

Report from the Assistant Director, Partnerships and Early Intervention

11 Million Takeover Day

Summary

1. This report sets out the key aims of the 11 Million Takeover Day and how the Takeover Day will be planned in York so that organisations can fully involve children and young people. This is a great opportunity for a wide range of organisations in York including, local businesses and the Police as well as City of York Council (CYC) to take part in Takeover events.
2. Co-ordination, information and marketing for the day will be led by CYC Young Peoples Service but there will be an emphasis on host organisations being responsible for their own planning of activities with young people.

Background

3. The Children's Commissioner for England, Professor Sir Al Aynsley-Green is calling on England's leading institutions and organisations to celebrate the importance of children and young people in our society. Friday 7th November has as a result been named as '11 Million Takeover Day' – the day when the 11 Million children and young people in this country are invited to 'takeover' businesses, schools, councils and be consultants to organisations who provide services for children.
4. The aims of the day are to hear the voice of children and young people, enabling them to give ideas, ask for changes and improvements, involving them in making decisions that will affect them (including budgeting and spending) and help them see the broader issues when decisions are made on their behalf.
5. The first Takeover Day took place in November 2007. Overall the event in York was successful with a large number of young people and schools being involved in events which included, Shadowing Councillors, Shadowing Senior Officers, Shadowing the Lord Mayor. Pupils in local schools also took part by shadowing their head teachers

6. Events were planned in a way which meant that young peoples involvement had an ongoing effect and contribution. The main lessons from the day were:
 - Make the event more of a collective priority. This would enable more resources to be allocated to the planning of the day and enable greater opportunities for children and young people;
 - Develop a key focal point for the day. This would follow from making the day more of a priority.
7. To ensure the event this year runs smoothly the Young Peoples Service is taking a coordinating role supported by a working group of officers from SIDS, Neighbourhood Management Unit and CVS V Project.
8. The event is to be run over the week which includes Friday 7th November. This will mean events can be spread out during that week with a subsequent reduced peak demand on resources.
9. Information about the event, ways in which children and young people can be involved, ways in which organisations (including business's) can be involved will be prepared and distributed prior to the end of this summer school term. Information is to be included in 'Schools Out'.
10. A number of different ways are being developed in which children and young people can be involved in the event;
 - As part of the event, young people will shadow the executive member for children's services for a day. This day (22 October) will coincide with the next scheduled meeting of the Young People's Working Group. This will therefore be an opportunity for young people to be part of that meeting and discuss issues including –for example the role of the Children and Young People's Champion and the development of the Children and Young Peoples plan;
 - As a key-note event, a conference for Primary Schools Councils is being arranged for 7th November by pupils from a York Primary school;
 - Children and young people could be involved in meeting with city councillors through one of the relevant council meetings. The meeting could be adapted to make it more suitable for children and young people;
 - Shadowing opportunities for children and young people will be arranged, shadowing Councillors, Head teachers, Senior Officers and others;
 - Discussions are underway to arrange shadowing opportunities with the Police and, other key agencies and business through partners such as NYBEP and York Cares;
 - The Neighbourhood Management Unit will develop plans about how young people can be involved in planning in their area, linking with the local ward councillors;
 - Mystery shopping finding out how children and young people are treated within services in the city;
 - Youth Workers and Intensive Support workers will ask every adult or young person they worked with on 7 November "What could I have done better for you today?" Listening to service users and what as a result of their feedback has changed in their service;

- CANDI (the local parents group for parents of children with additional needs) have undertaken a consultation and one of the main things that was requested was the opportunity for children with disabilities to have more fun things to do. On 11 Million Takeover Day ask parent/ carers with children with disabilities and / or additional needs to tell them one fun thing they would like to do and the team will do their best to try and help them achieve it.

Consultation

11. The Police, CVS and relevant individuals within the City of York Council have been contacted about how they can participate in the Takeover Week. The involvement of businesses will take place through NYBEP. Involvement is being developed to include the options outlined.

Analysis

12. This is a great opportunity for young people to be involved in local decision making processes that affect them. The opportunities should hold to the spirit of the day by young people affecting change rather just being in a shadowing role.

Corporate Priorities

13. This event will 'Improve the life chances of the most disadvantaged and disaffected children, young people and families in the city '.

Implications

14.
 - **Financial** There will be a small amount of additional expenditure which can be met from existing budgets.
 - **Human Resources (HR)** There are no implications
 - **Equalities** There are no implications
 - **Legal** The council will only provide information to outside bodies. It will not take responsibility for children and young people being involved with outside organisations. It will encourage involvement from other bodies that have particular relationships with outside bodies e.g. NYBEP.
 - **Crime and Disorder** There are no implications
 - **Information Technology (IT)** There are no implications
 - **Property** There are no implications
 - **Other**

Risk Management

15. Businesses and organisations interested in taking part in Takeover Week will receive a pack that asks them to identify the tasks they want young people to be involved with and the key person they will work with. It explains the safeguards that need to be in place when working with young people and clarifies it will be their responsibility to obtain public liability insurance.

Recommendations

16. The Young People's Working Group are asked to:
- consider the report for information,
 - comment upon the proposals,
 - recommend that the Executive support the event and the activities taking place.

Contact Details

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Report Approved

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Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None