



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

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

**Date:** Monday, 18 October 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 3 - 8)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2010.

**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 Friday 15 October**.

**4. Reflections on the first year of operation of the York Youth Council and the first Festival of Youth** (Pages 9 - 12)

This report allows members of the Young People's Working Group (YPWG) the opportunity to reflect further on the first year's operation of the York Youth Council and, in particular, on the first Festival of Youth last summer.

**5. Developing Young People's Involvement in Decision Making in York** (Pages 13 - 16)

This report invites members of the Young People's Working Group (YPWG) to review young people's involvement in decision-making processes in the City of York, and to debate possible future developments. It will be supplemented by an oral presentation. In particular we will be inviting members to discuss the idea of "change champions", as an evolution of the ideas debated at previous meetings of YPWG.

**6. Disabled Young People's Involvement (Junior A Team)** (Pages 17 - 20)

This report invites members of the Young People's Working Group to have exploratory discussions with representatives from the Youth Council about how to enable disabled young people to share their views and concerns with Members. The Junior A Team will also give an informal presentation and invite discussion about their proposal.

**7. Challenging negative media images of Young People**

This item will be presented to the Young People's Working Group orally, and as such there are no associated papers with the item.

**8. 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
- Copies of reports



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### **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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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

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MEETING	YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORKING GROUP
DATE	21 JULY 2010
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS LOOKER (CHAIR), RUNCIMAN (VICE-CHAIR), AYRE, BOWGETT AND PIERCE
IN ATTENDANCE	REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE YOUTH COUNCIL AND YOUNG INSPECTORS
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLOR ASPDEN

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### 1. **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 interests were declared other than those detailed in the standard declarations of interest for the group.

### 2. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Young People's Working Group held on 14 April 2010 be approved and signed by the Chair.

### 3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/OTHER SPEAKERS**

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak under the council's Public Participation Scheme. Councillor Alexander had registered to speak on the role of Children and Young People's Champion (minute 4 refers) but was now unable to attend the meeting. Copies of a written statement from Councillor Alexander were circulated and the comments noted.

### 4. **CHAMPIONING THE VIEWS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE: A POSSIBLE WAY FORWARD**

Members received a report that took forward the discussion at the previous meeting about the future of the Children and Young People's Champion, and of the Working Group, in the light of recent developments such as the establishment of the Youth Council. The report recommended that *all* members of the Working Group became "champions" of young people's views and interests; and that the Group's remit be revised to establish its primary role as being a conduit for such views.

It was noted that the Executive Member for Children and Young People had legal responsibilities to champion the rights of children and young people. It was therefore proposed that a recommendation be made that

the Executive Member's portfolio responsibilities be extended to include presenting an annual report to full Council. The report would be prepared jointly with the Youth Council.

The views of the Youth Council representatives were sought on this issue. They explained that the Youth Council had discussed the matter at a recent meeting and had put forward the following suggestions:

- Members of the Youth Council did not have the time available to make representation directly to Council or its committees but they did want to have a route to ensure that their views were heard. They had suggested that this could be done via their attendance at the Young People's Working Group. Issues that they raised could then be taken back by Members to the relevant committee or body.
- The Youth Council was aware that it did not currently represent the views of primary school aged children or of the under fives. To address this issue the Youth Council was offering to facilitate consultation with younger children, perhaps on a termly basis.
- The Youth Council would welcome the opportunity to have an input in council policies and had asked if it would be possible for copies of reports to be forwarded to them for consideration.

Members welcomed the Youth Council's proposal that they would facilitate consultation with younger children but highlighted specific challenges that may arise in consulting with the under-fives. It was suggested that advice be sought from early years specialists on this matter. Members confirmed that they would be willing to attend the consultation events facilitated by the Youth Council.

Discussion took place regarding the Youth Council's request that they receive copies of council reports. Whilst Members commended the Youth Council on their interest in having an opportunity to comment on council policies they explained that, in view of the volume of reports and the timescales involved, this might prove to be unmanageable. The report writing protocol required report authors to identify any equalities implications and, as age was one of the equality strands, this should highlight issues that would impact on children and young people. Officers agreed to reflect on other ways to ensure that young people were given the opportunity to give their views on matters that might affect them, without overwhelming them with paperwork.

It was suggested that, in particular, copies of those reports on which the Social Inclusion Working Group (SIWG) were consulted should be forwarded to the Youth Council for their consideration. Whilst it was acknowledged that the Youth Council representatives did not have the time available to attend SIWG meetings, it would nevertheless be very helpful to have their input on issues considered by the group.

RESOLVED: (i) That it be recommended that the remit of the Young People's Working Group be as detailed in minute annex 1.

- (ii) That it be recommended that the council's Constitution be amended to include a requirement for the Executive Member for Children and Young People to present to council on an annual basis a report jointly produced with the Youth Council.
- (iii) That, in view of the recommended changes to the remit of the Children and Young People's Working Group, it be recommended that the position of Children and Young People's Champion remain vacant at this time but that the position should be retained in the Constitution and the situation reviewed once the pilot arrangements had been trialled.
- (iv) That the Youth Council be included as a consultee in respect of reports and Equality Impact Assessments that might affect them, particularly those considered by the Social Inclusion Working Group.

REASON: To ensure young people's views are taken into account in council decision-making.

## **5. YOUNG PEOPLE'S INVOLVEMENT**

Members received a report that invited them to have exploratory discussions with representatives from the Youth Council about issues that were a priority for young people at this time.

Representatives from the Youth Council brought the following issues to Members' attention:

### **Political Education**

A copy of a toolkit entitled "Future Decision Makers" was circulated. The training resource had been produced by the Youth Council and Youth Parliament for use in secondary schools. Members were asked for their help in promoting the resource in schools.

Members congratulated the representatives from the Youth Council on this excellent piece of work and offered their support by agreeing to raise awareness of the resource. Officers also offered their support in promoting the toolkit.

### **Funding the Youth Council**

Members' attention was drawn to the uncertainty regarding funding for the Youth Council from April 2011 onwards. It was noted that the funding for staffing from "Take Part" would cease in 2011. In addition to staffing, money was needed to fund residential activities, running costs for meetings and funds to attend regional meetings of UKYP.

The representatives from the Youth Council asked if it would be possible to use the facilities at the Explore centre without charge. They would wish to

use the building, on a Wednesday evening if possible, to hold Youth Council and campaign group meetings.

Members paid tribute to the way in which the Youth Council was working and the contribution that it was making to ensure that young people had a say in decision making. Concerns were expressed at the impact that the loss of funding may have on the group; however, it was not possible to offer certainty about any Council funded programmes from 2011 onwards. The position would be clearer in the Autumn. Meanwhile, officers agreed to look into the possibility of making the Explore centre available to the Youth Council as a contribution in kind. The Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion would also follow this up.

### **City Centre Building**

An update was given on the city centre building project to provide a place for young people to socialise. Members were delighted to hear that good progress had been made and that an application for change of use had been made in respect of the building. Details were given of the fundraising that was taking place. Members congratulated those involved on having already raised £54k. Requests had been made for ward funding and for contributions from parish councils. Members suggested that Youth Council representatives should attend ward committee meetings to explain more about the project and how it would benefit young people in all parts of the city, not just those in the Guildhall Ward. Discussion took place as to charities and businesses that could be approached to seek donations. Details of the Twitter account for the youth café were circulated ([twitter.com/youthcafe4york](https://twitter.com/youthcafe4york)).

### **Social Networking**

Details were given of a request by the Youth Council to make use of opportunities presented by Social Networking Sites and in particular Facebook. The Youth Council had worked with council officers to develop a framework detailing how they would wish to use social networking sites. The framework was included as Annex A of the report. At the request of Members, details were given of the safeguards that would be in place and of the way content would be moderated.

- RESOLVED: (i) That the comments made by the representatives of the Youth Council be noted.
- (ii) That Members would seek to promote awareness of the training pack on democracy.
- (iii) That Officers would explore the possibility of Youth Council representatives being invited to give a presentation on the training pack at a meeting of heads or deputy heads during the autumn term.
- (iv) That the concerns regarding future funding for the Youth Council be brought to the attention of the Executive.

- (v) That the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion explore the request from the Youth Council regarding the use of facilities at the explore centre.
- (vi) That the framework detailing how the Youth Council planned to use social networking sites be endorsed.

REASON: To ensure young people's views are taken into account in council decision-making.

The Youth Council representatives were thanked for their attendance at the meeting and for the contribution that they had made.

## **6. PRESENTATION BY THE YOUNG INSPECTORS**

Two of the young people who were taking part in the Young Inspectors programme gave an oral presentation to Members. They explained that this was a pilot programme that had been set up by the Department for Education to enable young people to inspect local services and activities and have a voice in assessing these services.

Details were given of an inspection that the Young Inspectors had carried out at a community centre. They explained how they reported on their findings and how they would be revisiting places they had inspected to assess whether their recommendations had been actioned. Future inspections would include Energise Sports Centre and Yearsley Swimming Pool.

The Young Inspectors answered Members' questions about the programme and the way in which they carried out their inspections.

Members thanked the Young Inspectors for attending the meeting and wished them well with the programme. The Inspectors agreed to attend a future meeting in order to provide an update on their work.

RESOLVED: That the Young Inspectors be invited to attend the meeting on 17 January 2011 in order to provide an update on their work.

REASON: To ensure Members are kept informed of the progress of the programme.

Councillor J Looker, Chair

[The meeting started at 6.00 pm and finished at 7.40 pm].

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**Young People's Working Group****18 October 2010**

Report from the Assistant Director, Partnerships and Early Intervention

**Reflections on the first year's operation of the York Youth Council and the first Festival of Youth****Summary**

1. This report allows members of the Young People's Working Group (YPWG) the opportunity to reflect further on the first year's operation of the York Youth Council and, in particular, on the first Festival of Youth last summer. Assuming we are able to maintain these initiatives into 2011, members' views and advice can be taken into account.

**Background and Consultation**

2. York has had a Youth Council for just over a year: the first meeting was held on 13 October 2009. Fourteen schools, one youth centre and both colleges in York sent representatives. In all, thirty-two young people were involved in York Youth Council in the first year.
3. Full Youth Council meetings have been held every six weeks in the Guildhall. The full day meetings allowed local service providers to discuss issues with young people. In the first 12 months the Youth Council has:
  - developed a questionnaire about safer cycling in the city,
  - campaigned to extend the ages of the YorZone card,
  - worked to develop good practice and safety guidance for working with young people online, and
  - contributed to the development of the Climate Action Plan, Child Poverty Strategy, Involvement Strategy, Neighbourhood Policing, 0 – 19 Health Provision and Equalities Strategy.
4. The Youth Council planned and ran the first Festival of Youth in Rowntree Park over the weekend of the 26/27<sup>th</sup> June 2010. It involved 30 different acts, 18 stalls promoting activities available to young people, 8 different workshops available for people to take part in and 248 young people as event operatives, performers and stall holders. We estimate that there was an audience of around 1500 people over the course of the 2 days. Audience turnout on the Sunday was low as it was also an England World Cup match.
5. In addition, as reported at the last meeting of YPWG, York Youth Council has supported York Young People's Trust who are trying to establish a city centre

venue for young people. They have been fundraising for the facility – through a sponsored event and a non-uniform day at school. They have written to all the ward committees to ask for grant funding for the project and will be attending the next round of ward committee meetings.

6. Being part of the Youth Council has enabled the Youth Councillors to develop skills and knowledge, which will help them in the future. Twenty six AQA Awards have been gained. Feedback from those involved in the Council has been very positive; however, there is always scope for improvement, and this is reflected in the next section, which reflects consultation with members of the Youth Council

## **Options and Analysis**

### **Youth Council**

7. Feedback from the young people involved in the first year of the York Youth Council will lead to modifications in the way it will operate in the second year. The six weekly meetings of the Youth Council will take place on a Wednesday evening in the Council Chamber. This will hopefully enable professionals to attend meetings and talk with the Youth Council. It has been difficult to get service providers to attend Youth Council meetings at the weekend.
8. There will be weekly campaigns sub-group meetings between the full Youth Council meetings. These meetings will be open to young people to join and be part of the campaigns. This will allow more young people to be involved in the campaigns and work of the Youth Council.
9. The Youth Council will continue to work with its constituents through schools, colleges and youth centres. It also will facilitate meetings of the Change Champions to help young people aged 5 – 18 to work with the Children and Young People's Champions to improve York through agreed action plans – this new idea is covered in more detail in a separate paper.

### **Festival of Youth**

10. Following this year's event, a debrief session was held with the Youth Council planning subgroup, which considered the responses from those who had participated and sent back the evaluation questionnaire (17 responses) as well as the experience of the young people over the weekend. This meeting identified the following areas for improvement if the Festival is to happen again:
  - More needs to be invested in publicity prior to the event.
  - A programme on site would have been helpful (and could have generated income).
  - The event should just be over one day.
  - A more City Centre location might be better - possibly the Museum Gardens.
  - It would be good to have more participation from sports groups showing sports activities that are available to young people.
  - Some key arts providers were not represented at the event.

- There needs to be more co-ordination with similar events (school music festival, best of the bands, just 30/open weekend) and a more joined up approach.
  - A longer planning lead in would enable more cross department/ directorate planning and potentially broaden participation by groups.
11. Members of the Youth Council are realistic enough to consider that there are unlikely to be the resources available to hold another Festival of Youth in 2011 as a stand alone event. The 2010 Festival cost just under £10,000.
12. However, the Youth Councillors are keen to explore the option of linking to the “Just 30” event as this would offer the opportunity to join with the sporting providers to encourage more young people who might be involved with the Festival of Youth to get involved or find out about sporting opportunities in the City. The only concern is that it happens after the end of term, which will mean it is unlikely that many schools will participate.
13. They realise that they might need to raise some additional funds - they are looking at funding bids to the National Lottery Awards for All, and identifying other possible funding sources. If they are unable to gain funding then the event would probably not be possible. Youth Councillors are also fund raising for the City Centre Youth café – and, if they had to choose between the two, would want the latter to take priority.

## **Corporate Priorities**

14. 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. Establishing a Youth Council and a Festival of Youth were specific objectives in York’s Children and Young People’s Plan.

## **Implications**

15. **Financial implications:** The continuation of the Youth Council will only be possible with some financial support. Resources are needed to hold meetings, for staff support and the training residential. Young People attend regional and national meetings of the UKYP. In addition, in their review of the first year’s work, it was noted that young people felt the Youth Council wasn’t well known. More time and resources ideally need to be spent on publicising the Youth Council, its work, and encouraging more young people to get involved.
16. That said, it is not possible to fully assess the financial implications in advance of understanding the outcome of the comprehensive spending review. Clearly the cost of supporting the Youth Council would have to come out of the base budget for Young People’s Services. A further report on this will be reported to the next meeting of YPWG when the overall context is clearer.
17. The financial implications of the Youth Festival were noted in paragraphs 11-13 above.

18. There are no Human Resources, Equalities, Crime and Disorder, IT or Property Implications; however, it should be noted that neither the Youth Council nor the Festival can take place without dedicated officer support.

### **Risk Management**

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

### **Recommendations**

20. That the Young People's Working Group discuss the issues identified in this report and support the continued development of the Youth Council and its activities.

Reason: To ensure the views of young people are taken into account in Council decision-making.

### **Contact Details**

#### **Authors:**

Sarah Nicholson and Carole Pugh  
Voice and Influence Coordinators  
Tel: 552355/552358

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

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

Report Approved  Date 5-10-10

#### **Wards Affected:**

All



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

**Background Papers:** None



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**Young People's Working Group****18 October 2010**

Report from the Assistant Director, Partnerships and Early Intervention

**Developing Young People's Involvement in Decision-making in York****Summary**

1. This report invites members of the Young People's Working Group (YPWG) to review young people's involvement in decision-making processes in the City of York, and to debate possible future developments. It will be supplemented by an oral presentation. In particular we will be inviting members to discuss the idea of "change champions", as an evolution of the ideas debated at previous meetings of YPWG.
2. A separate agenda item will recommend a complementary mechanism for the greater involvement of disabled young people in decision-making.

**Background and Consultation**

3. York has historically used a number of methods to engage with young people. The Take Part York project, which has run from March 2009 and will finish in March 2011, has allowed a range of materials and techniques to be developed. This has developed young people's involvement in local structures and has highlighted the need for different professionals to work together.
4. Currently there are a number of valuable initiatives taking place across the city aimed at encouraging pupils to become "active citizens", including:
  - Two annual School Council conferences, one for primary schools and one for secondary schools. These are well attended;
  - Take Part York working with schools and Ward Committees;
  - York Youth Council;
  - Healthy Schools Award;
  - Food For Life Partnership;
  - Sustainable Schools-Participation;
  - Citizenship Curriculum in schools.

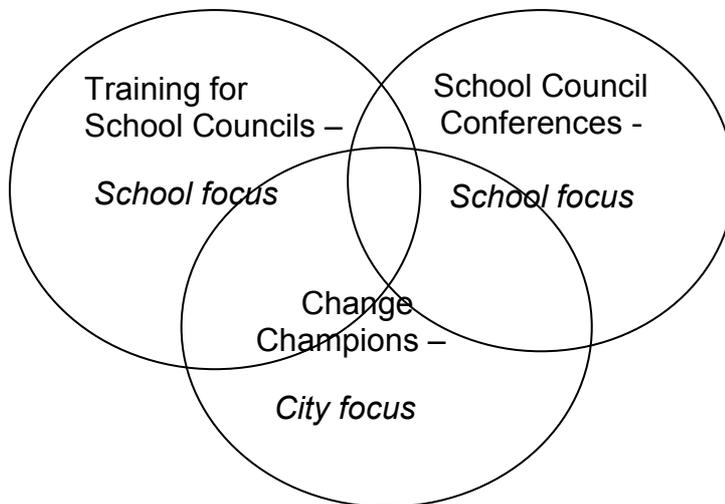
We believe there is now scope to coordinate better the range of such involvement activities across the city. The ideas in this paper have been discussed at the York Youth Council and their views have been incorporated.

## Options and Analysis

5. A coordinated strategy for Pupil Voice across schools and the city would be beneficial to enhance the quality of provision and focus the purpose of school councils within their settings and communities. In officers' view, supported by members of the Youth Council, there are three key elements that could form such a Pupil Voice Strategy:

- Training for those involved with school council/change champions' work.
- School Councils/School Council Conferences (Secondary and Primary)
- Change Champions

This can be represented diagrammatically as follows:



Each aspect of the strategy links together but delivers a different purpose.

6. In a little more detail, our emerging proposals for training for school councils envisage:

- developing participants' communication skills, confidence and working as part of a team;
- developing facilitation skills to allow information to be gathered by representatives of young people;
- learning how local and national democracy works, and how to be heard effectively;
- giving school councils a clear focus;
- developing high quality school council/pupil voice activity across the city as "Future Decision Makers";
- School Councils becoming the "school champions".

7. We see the role of School Conferences as:

- Bringing together the school councils and change champions at an annual celebration of all best practice;
- A training opportunity;

- A chance to evaluate current stage of development and to develop an action plan for future development;
  - Schools sharing information and working together on national school initiatives.
8. To this existing mix we would like to introduce the idea of change champions to:
- Bring the voice of primary and secondary school pupils together;
  - Agree common issues in York that need addressing;
  - Enable schools, pupils and local service providers work together to solve issues;
  - Create a joint action plan, to be monitored through the YPWG.
9. In more detail, our emerging plans for “Change Champions” envisage a process whereby representatives of primary school councils and the Youth Council can be brought together once or twice a year, alongside elected members from YPWG and other decision makers, to debate topics of importance to young people. We would employ established “planning for real” techniques to filter the topics, collate them where necessary, and then ensure that any agreed actions were turned into a meaningful action plan that can be monitored through YPWG.
10. As we will explain in more detail at the meeting, our ideas are still at a relatively early stage and may need to be piloted in the first instance; their implementation will, inevitably, be subject to resource constraints. However, within these caveats, we believe that the idea of “Change Champions” is a logical progression from the debate at the last YPWG about the best way to ensure that decision makers their age, take all young people’s views, whatever into account. If elected Members of YPWG can spare the time to attend the joint meetings of primary and secondary age pupils, this would further enhance the connectivity between young people and the Council.

### **Corporate Priorities**

11. 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**

12. **Financial** implications: these are still being assessed, but would consist mainly of the costs of hiring Conference facilities for any additional meetings, plus any refreshments. Such costs would need to be absorbed within the base budget for Young People’s Services, which of course will itself have to wait until the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review is known.
13. There are no Human Resources, Equalities, Crime and Disorder, IT or Property Implications.

### **Risk Management**

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

## Recommendations

15. That the Young People's Working Group discuss the issues identified in this report and support the notion of "Change Champions" as a means of bringing together young people of all ages with decision makers and elected members.

Reason: To ensure the views of young people are taken into account in Council decision-making.

## Contact Details

### Author:

Sarah Nicholson  
Voice and Influence Coordinator

Tel: 552355

### Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

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

Report Approved  Date 5-10-10

### Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None



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**Young People's Working Group****18 October 2010**

Report from the Assistant Director, Partnerships and Early Intervention

**Disabled Young People's Involvement****Summary**

1. This report invites members of the Young People's Working Group to have exploratory discussions with representatives from the Youth Council about how to enable disabled young people to share their views and concerns with Members. The Junior A Team will also give an informal presentation and invite discussion about their proposal.

**Background**

2. The needs of all young people are at the heart of the Children and Young People's Plan. Planning effective services for vulnerable young people, particularly disabled young people is a measure of the success of the council and a core ingredient of a cohesive, caring community. Effective planning is grounded in consultation and engagement with young people, leading to an understanding the issues these young people face.
3. In order to support this process the Head of Integrated Services for Disabled Children and two young people would like propose that the newly formed A team offer to become an Advisory Team that councillors are able to meet and talk with informally on a regular basis. The Show Me That I Matter Panel offers a model that would work well with disabled young people.
4. Members of the Young People's Working Group (YPWG) and Youth Council may like to discuss the merits of this proposal and the benefits that this would bring for themselves and the young people.

**Topics for Discussion**

5. Listed below are some issues for consideration.
6. **Participation of disabled young people**
  - Participation of young people in decision-making is identified as a priority within the Children and Young People's plan.
  - Young people are represented through the Youth Council and this includes some disabled young people. Some may therefore argue that there is no need for a specialist group of disabled young people to consult with.

- However, many disabled young people benefit from significant support to facilitate understanding and enable them to consider issues and voice their views. It is difficult to achieve this effectively within limited timeframes within existing groups.
- There are two disabled young people who are currently members of the Youth Council. While this is very much to be commended, these two young people do not represent a wider population of young people from mainstream as well as special schools. It would be helpful for a broader group to be consulted with for Members to gain an understanding of the complexity of issues around disability.
- The Youth Council considers issues for all young people and this means that disability specific issues are unlikely to be on the agenda very often.
- The Speak Up, Meet Up group is run very successfully by one of the specialist teachers to support disabled young people who have a physical impairment to share their views and provide peer support for young people in mainstream schools. We would like to replicate this work of this group with young people with the whole range of impairments, particularly those with a learning difficulty, to enable their needs to be met with specialist support.
- The good practice evidenced in the Show Me That I Matter Panel has led to increased understanding of the needs of young people who are Looked After. It encourages active engagement and political awareness. This proposal would allow Members to offer the same opportunities for disabled young people.
- The A Team is currently run by Talkback in conjunction with Young People Services. Talkback is a self-advocacy organisation, whose role is to support young people and adults with learning difficulties to express their views with confidence: “to say a real ‘Yes’ and a real ‘No’.”
- Talkback work extensively with adults to support them to participate in the Valuing People Partnership Board, which, with multi agency professionals, makes decisions about services for adults with learning difficulties. By engaging with Talkback, we are providing increased learning about the very pressured time of transition from children’s services to adult services, for both young people and Talkback.
- Ownership of this group by Young People Services locates responsibility for supporting the voice of disabled young people within universal services. Young People’s Services have a wealth of experience and skill in enabling participation and this can valuably support this group.
- The proposal is to start with a small group and gradually build up the group to about 10-15 members, who would discuss issues and then elect representatives to meet with Members four or five times a year.

## **Corporate Priorities**

- 9 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**

10. **Financial** implications: The A Team is currently funded through two sources. Aiming High for Disabled Children, Transition grant funds the commissioned

work of Talkback. This funding finishes at the end of March 2011. A small bid has been submitted to the Valuing People Partnership Board, VPPB, to support the transport and meeting costs of the group. A larger bid will be submitted shortly to the VPPB to support continued participation of young people with learning difficulties in transition. One aspect of this would be to continue the work of Talkback.

It is hoped that the support from Young People's Services will continue as part of the base budget beyond March 2011.

11. **Human Resources** implication: none immediately.
12. There are no **Crime and Disorder, IT or Property** Implications. This proposal fulfils the requirements of the **Disability Discrimination Act** amendments 2005 and **Single Equalities Bill 2010**. The provision of the A team arrangements will provide enhanced support and more time for disabled young people to understand issues and to be able to voice their views. These proactive arrangements fulfil the need for Local Authorities to provide 'reasonable adjustments' and 'positive discrimination where necessary', resulting in an equality of opportunity for disabled young people.

### **Risk Management**

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

### **Recommendations**

14. That the Young People's Working Group discuss the issues identified in this report and support the role of the A team, engaging with them four to five times a year.

Reason: To ensure the views of disabled young people are taken into account in Council decision-making.

### **Contact Details**

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**Wards Affected:**

All



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

**Background Papers:** None

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