

Report from the Assistant Director, Partnerships and Early Intervention

Establishing a Youth Council in York – An update

Summary

1. Members will recall that the last meeting of the Working Group was attended by the Interim Member of the Youth Parliament (MYP) and the Interim Deputy MYP (DMYP). It was agreed that we would bring a report to the next meeting to update on the progress of forming the new York Youth Council.

Background and Progress

2. Funding was secured to set up a Youth Council in York in June 2009 from Yorkash and the "Take Part" Pathfinder. As a first step, it was decided to create interim-members of the UK Youth Parliament positions. Hustings were held in July 2009 and seven young people from across York stood for election. Joe Feeney was elected the Member of the Youth Parliament (MYP) and Joe Armer was elected as the Deputy Member of the Youth Parliament (DMYP).
3. Joe Armer subsequently attended the Annual Sitting of the UK Youth Parliament in Canterbury. He attended workshops and training session over the four days. He was able to talk to and learn from other young people from the region who sit on youth councils and who have been MYPs for longer periods. They were able to share information about the process and their experiences of being representatives of young people in their area. A separate report from Joe is attached at **Annex A**.
4. Over the summer holidays, work has progressed in developing detailed proposals for establishing the York Youth Council. A meeting was hosted on the 8th September by Joe Feeney, Joe Armer and Sarah Nicholson that explained how young people can be involved in its work. Information has been distributed to those that could not attend. We have invited a number of organisations to nominate two candidates and one reserve: one candidate will stand for two years and one will stand for one year. Next year a candidate will be elected to stand for two years. This means there will always be one candidate that has stood for a year and knows how things work.
5. The organisations that have been contacted are:

All Saints School	Archbishop Holgates School
All Together Club (Looked After Children)	Applefields School
	Askham Bryan College

Bootham School
Burnholme Community College
Canon Lee School
Fulford School
Fulford Youth Centre
Huntington School
Joseph Rowntrees School
Kingswater Youth Centre
LGBT York
Manor School
68 Centre

Millthorpe School
Moorlane Youth Centre
Mount School
PACT
St Peter's School
Steiner School
Tadcaster Grammar
York College
York High

6. The first meeting of the Youth Council will be in Democracy Week on Tuesday 13th October (ie, before the date of the YPWG meeting). Councillor Runciman will announce the two Youth Councillors from each of the schools and youth groups. MPs, Councillors, Headteachers and members of the Without Walls board are among the guests invited to this special occasion. There will be time for photographs and speeches between 5 – 6pm, before guests are asked to leave the Council Chamber and the Youth Councillors will start their first meeting. It will be chaired by Joe Feeney, the MYP for York.
7. The Youth Councillors will be going on a training residential to Carlton Lodge from 23 -25th October. This will be an opportunity for young people from the different schools and youth groups in York to get know each other and learn about each other's strengths. The focus of the weekend will be teambuilding, communication and skills training for their new roles as representatives of young people in York. They will be looking at creating an identity for the Youth Council, their constitution and communication strategy.
8. In February Youth Councillors will be able to put themselves forward as candidates for the UK Youth Parliament. There will be a training day and elections for the MYP and DMYP. The new MYP and DMYP will attend a regional training weekend, to learn about their new role and responsibilities.

Consultation

9. Joe Armer and Joe Feeney have met separately with Councillor Runciman and MP Hugh Bailey to explain how the Youth Council will operate in a non-party political manner, focusing on issues that are important to the young people of York. They are keen to work together on issues to improve York for young people now and in the future. The Youth Councillors will themselves decide what campaigns they want to work on in their first year and how they want to achieve them. Organisations that want to consult with the Youth Council will be able to request for an item to be put on the full council agenda. The Youth Council will decide who will be involved and how if they feel it is something to which they can commit time.
10. It is important to create a dynamic means of communication for youth councillors with young people across York. They will decide whether they are going to do ward talks, surgeries in their school or youth group, and what sort of online

presence they want to create (subject to safety controls that we will discuss with them).

Options and Analysis

(This report is for information.)

Corporate Priorities

11. The involvement in the Youth Council and UKYP supports the council's objectives by:

- *developing and maintaining participation structures in the city which all children and young people own, are accessible and are built on existing structures.*
- *building the skills, knowledge and capacity of children and young people to be able to fully participate in decisions which affect them, to influence the services they receive and how they receive them, to express their views through forums and have their voices heard in adult led democratic processes.*

This project also works towards the following Local Improvement Targets:

- *NI4 – the % of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality*
- *NI6 – Participation in regular volunteering*
- *NI110 Young people's participation in positive activities*

Implications

- **Financial** The Youth Council has full funding until March 2010. There is funding available for staff and meetings until March 2011. Other sources of funding will need to be identified to support the longer term running of the Youth Council, such as the training residential, publicity and campaigns from March 2010.
- **Human Resources (HR)** Staff will need to support the processes involved in establishing the Youth Council, including acting as chaperones where necessary. This can be covered within the job descriptions of existing staff.
- **Equalities** The Council has been designed to promote the involvement of young people from a variety of backgrounds.
- **Legal** None identified.
- **Crime and Disorder Information Technology (IT)** No implications
- **Property** No Implications

Risk Management

(There are no significant risks inherent in this report.)

Recommendations

12. That the Young People's Working Group note this update report, lend their support to the new Youth Council, and comment as they wish.

Reason: establishing a Youth Council for York is in line with our corporate priorities, and the views of young people themselves.

Contact Details

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Report Approved

Yes

Date

7 October 2009

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

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

Annexes: A Report from Joe Armer

Report from Joe Armer

The annual sitting was a fantastic opportunity to meet my fellow colleagues from around the country and particularly in the region. Having learnt so much in public speaking, how to engage marginalised young people and meeting many an influential person including the speaker of the House of Commons and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Then we've just met with our Executive for Children and MP and made a lot of work towards our New Youth Council which will be set up by the 13th October for our first meeting after our nominations at the end of the month; then we have our residential at the end of October.

September also saw us attend our first Regional meeting in Halifax. Joe and I met the regional minister Rosie Winterton. Joe was voted in as the House of Commons reserve debate leader for Yorkshire and Humber.

October will see Joe Feeney in the House of Commons debating the following issues

1. Tuition Fees
2. Lowering The Voting Age
3. Youth Crime
4. Transport