

REPORT TO: NEIGHBOURHOOD RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE –
17 APRIL 2000

REPORT ON: REPORT – THE SCOTTISH YOUTH ISSUES UNIT – YOUNG PEOPLE
PARTNERS IN THE SOLUTION

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR NEIGHBOURHOOD RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT

REPORT NO: 285-2000

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this Report is to advise the Committee of the key elements of the above Scottish Youth Issues Unit's Report and advise on current local actions which address the Report's recommendations.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 2.1 note the Report from the Scottish Youth Issues Unit.
- 2.2 note the actions taken within the Council to address the issues raised in the Report.
- 2.3 approves the construction of a Council Youth Strategy within the context of the Community Learning Strategy (see Report 281/2000 item 7.7 and Learning Strategy Action Plan item 11.7) targeting young people in the age range 12 to 18 years.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Costs involved in advancing the above recommendations are being met within Department current estimates or by future external funding in advancing community regeneration, decentralisation and community learning plans.
- 3.2 Several Departments have developed, or are at present developing, strategies to involve young people in service delivery, consultation and decision-making. This is likely to extend to further services as the Council develops Community Learning Planning procedures.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This Report identifies areas where developments can assist the promotion of self-sustaining, secure and healthy communities.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Young people from all communities of interest will be included in consultations related to the content of this Report.

6.0 BACKGROUND - NATIONAL

6.1 The Report, copies of which have been sent to group secretaries and are available within the Councillors' Lounge, outlines the achievements of the work programme completed by the Scottish Youth Issues Unit during the last 3 years.

6.2 The achievements have been made through ongoing collaboration between national agencies and young people. These achievements include the following:

- youth participation within police officer training.
- development of youth statistical research.
- training for New Deal Employment Services Personal Advisors.

- training guidelines "Drugs a Community Based Approach".
- piloting initiatives to develop action to advance key local issues.
- development of the Connect Youth initiative to support youth forums/councils throughout Scotland.

6.3 The Report proposes to:

- establish a youth issues policy forum for Scotland.
- extend and develop training, information and pilot joint action initiatives involving practitioners from different disciplines.
- extend and develop training and information to young people and to create new opportunities for young people to contribute to solutions within local communities.

The above proposals will form the basis of a national strategy which to achieve success will require to articulate and be supported by local developments and support from agencies involved with young peoples' services.

These proposals present all agencies with a challenge which requires commitment from all and a practical, effective response.

7.0 CURRENT POSITION – LOCAL

7.1 The Council already accepts the principles enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and several Departments have developed service policy and practice guidelines to improve consultation and involvement of young people in decision-making activities.

It is essential to continue to include training on 'responsibilities' in all rights issues work.

7.2 Departments and key agencies are collaborating over the strategic planning of children's and young people's services. Strategic planning is in place for (a) Early Years and Childcare and (b) Children's Services which takes into consideration specific targeting to promote social inclusion and reflect the needs of specific groups.

7.3 The Neighbourhood Resources and Development Department operates a network of youth information points within neighbourhood centres and libraries throughout the City. This network is quality assured and is presently being linked to Internet based youth information services. The Council's PINPOINT community information service will in future carry Internet youth information services in partnership with Young Scot (Scotland) under a partnership arrangement.

All S4 pupils receive, at present, a Young Scot information pack which includes a 4 year membership, discount schemes, legal help line, access to a reference handbook, regular newsletters and grant aid opportunities.

In partnership with Who Cares? Scotland, the Social Work Department provides a Children's Rights Service and Advocacy for children in need and their families.

7.4 As part of the Council's decentralisation/regeneration policies young people have access to local Community Forums, Neighbourhood Service Teams and Neighbourhood Development Groups to advance issues related to local services and provisions.

The Neighbourhood Resources and Development Department continues to encourage specific youth forums and groups to cluster round common issues or communities of interest to aid service consultation, involvement in decision-making and youth action.

Several examples of local youth issues have resulted in the advancement and improvement of local services with greater youth support and involvement eg in Charleston, Broughty Ferry, Lochee.

Neighbourhood Resources and Development Department staff are consulting over how such groups can receive ongoing support from local youth information points and outreach based staff.

It remains a challenge to the Council to retain young peoples interest in decision-making activities and at a pace which meets their aspirations and in a style which engages and is fun to young people.

Current practice suggests that each neighbourhood or area requires possibly different responses and whilst honouring key principles allows different structures and approaches.

The Council is a member of the Connect Youth national initiative and is involving young people in representation to the embryo youth parliament.

In order to promote social inclusion specific arrangements have been made to target minority groups.

- 7.5 Report No 16/1999 approved on 11 January 1999 outlined the strategic focus for youth work development of services for participants aged 12 to 18 years. The Department is progressing the recommendations many of which complement the key issues contained in the Youth Issues Report (see pages 20/21).

The Report, however, advocates the need for an overall Council Youth Strategy and this has as yet to be advanced by the Council. It is proposed that the Director of Neighbourhood Resources and Development bring together an integrated Report on an overall youth strategy for the Council within the context of the Community Learning Strategy.

- 7.6 The Community Safety Partnership will within the new action planning process for years 2000-2003 seek to identify initiatives which meet the safety needs identified as priorities by young people. The Corner Project and the Council's Drugs Substance Misuse initiatives are contributing to young people's health issues and personal safety.

- 7.7 Dundee Youth Work Alliance represents all major providers of youth work activities within the City. The Alliance is now constituted, recognised for charity purposes and developing collaborative training and development opportunities for its members. The Council has signed a statement of joint support and collaboration with this Group.

- 7.8 The Council is promoting opportunities for young people to be involved in volunteering within service provision, voluntary agencies and within the general community.

The promotion of Duke of Edinburgh's Award activities, Young Quality Scot, Prince's Trust courses and other accredited award programmes contribute to citizenship opportunities which are relevant to the needs of young people and provide personal development and increased employability. The Consultative Council for the Curriculum is at present developing resource materials which will aid the development of citizenship activity and learning within and outwith the school sector.

Accreditation initiatives are being promoted with success by relevant Council Departments for sport, music and arts awards.

8.0 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The Report offers constructive suggestions for policy makers, workers and young people a range of which is being progressed by various Departments of the Council often under collaborative partnership arrangements.

- 8.2 It is likely that the Scottish Executive will call for Councils to publish their arrangements for an integrated Youth Strategy within local Community Learning Plan arrangements.

9.0 CONSULTATION

- 9.1 The Chief Executive, Directors of Finance, Support Services, Education, Social Work and Corporate Planning have been consulted in the content of this Report. A copy of the Report has been sent to the Children's Services Strategic Planning and Childcare and Early Years Partnership Groups.

10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 No background papers as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.

Director Neighbourhood Resources and Development

Date

FRP/ADB/AHPH (ScotYothlssUnit-1)
April 2000