedule of meetings for the Youth Council. They highlighted the importance of ensuring that young people themselves were involved in determining their training requirements and how these could best be met.

Officers replied that there were currently 28 Youth Councillors and that 25 of these would be attending a residential course where there would be 3 Youth Councillors from other authorities who would be sharing their experiences. They added that the Youth Council was expected to sit every six weeks.

Members suggested that, if possible, the membership of the Youth Council should be widened to include young disabled adults.

Members asked how the Youth Council would contribute to the Council's decision making. The Deputy Member of the Youth Parliament for York, who was in attendance, explained that the Youth Council would meet regularly with the Executive Member for Children and Young People. During the residential course consideration would be given as to the issues on which to campaign.

The Deputy Member spoke about his experience at the annual session of the UK Youth Parliament, which was attached at Annex A on the agenda. He added that the Member of the Youth Parliament for York was going to participate in a debate in the House of Commons on the 30 October 2009. He stated that the Member would be including feedback that he had received from young people at the first meeting of the Youth Council.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

REASON: To establish a Youth Council in York in line with corporate priorities and the views of young people themselves.

## **12. TOWARDS A FESTIVAL OF YOUTH FOR YORK**

Members considered a report regarding initial proposals to develop a Festival of Youth for the City, to be developed with a group of young people drawn from the new Youth Council, subject to securing the necessary funding.

Officers updated Members by telling them that a small working group had begun to meet to discuss the possible development of the festival. They highlighted that the festival had two key aims. Firstly, it would promote the talents of young people in the city. Secondly, the festival would also showcase opportunities available to Young People.

Discussion took place regarding funding for this project. Officers stated that they were looking to attract sponsorship and that they were also considering making a Bid for Growth. Members suggested that education partners be approached for sponsorship or asked to provide stalls to inform young people of the opportunities available to them. Including schools in the marketing and advertising aspect of the event would also raise



awareness of the event and keep costs down. Members suggested that consultation should take place with other voluntary groups, such as uniformed and church groups, to develop the idea of the festival further.

Members asked officers about the subsequent follow up events following a city centre based festival. Officers explained that the idea behind the festival was not that it would be just be a one-day event in the city centre. The festival was about helping young people to access opportunities and activities that were taking place throughout the city. The event in the city centre would act as a signpost to these other opportunities.

- RESOLVED: (i) That the Young People's Working Group supported the planned Young People's Festival in principle, subject to the identification of further funding.
- (ii) That the suggestions put forward, including those relating to funding and promoting the event, be taken on board in the planning of the event.
- (iii) That the Working Group recommended that responsibility for planning the event be handed to the York Youth Council.

- REASONS: (i) To ensure that the Council gives full support to Young People's active participation and to enhance the facilities for Young People's activities in the city.
- (ii) To ensure that all possible options have been considered taking into account Members' local knowledge.
- (iii) To enable the festival to be planned by Young People, for Young People.

### **13. INITIATIVES SUPPORTING INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE- AN UPDATE**

Members received a report on two new initiatives supporting involvement of Children and Young People, "Youth 4 U-Young Inspectors" and "Takeover day".

#### Youth 4 U- Young Inspectors

Officers stated that a co-ordinator had recently been appointed to manage the scheme on behalf of the Council. It was noted that the co-ordinator had worked with the Council and young people in past projects.

Members were informed that the scheme, which involved young people assessing services across the city, was not just going to be confined to Council services but that health partners were keen to be involved alongside the Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust.

Members sought clarification as to how the results of the inspections would be processed. Officers explained that the results of the inspections would be fed back to the services along with an Action Plan for the improvement. A follow up inspection would take place three to four months later.

#### Takeover Day

Officers informed Members that the Takeover Day was the third annual event in York and that a number of schools had signed up. The Lord Mayor was already working with schools, and the Chief Executive would also be participating in this event.

Members sought clarification as to whether there was a mechanism in place whereby schools could communicate with each other regarding their activities for Takeover Day. Officers confirmed that information on Takeover Day was available on the YorOK website, but they would also seek to distribute the information elsewhere.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

REASON: The increased involvement of young people is in line with corporate priorities, and the views of residents and young people themselves.

#### **14. CITY CENTRE FACILITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE-AN UPDATE**

Members received a report, which provided an update on the search for sites and funds to establish enhanced facilities for young people close to the city centre.

#### Myplace

Officers updated Members and stated that they had recently been in discussions regarding the potential of using the proposed site at St Leonard's Hospital as a facility for young people. There had been no consensus on the plans and this was still an ongoing issue. The redevelopment of the central library into an "Explore" centre may provide a lever to encourage others interested in the St Leonard's site to be more willing to support the project.

#### Myplace Now

Officers updated Members by stating that another building on Fossgate had been identified as a possible facility for a youth run café venue. They added that this building was particularly good as it was not located on a busy street and it had big windows which meant that it would appear less threatening. Officers told Members that they had been in discussion with the owner of the building and hoped that they could persuade him to become more involved in the proposal.

Members asked officers about the costs for the project. Officers stated that the purchase of a venue including refurbishment and possible alteration works to make it into a suitable venue for young people could

cost around £50,000 a year. They recommended that the facility should be in place for no less than three years.

Officers reiterated the need for access to resources in relation to the project and stated that it may be possible to bid for funds from the Youth Opportunity Fund. They also suggested that if a building were to be purchased for the project then the possibility of sub-letting a part of it could be explored.

Members welcomed the continuation of the search for a facility for young people but suggested that in order to attract funding, more visual and comparative promotional material should be produced regarding the need for a facility of this kind.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

REASON: Additional investment in youth facilities in the city is in line with corporate priorities, and the views of residents and young people themselves.

Chair

[The meeting started at 5.10 pm and finished at 6.30 pm].

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**Young People's Working Group****14 April 2010**

Report from the Assistant Director, Partnerships and Early Intervention

## **Options for the future of the Children and Young People's Champion**

### **Summary**

1. This report invites Members to have an exploratory discussion about the future of the Children and Young People's Champion, now that the present incumbent's term of office has expired. Should Members want to recommend changes, these will be put to the Executive in due course – and ultimately to Full Council, if they involve changes to the constitution.

### **Background**

2. The post of Champion for Children and Young People for the City of York was established in 2006, through the Constitution of the Council, as a Member appointment. This followed an earlier Scrutiny review which had concluded that young people's opinions were given insufficient weight in decision-making.
3. The first Champion, Cllr Scott, was appointed for a one year term of office during the school year 2006 – 07. 1,600 children and young people were involved in a process of selection that started in April 2006 and was completed during the summer term. The selection process was undertaken through school councils, making use of the annual primary and secondary school council conferences as an opportunity to debate the issues and vote on the candidates. The opportunity to participate was also extended to all secondary schools in the City through a DVD and small resource pack. Four secondary schools involved their wider school community in this way.
4. At the end of Cllr Scott's term of office there was considerable debate at this Working Group about the future of the role and the method of appointment. The case for making the Champion an "independent person", rather than a Councillor, was considered. There were also a number of options for either "selecting" or "electing" the Champion. In the event it was decided to maintain the role as a Member appointment, not least because this is enshrined in the Constitution. A method was devised of staging a kind of hustings event in the Council Chamber at which the two candidates set out their case and answered questions; this was filmed, and the DVD was issued to all schools. A slightly increased number of young people voted compared with the first time and Cllr Alexander was duly elected for a period of two years. This has now expired.

5. Cllr Alexander's appointment has undoubtedly raised the profile of young people's issues within York. He has helped to campaign, amongst other things, for the youth festival which is being planned for the summer, and for the Youth Council with its associated membership of the UK Youth Parliament. These latter roles have rapidly acquired a high profile. However, their arrival has introduced a new dynamic and means it is pertinent to review once again the role of the Champion as an elected Member.

## Consultation

6. We have sought the informal views of some members of the Youth Council in preparing this paper. They have expressed the view that they are unsure about their relationship to the Champion, and that they have a preference for the role, if it continues, to be clearly defined as "non-political". This is not intended as a criticism of the present incumbent.

## Options and Analysis

7. The options are very similar to those that this Group considered in 2007, except that the Youth Council and the Members of the UK Youth Parliament have now arrived on the scene. This paper will briefly set out the options for the nature of the role, and then for the method of appointment if the role continues.
8. There are three main options for the role itself:
  - **No change.** This is the simplest option in terms of short-term mechanics, in that it would not require an amendment to the constitution. However, we would need to organise some sort of election or selection process, with its associated costs, once the General Election is over. If we go for this option, it is suggested that we will need to define more clearly the nature of the role, and its relationship to the Youth Council and to the Executive Member.
  - **An independent person.** Some people have argued that we should look for an independent person to fulfil this role, someone "above politics". The analogy has been drawn with the Children's Commissioner for England. However, it is not clear how we would go about selecting such an individual, especially as we have no budget for advertising, nor for remunerating the individual once appointed. This option would require an amendment to the constitution.
  - **Looking to others to fulfil the Champion role.** Under this option, we would no longer seek an individual Champion from within the ranks of the Council's elected Members. Instead, we would acknowledge the new role played by the Youth Councillors, and especially the Member/Deputy Members of the UK Youth Parliament, in advocating young people's views. We would need to place more emphasis on the Youth Councillors' relationship to the Executive Member, and to members of this Committee (ie, the YPWG). This option would require an amendment to the constitution in due course, but there would not necessarily need to be any rush over this.

9. As the purpose of this paper is to provoke an exploratory discussion, we have stopped short of a recommendation. In fact officers' views are divided on the subject. We do feel that the arrival of the Youth Council has met one of the original aims of the 2005 Scrutiny Committee, ie giving more prominence to young people's views. However, there still arguably needs to be someone (or more than one person) "inside the system" who can help to represent those views at all of the relevant decision-making forums. If not a separate "Champion", this role could be fulfilled by the Executive Member, or by the Director of Adults, Children and Education.
10. A further variant which might appeal to members of the YPWG would be to regard all members of this Committee as *de facto* "Champions" of young people's issues within the Council, with its meetings serving to act as the main conduit for young people to convey their views to Members. The attraction of this option is that it would help to refresh the purpose of the YPWG at the same time.
11. If members nevertheless want to continue to seek a Champion from within the ranks of the elected Members, we will need to organise an election or selection process. The past two Champions have been elected directly by the children and young people of York, although it has to be said that the organisation of the process presented problems on both occasions. It is difficult to find a format that is lively, engaging, fair to all candidates, and workable across over 60 schools and colleges. It is also quite costly to prepare ballot papers, election materials and (if necessary) a DVD – anything up to £5,000 which we can ill afford at the present time.
12. Officers would like to suggest an alternative which was not available on the last two occasions: an election or appointment by members of the Youth Council, who would in effect form an electoral college. This would neatly match the process for the Older Person's Champion, who is appointed by the Older Person's Assembly. The details can be discussed further if the principle is agreed – for example we could run a hustings event in front of the Youth Council, with the ballot taking place immediately afterwards.
13. Such a process would be relatively easy and cheap to set up, and it would have the advantage that there would then be a greater sense of "ownership" of the Champion by the members of the Youth Council. One disadvantage however is that the Youth Council consists only of those over 11, whereas the Champion is intended to represent all children and young people. To overcome this we could contemplate using the Conference of Schools Councils, but this would be much more complicated to organise.
14. Members' views are sought on all of these points.

### **Corporate Priorities**

15. The issues discussed in this paper are consistent with the Council's objectives to encourage children and young people to become active citizens, and to consult them about decisions that affect them.

## Implications

16. Depending on whether Members want to continue with the Champion role in its present form, and (if so) the method agreed for selecting him or her, costs will be incurred of around £5,000. There is no specific budget for this **financial** implication; the costs would have to be borne by Young People's Services.
17. There are no **Human Resources, Equalities, Crime and Disorder, IT or Property** Implications.
18. Some of the options would require an amendment to the Council's constitution in due course (ie a **legal** implication) – this will need further consideration.

## Risk Management

19. There are no specific risks associated with this report.

## Recommendations

20. That the Young People's Working Group discuss the options identified in this report for changing or maintaining the Champion role, and for electing or selecting an individual to fulfil it. The outcome of the discussions may need to be forwarded to the Executive for a decision.

*Reason: To ensure young people's views are taken into account in Council decision-making.*

## Contact Details

### Author:

Paul Murphy  
Assistant Director,  
Adults, Children and Education  
Tel No. 554203

### Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Paul Murphy  
Assistant Director, Partnerships & Early Intervention  
Adults, Children and Education  
Tel No. 554203

Report Approved  Yes  Date 5 April 2010

### Wards Affected:

All



**For further information please contact the author of the report**

### Background Papers:

Previous YPWG discussions on this topic, especially at the meeting of 12 July 2007

**Annexes:** None





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**Young People's Working Group****14 April 2010**

Report from the Assistant Director, Partnerships and Early Intervention

**York Youth Community Action Pilot****Summary**

1. This report provides Members with an update on the new pilot project to promote community volunteering opportunities amongst York's 14-16 year olds.

**Background and Progress**

2. Following a comprehensive application process in December 2009, the City of York was selected as one of five national pilots to develop 'Community Action' (volunteering) amongst 14-16 year olds, for a defined period up until March 2011. The pilot, which is fully funded by the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), aims to test methods of engagement and ways of delivering volunteering opportunities for 14-16 year olds throughout the city. York's Youth Community Action pilot is managed by the City of York Council in partnership with York Council for Voluntary Service and York Cares. The Secretary of State for Children and Families formally launched the Pilot at an event, attended by two of York's 14-16 year old volunteers, in London on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.
3. The DCSF have awarded York a total of £1.38 million for the pilot. Three full time officers have been appointed to work on it: a project manager within the Council, and two volunteering co-ordinators within York CVS and York Cares.
4. Half of the pilot funding, £695,000, will be distributed directly to a wide range of organisations and individuals (including statutory organisations), to fund the delivery of volunteering opportunities in the heart of the community during the pilot period. Organisations and individuals have been invited to bid for funding support in three rounds of grant funding. Since 19 February 2010, Round One funding applications have been invited from groups who can deliver

volunteering opportunities for 14-16 year olds. Round One closed on Friday 19 March and were scrutinised by a multi-agency Assessment Panel on 9 April. Recommendations were put to the Executive Member at her meeting on 13 April, and an oral update can be provided to the YPWG.

5. In view of the very short timescale for application in Round One, any applications that miss the Round One deadline will be put forward automatically for consideration in Round Two, which closes for applications at 12.00 noon on Friday 16 April 2010. Round three will close at 12 noon on Friday 27 August 2010.
6. Young people are also being invited to apply for funding for volunteering projects of their own design. These bids will be accepted at any time and will be assessed through a rolling programme of assessment. The engagement of young people is essential to the success of this project and a YorkKash type panel of young people will be asked to assess and approve young people's bids.

### **Consultation**

7. Widespread consultation was undertaken, both internally and externally, during the development the original application to the DCSF. Consultation confirmed support for the development of a grant fund that would enable a wide range of organisations to apply to help deliver the objectives of the pilot and generate a variety of volunteering opportunities for young people.
8. Round One of the grant fund has been advertised widely via existing networks and in the local media. The advertising included full page adverts in the York Press on three occasions and featured on the home page of City of York Council website. During the course of the pilot the fund will also feature in adverts on Minster FM, Vue Cinema and Local Link. All of this marketing activity is fully funded by the DCSF grant. Organisations have been invited to apply for funding to deliver volunteering projects in which young people 'define and engage in community actions which matter to them, with demonstrable impacts in their school/community'.
9. Now that the project is under way, we are in the process of devising a medium-term engagement strategy for young people, which is likely to involve the Youth Council as a conduit (with their consent). We can discuss our ideas at the meeting.

## Options and Analysis

10. This report is for information; however, Members' views on the project would be welcome, especially as to:

- ways to encourage the development of new volunteering opportunities;
- links to local communities, for example via Ward Committees.

## Corporate Priorities

11. The activities that will take place within the Youth Community Action Pilot will contribute to the following LAA targets:

- NI 6 – Participation in regular volunteering (Inclusive City)
- NI 7 – Environment for a thriving Third Sector (Inclusive City)
- NI 110 – Young Peoples Participation in Positive Activities (City of Culture)

The pilot will also contribute to many of the priorities of York's Children and Young People's Plan 2009-2012, specifically with reference to 'Making a Positive Contribution'.

## Implications

- **Financial** The DCSF have awarded York's Youth Community Action Pilot a total of £1.38 million and have approved a budget breakdown in which £695,000 of revenue funding will be distributed to partners/deliverers.
- **Human Resources (HR)** There are no human resources implications. Project staff have been recruited in line with delegated authority within the Directorate.
- **Equalities** The project will engage with a minimum of 90% of the 4,774 14-16 year olds in York. The project is committed to providing opportunities for young people who are hard to reach, including those who are disabled or identified as in need of additional services.
- **Legal** None identified.
- **Crime and Disorder Information Technology (IT)** No implications

- **Property No Implications**

### **Risk Management**

12. The project has an active risk log that is regularly reviewed and updated. Financial risks will be managed through a rigorous assessment of bids, strict financial review and quarterly monitoring. Risks to individuals will be managed through risk assessments undertaken by groups organising the activities. This will be reviewed using the experience of Schools' and CYC H&S officers.

### **Recommendations**

13. That the Young People's Working Group note this update report, lend their support to the Youth Community Action Pilot, and comment as they wish.

*Reason: The project is in line with our corporate priorities, and represents a marvellous opportunity for York.*

### **Contact Details**

#### **Author:**

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#### **Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

Paul Murphy  
Assistant Director, Partnerships &  
Early Intervention  
Adults, Children and Education  
Tel No. 554203

**Report  
Approved**

Yes

**Date**

5 April 2010

**Wards Affected:**

**All**

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers:** None

**Annexes:** None