

Report from the Assistant Director, Partnerships and Early Intervention

Initiatives supporting Involvement of Children and Young People – An update

Summary

1. This report is for information. It describes some new work being developed which will support Involvement in York:
 - Youth 4U – Young Inspectors;
 - “Takeover day”.

Background and Progress

Youth 4U – Young Inspectors

2. The aim of this new programme is to work with local professionals, local commissioners and - most importantly - local young people to develop ways in which young people can assess, review and inform local services so they can be the best that they want them to be. It is a national programme and City of York has been awarded funding for 18 months up to end of March 2011 for a half-time worker. The funding has been allocated to meet a programme agreed by National Children's Bureau (NCB), which will be monitored and evaluated nationally. It has a series of milestones which are reported on and subject to successful completion.
3. In more detail, the specific purposes of Youth4U – Young Inspectors is to:
 - Increase the numbers and quality of opportunities for marginalised young people to influence services;
 - Help marginalised young people to engage their peers in influencing local policies and services across a wide range of issues including locality, health, neighbourhood renewal, transport and community service;
 - Enable young people to feed back their and their peers' views to local authorities and other service providers; and
 - Achieve relevant change in services that young people use.
4. The project will start from the beginning of November and will aim to inspect 10 services across the city. This will increase the ability of children and young

people to influence decisions. Training will be provided to young people who will form the core group of inspectors. From this core group, inspection groups of 4-6 young people will then inspect services. Every young person who completes the course will be expected to complete at least one inspection, typically involving 4 inspections per young person.

5. A key aspect of the project will be to employ an 'apprentice', who will be 16-19 (or up to 25 if they have disabilities) and with experience of disadvantage. This young person will receive training, and will support the project worker in the delivery of the whole project.
6. Many details of the project have yet to be decided, including which services will be subject to inspection – but we hope Members will want to lend it their support, even at this early stage of planning.

Takeover Day

7. "11 MILLION TAKEOVER DAY" is also a national initiative, organised under the auspices of the Children's Commissioner. His website, <http://www.11million.org.uk/> gives more details. The takeover day allows children and young people a chance to get involved in decision making, have their say and show adults what they can do. It involves initiatives such as children and young people going into places like schools, youth clubs, organisations, companies, shops and other places to 'takeover' .
8. Last year in York young people were involved in designing a poster campaign to promote positive images of young people; children from primary schools worked with the police to audit their local environment; young people worked with trading standards to test purchase cigarettes; and children from a primary school were involved in working with elected members. This year the national event will be on Friday 6th November, but as in previous years, events in York will take place in the weeks before hand. This helps to make the event more inclusive and manageable.
9. A draft publicity document has gone to schools/ clubs urging involvement through:
 - Designing the dinner for the day.
 - Working with a teacher to help run a lesson.
 - Taking over assemblies for the day
 - School councils could meeting with the head teacher or governors to put forward their ideas for change

Schools are already signing up to this programme. Other ideas are still in development – and of course this initiative is now complemented by the establishment of a Youth Council in York, which is the subject of a separate paper.

10. These pieces of work are part of the ongoing Involvement Strategy for Young People within the City of York which has the vision:

'The Yor-OK Children's Trust is committed to ensuring that the views of children, young people and families' are taken account in decision-making, planning, development, design and delivery of services. The trust will treat all children, young people and families no matter their age, ability, social or ethnic background as equal partners and their views, will be taken fully into account in all decision-making.'

Options and Analysis

(This report is for information.)

Corporate Priorities

11. This work will contribute to the corporate priority: Inclusive City: ensuring young citizens, regardless of race, age, disability, sexual orientation, faith or gender, feel included in the life of York.

Implications

- **Financial:** The Young Inspectors work is being wholly funded through Youth 4U. This funding will continue until 31st March 2011. Takeover day will be funded from within existing resources.
- **Human Resources (HR):** There are no immediate HR implications.
- **Equalities:** The ethos of the work will promote inclusion of young people within decision making and will ensure the inclusion of disadvantaged young people.
- **Legal:** There are no legal implications.
- **Crime and Disorder:** There are no implications.
- **Information Technology (IT):** There are no IT implications.
- **Property:** There are no Property 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 and comment as they wish.

Reason: Greater involvement of young people is in line with our corporate priorities, and the views of residents and 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: None