
Young People's Working Group

July 13th 2006

Report of the Director of Learning, Culture and Children's Services.

HEAR BY RIGHT- NEXT STEPS

Summary

1. This report summarises the Hear By Right Standards for Children and young People's involvement, looks at where City of York Council currently stands against the standards and highlights some recommended action points.

Background

2. In April 2003 Leisure and Heritage EMAP agreed that there are benefits to involving young people actively in the Local Authority and that this involvement should be based on the principles outline in the Hear By Right document. It was agreed that a corporate policy on young people's involvement should be developed based on these principles and that it should be in place by the end of 2003. Work was begun to develop this policy and some initial consultations took place with young people and partner organisations, as well as with other directorates. However the policy was never completed or adopted.
3. Since then, much work has been undertaken around the active involvement of children and young people, and increasing emphasis has been placed on its importance in national policy. The Next Steps document recommends young people's involvement in allocating money to projects through the Youth Opportunities Fund and the Youth Capital Fund. Locally the Yor-OK Children's Trust has established the Involvement Group which has the responsibility for:
 - Co-ordinating and supporting involvement work with children, young people and parents undertaken by partner agencies and services,
 - Identifying best practice and what works
 - Ensuring that the views of children and young people and parents inform the design, development, delivery and evaluation of children and young people's services.
4. The Young People's Scrutiny Panel undertook work looking at the needs of young people in the City. The Children and Young People's Advisory Panel supported the selection of the first Children and Young People's Champion for York. Given the progress made since the adoption in principle of the Hear By

Right standards, their application provides a key opportunity to take stock of involvement and participation work within the City.

5. Hear By Right has been developed by the National Youth Agency and the Local Government Association, it provides a framework against which involvement work can be mapped and developed. It sets out 7 Standards against which young people's involvement is considered and asks organisations to evaluate their performance in each area against a seven criteria. Hear By Right is a very comprehensive document which presents challenges when applied across the whole Council.
6. Work has been done to adapt and condense the Hear By Right standards into a format that can be used to map and plan involvement work across the Council. (See appendix 1).
7. Once the revised standards are approved the The YorOk Children's Trust Involvement Group will use them to undertake a mapping and planning exercise that looks at Involvement work within the City. This will enable priorities to be set for the work in the next 12 months.

Consultation

8. The Yor Ok Children's Trust Involvement Group have been consulted about the revised version of the standards and their comments incorporated.

Corporate Objectives

9. Adopting and utilising the revised Hear By Right Standards supports Councils objectives by:
 - Encouraging all Children and Young People to become Active Citizens
 - Consulting with young people about the future of the City and about provision by the council on behalf of children and young people.

Implications

10.
 - **Financial** There are no implications.
 - **Human Resources (HR)** There are no implications.
 - **Equalities** There are no implications.
 - **Legal** There are no implications
 - **Crime and Disorder** There are no implications
 - **Information Technology (IT)** There are no implications

Risk Management

8. There are no risk management implications.

Recommendations

9. Members are asked to consider:

- 1) The revised Hear By Right Standards and adopt their use.

Reason: In order to take forward voice and influence work with children and young people.

Contact Details

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Report Approved **Date** 26th June 2006

Report Approved **Date** *Insert Date*

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

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

Hear By Right: Revised Standards for City of York Council