

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 13 JANUARY 2014

REPORT ON: APPOINTMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHAMPION

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

REPORT NO: 3-2014

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To recommend appointment of an elected member to act as Children and Young People's Champion.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee agree to appoint an elected member as Children and Young People's Champion, with the remit as set out in section 4.3 of this report

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 In 2005, the Council agreed to appoint an Older People's Champion with a remit to act as a link with older people's organisations and ensure that the needs of older people are taken into account in the strategic planning process.

4.2 A number of other local authorities have appointed elected members to a similar role but focusing on the interests of children and young people, and it is recommended that Dundee City Council also appoint a Children and Young People's Champion, particularly given the high proportion of young people in the city's population.

4.3 The remit of the Children and Young People's Champion would be to:

- keep up-to-date on the issues affecting young people and raise awareness of their needs. Areas on which the Champion may wish to focus include employment, attainment, active engagement and citizenship
- encourage children and young people to play a full role in the democratic life of the city, especially in shaping policies which affect them
- encourage Council services to engage with children and young people and the groups which represent them, and to acknowledge and publicise the contributions which they make
- support and promote the work of Dundee's members of the Scottish Youth Parliament and the Dundee Youth Council, by informing young people of their role and encouraging them to raise issues with their elected representatives
- act as a spokesperson to promote the Council's work with children and young people and support projects and events aimed at them
- promote a joined-up approach between the activities of the Council and the work of other organisations in supporting and involving children and young people
- promote the rights of vulnerable young people, including those who are looked after, are carers or have disabilities or additional support needs

4.4 The overall objective would be to support the 'Getting It Right For Every Child' approach and the outcome in the Council Plan and Single Outcome Agreement that Dundee's children and young people will be safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

5. **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality and Risk Management. There are no major issues, and the appointment of a Children and Young Person's Champion has potential to have a positive impact in terms of anti-poverty and equalities work.

6. **CONSULTATIONS**

The Director of Corporate Services, the Head of Democratic and Legal Services and Directors of Education, Leisure and Communities and Social Work have been consulted.

7. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

David K Dorward
Chief Executive

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