
Young People's Working Group

22 October 2008

Report of the Assistant Director, Partnerships and Early Intervention

UK YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Summary

1. This report provides supplementary information to that received by members at the previous meeting of the Young People's Working Group (YPWG) on the level of support that would be required if York was to resume membership of UK Youth Parliament (UKYP).

Background

2. Members will recall that UKYP was launched in July 1999 as an independent national charity, which works closely with the Government. According to UKYP's website, 90% of all LEAs in England, are currently participating and there are currently over 500 MYPs (Members of Youth Parliament) and Deputy MYPs.
3. UKYP aims to:
 - Ensure that the young people of the UK (aged 11-18) are given a voice on any issue that affects them in accordance with the principle of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
 - Give the young people of the UK an opportunity to be involved in the democratic process at a national level.
 - Empower young people to take positive action within their local communities based upon their issues of concern.
4. York is allocated 1 MYP place and a number of Deputy MYPs can also be nominated. There is an expectation that MYPs will be supported at local level by a local youth worker to assist access to regional meetings, links to regional Government Offices, and to ensure young people's views are being acted upon. Once a year the UKYP holds an annual sitting, which brings together MYPs from across the UK for a four day residential to create a youth manifesto, which is presented to Government for a response.
5. York was previously very actively involved with UKYP and was a leading authority in the establishment of a Youth Forum. However, the decision was taken to withdraw following reports of negative experiences by our MYP and very poor organisation and support. York has since concentrated on

developing local citizenship, democracy, and 'voice and influence' activity through partnership working, which has resulted in many forums through which children and young people represent themselves and their peers. The Involvement Sub-group of the YorOK Board concluded that representation on UKYP was not a priority for York at the moment, in the light of the focus on a cross-partnership Involvement Strategy.

6. At the meeting of the Young People's Working Group on 10 July 2008, members requested further details on the operation and cost implications of the UKYP membership following a full debate on the matter.

Operation and Cost Implications

7. Resources to support this type of activity are inevitably limited and it is difficult to be precise about the actual budget required. However the UKYP state that the actual direct cost of supporting a MYP will probably not exceed £1100. Support staff will be required to provide approximately 10 days direct involvement with the MYP and DMYPs. This role could be additional to a worker's current job tasks at a cost likely to be in the region of £1500. Detailed expenditure is provided in paragraph 12.
8. Perhaps the greatest cost implication lies with the election process that would need be adopted to elect a MYP. There are many different ways in which authorities undertake this process; however those displaying best practice have authority-wide direct elections, mirrored on local elections, involving large numbers of the youth population. Costs incurred for such are estimated to be at least £15k per annum. Some authorities hold biennial elections which provides some continuity for the post holder and reduces the cost significantly.
9. Other authorities have elections that are linked to school councils, youth forums or, as might be appropriate for York, a link with the annual involvement event in the Guildhall. This would provide a more cost effective route with an estimate of between £1k and £6k depending on the scale of the election and methods used to conduct it.

Options

10. The 2 options outlined in the previous report are still pertinent.

Option 1 – to maintain the decision made by the YorOK Inclusion sub-group not to join the UKYP and to prioritise local inclusion, democracy and participation work. This decision can be reviewed at a future date.

Option 2 – to resume our involvement in the UKYP and identify appropriate resources to ensure a positive experience and good outcomes for the MYP and young people in York.

Analysis

11. The analysis outlined in the previous report is included for ease of access. It is acknowledged that there are advantages for York in being represented on the Youth Parliament:
 - The individual(s) elected as MYP should benefit by being fully involved in the democratic process and undertaking the responsibilities of office.
 - Issues pertinent to young people would be highlighted
 - Elections would serve as a way of educating young people about the importance of voting and would raise the profile of the democratic process in the City.

However, there are a number of issues that seem to officers to outweigh these:

- The relative lack of financial resources in relation to a young person's membership, travel costs and worker support time would pull resources and support away from wider work.
- Creating and supporting a mechanism which would only serve to elect MYPs is not cost effective for our authority at this time.
- Elections and wider democratic processes are already supported through the city wide process to elect a Children and Young Peoples Champion; through school councils; and representative councils such as a 'Children in Care Council', which hold elected members to account for their actions.
- The negative experience encountered by young people who previously took part in UKYP activities.
- There appears to be little interest from young people with whom we currently work.

It was on the basis of considering these competing priorities that the YorOk Inclusion sub-group made their decision not to rejoin the UKYP.

Consultation with MYPs

12. Members of YPWG requested the attendance of one or more MYPs from other local authorities. This has been arranged through the regional organiser and they will attend to speak about their involvement and experience of the UKYP and to answer any questions that members may have.

Corporate Priorities

13. Voice and Influence work contributes to 'Improve the life chances of the most disadvantaged and disaffected children, young people and families in the city '.

Financial Implications

12. The minimum costs for York's involvement in the UKYP are estimated to be as follows:

MYP Costs	£
Membership to the UKYP	110
Attend 6 – 8 regional meetings estimated average 100 miles	500
Attend the Annual Sitting	250
Incidental expenditure	140
Sub-total	1000
Staff Support Costs	
10 worker days	1200
Accommodation (Annual sitting)	200
Incidental expenditure	100
Sub-total	1500
Election Costs	
Small scale linked to involvement day	1000
Sub-total	1000
Total	3500

13. The maximum costs, including a full scale annual election would be as follows:

MYP Costs	£
Membership to the UKYP	110
Attend 6 – 8 regional meetings estimated average 100 miles	500
Attend the Annual Sitting	250
Incidental expenditure	140
Sub-total	1000
Staff Support Costs	
10 worker days	1200
Accommodation (Annual sitting)	200
Incidental expenditure	100
Sub-total	1500
Election Costs	
Full scale election	15000
Additional staff costs	2000
Sub-total	17000
Total	19500

14. If we pursue this route there might be some minor **HR Implications** for the officer assigned to support the MYP, who would in practice have to be

redeployed from other work. However, it is difficult to be precise about these implications in advance of a decision to proceed.

15. There are no significant **Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, Information Technology, or Property Implications.**

Risk Management

16. There are no significant risks attached to this issue.

Recommendations

17. Members are asked to:

- 1) Consider the options outlined in the report

Reason: To give due attention to whether the City of York should support the UKYP or not.

- 2) Advise the Executive of the views of the working group.

Reason: To support the Executive in making an informed decision on future involvement with UKYP.

Contact Details

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Services
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**Report
Approved**

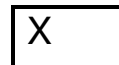


13/10/08

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Finance: Mike Barugh, Tel 554573

Wards Affected: List wards or tick box to indicate all



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Further information on the work of UKYP can be accessed at:
<http://www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk>

Annexes: None