

## **DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Policy & Resources Committee – 25 August 2014

**REPORT ON:** Involving Young People in Decision Making

**REPORT BY:** Director of Leisure and Communities

**REPORT NO:** 302-2014

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Committee about progress being made in the development of opportunities for young people to be involved in decision-making, following Committee Report No. 204–2013.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 It is recommended that Committee endorse progress being made in the development of opportunities for young people to be involved in decision making as described in Appendix 1.

2.2 It is further recommended that Committee approve a framework for ongoing improvement, characterised by the following improvement actions, to be implemented by the Communities Division Youth Work Teams:

- Continue to support young people to ensure that they are represented at each LCPP.
- Support young people to develop Youth Action Groups to take forward ideas for local developments as and when these arise.
- Facilitate regular opportunities for local representatives to visit programmes and to meet young people in order to raise awareness of young people's views.
- Support young people to develop the skills, knowledge and confidence to become more involved in local decision making.
- Support opportunities for progression for young people who get involved in service developments as volunteers.
- Ensure that all young people who are engaged in volunteering and/or other opportunities to influence policy and service developments have the opportunity to be recognised for their efforts through accreditation.

### **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 All costs associated with this report can be contained within the Communities Division Youth Work budget.

### **4.0 MAIN TEXT**

4.1 Committee Report No 204-2013 outlined a menu of actions to improve opportunities for young people to get involved in decision making. Good progress has been made overall in implementing these actions and a progress summary is attached as appendix 1.

4.2 In April 2014 a new National Youth Work Strategy 'Our Ambitions for Improving the Life Chances of Young People in Scotland' was launched by the Scottish Government. One of the ambitions outlined in the strategy is to 'put young people at the heart of policy'. In Dundee, work is progressing, with partners in the field of Youth Work, to agree proposals for taking forward actions which will assist in achieving the ambitions outlined in the strategy. A report to Committee will follow when this work is complete.

4.3 In Dundee, developments continue at city – wide and local community levels. These developments are represented by such as Dundee Youth Council and the Looked After Children/Young People Champions Board alongside support in local communities to engage

young people in the work of groups such as Local Community Planning Partnerships (LCPP's) and Community Regeneration Fora (CRF).

- 4.4 In 2013 Dundee Youth Council (DYC) launched their manifesto (Getting Young People's Point Across). The manifesto commitments are drawn from a survey of the views of around 4,500 young people in Dundee (see Committee Report 49-2013). DYC are in ongoing discussions with key people, including groups of interested young people, in order to progress the key actions and commitments made in the manifesto. This has included discussions with local bus companies about transport issues raised by young people.
- 4.5 DYC supports Dundee's Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYP's). The MSYP's are also members of DYC. There are four MSYP's for Dundee and they have regularly attended the SYP General Meetings throughout the year. MSYP's are elected every two years. The next elections are scheduled for March 2015. The elections are coordinated by DYC with support from the Communities Division's Youth Work Team and colleagues in Secondary Schools.
- 4.6 One of Dundee's MSYP's has been prominent in championing the "It's No' Fare" campaign to improve public transport for young people. A highlight of this has been an Early Day Motion tabled in the House of Commons which made specific reference to the Dundee initiative.
- 4.7 In 2013 the City Council's Decentralisation Group agreed to amend the rules governing Local Community Planning Partnerships (LCPP's) to make provision for young people to be represented at LCPP's as of right. In most circumstances the elected DYC member for the Ward area will represent young people at the LCPP. However, not every Ward area has an elected member of DYC. In this situation the local Communities Division Youth Work Team will support young people to come up with a solution and will work to ensure that, as far as possible, young people are represented at each LCPP meeting.
- 4.8 Throughout the Communities Division Youth Work programme young people are increasingly engaged in decision making. In 2013/14 over 500 young people were engaged, with Youth Work support, in influencing local and national developments. This represents a near 20% increase in the numbers engaged.
- 4.9 The following list contains some examples of the different ways in which young people in Dundee are regularly involved and are influencing local and national developments. Appendix 1 contains information about the developments that young people are influencing.
- Advisory Groups influencing the development of local activities – young people are engaged in the running of an activity and thus influence the ways in which the activity develops over time.
  - Projects such as Healthy Transitions or Peer Mentoring – young people demonstrate different approaches to topics such as Health and Wellbeing and develop materials to support work with their peers.
  - The Looked After Children Champions Board – young people who are or have been Looked After are engaged with Senior Officers and Elected Members in decisions about how to improve services for the LAC group in Dundee
  - Dundee Youth Council – represents the views of young people in key decision making arenas
  - Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament – young people who are elected by their peers to represent Dundee at a national level
  - School Project Boards – young people who are involved in decisions about the development of their school
  - City Wide Pupil Council – representative group drawn from the School Pupil Councils which is engaged in decisions regarding Education matters
- 4.91 It is important that young people have the opportunity to gain recognition through accreditation for their efforts. This is one way in which learning and personal development can be recorded as well as engendering a sense of personal achievement. National awards schemes such as Youth Achievement Awards, Duke of Edinburgh's Award and the Saltire Award are commonly used and have proved popular with young people. An important ongoing priority for continuing

improvement will be to ensure that there are always opportunities for young people to gain accreditation and recognition for their efforts.

## **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.
- 5.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and is attached to this report.

## **6.0 CONSULTATIONS**

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services, Head of Democratic and Legal Services, the Director of Education, Dundee's Young People's Champion and Dundee Youth Council have been consulted about this report.

## **7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 None

Stewart Murdoch  
(Director, Leisure and Communities)

DATE: 21<sup>st</sup> July 2014

## Involving Young People in Decision Making – Summary of Progress

## Appendix 1

Improvement Priority	Key Actions	Progress Report
<b>Dundee Youth Council</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support Youth Councillors to attend LCPP's</li> </ul>	<p>Youth Councillors are supported to attend LCPP's in Strathmartine and Lochee Wards and are encouraged to get involved in all aspects of the agenda.</p> <p>Strathmartine LCPP heard presentation on the Youth Manifesto consultation results.</p> <p>Working relationship established between Strathmartine members of the Youth Council and the local Communities Officer.</p>
<b>Youth Action Groups</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with Pupil Representative Councils</li> <li>We will support young people to form Youth Action Groups to take forward concerns and ideas that are of interest to them as and when these arise.</li> </ul>	<p>Braeview Academy Pupil Representative Council involved with Whitfield Green developments.</p> <p>The Communities Officer in the East End attends Craigie HS PRC meetings once per year</p> <p>The Communities Officer in the West End attends Harris Academy PRC meetings twice per year in order to share information about her role, local decision making opportunities, ways to get involved and support to do so.</p> <p>Young people in St Paul's Academy supported to create a short film highlighting young peoples' rights under the UN Convention on the Rights of the child. The film will be used in school PSE classes.</p> <p>Changing Horizons in the Coldside Ward has its own Youth Management Group</p> <p>The Cultural Integration Project has its own Youth Advisory Group</p>

		The DISC Target Project has its own Youth Advisory Group
<b>Involvement in Community Planning Processes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify with young people, priorities within each Local Community Plan, that they have influenced and which they can lead on.</li> <li>If there is sufficient interest we will establish a group of young people in community regeneration areas that can advise about applications for Diversionary Activity funding.</li> <li>Facilitate structured opportunities for LCPP members to meet young people to raise awareness of young peoples' views.</li> <li>Ensure that young people are informed about the key decision-making groups and community engagement events in their area.</li> <li>Support young people to engage and to understand how community planning processes work.</li> </ul>	<p>Young people, including Youth Councillors, are working with Regeneration staff on consultation about Green Space developments in Lochee.</p> <p>Young people in Coldside have been consulted about the proposed new community facility</p> <p>Young people in the East End Ward have assisted with decisions about regeneration funding applications.</p> <p>Input from young people to the East End Ward LCPP</p> <p>The DISC Youth Advisory Group met with the Maryfield LCPP to seek support to maintain service provision</p> <p>Young people in the Lochee Ward invited members of the local CRF to come along to their provision.</p> <p>Young people in Strathmartine have attended the LCPP and the local CRF</p> <p>Young people from the NE Ward are supported to attend the local CRF to observe the process.</p> <p>Young people from NE, East End and Maryfield Wards supported to participate in the Integrated Children's Services Stakeholders event.</p>
<b>Capacity Building</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support young people to develop the skills to work together to take action on issues of concern to them.</li> </ul>	The Corner's STATE Project is a community art and outreach project, working with groups of young people across Dundee, with the aim of creating a series of 'Urban Art Installations' focussing on mental

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that opportunities to get involved in planning Gala Days and other community events are open to young people.</li>   <li>• Ensure young people are aware of representative structures in the community through eg Young Scot website.</li> </ul>	<p>health and community identity. A group of young women from the Lochee Ward are working on an installation in the new play facility on South Rd. This builds on effective involvement of young people in the consultation and development of the new play area.</p> <p>Young people in The Shore are leading art based workshops for other young people</p> <p>Support is available across the City for young volunteers who are keen to develop leadership skills and to take on roles in supporting Youth Work programmes.</p> <p>Young people from the Coldside Ward were involved in organising the Hilltown Festival of Light</p> <p>The DISC Advisory Group participated in the Equally Well Test Event</p> <p>The Disc Advisory Group supported a Community Safety Event in Morgan Academy</p> <p>Young people involved in the planning and delivery of the Hilltown Fun Day</p> <p>The Friends of Swannie Ponds are engaging young people through Morgan Academy and the Boomerang Club in Maryfield</p> <p>Young Scot Services will work more closely with Dundee Youth Council</p> <p>Young people receive accreditation for their efforts through, mainly, Youth Achievement/Dynamic Youth Awards, Duke of Edinburgh's Award and Saltire Awards.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore appropriate accreditation opportunities including YouthLink Scotland's Involvement in Decision Making certificate.</li> </ul>	
<b>Communication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop, with young people, a communication strategy that incorporates a range of methods, including the use of developing technology such as social networking.</li> </ul>	<p>Young people involved in designing The Corner's website and the sexual health 'app' developed in response to the views expressed by young people in the Youth Talkin' Health report.</p> <p>Various youth groups have their own Facebook pages.</p> <p>The use of Facebook as a medium for consulting young people was piloted in Grove Academy.</p> <p>Contact is maintained with young people participating in Duke of Edinburgh's Award through Facebook and Twitter.</p>

## Equality and Diversity Rapid Impact Assessment

Date <b>AUGUST 2014</b>	Title <b>INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE IN DECISION MAKING COMMITTEE REPORT</b>
Is this a new document? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is this an existing document under review? <input type="checkbox"/>
Please list any existing documents which have been used to inform this Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment.	N/A
What is the description of the policy, procedure or strategy?	This is a Committee Report which describes the actions to be taken to improve the involvement of young people in decision-making
What is the intended outcome of this policy, procedure or strategy?	More young people will have more opportunities to get involved in decision-making.
Which individuals are responsible for undertaking Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment?	Manager, Children/Young People, Communities Division, Chief Executive's Dept.

### Which groups of the population will be positively or negatively affected by this policy, procedure or strategy?

	Positively	Negatively	No Impact	Not Known
Ethnic Minority Communities including Gypsies and Travellers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender including transgender people	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or Faith	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
People with a disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Socio-economic status	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other please state	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



## Equality and Diversity Rapid Impact Assessment Checklist

Have any positive impacts been identified?	More young people will be able to influence decisions. The views of a wider range of young people will be represented.
Have any negative impacts been identified?	None identified
What action is proposed to overcome any negative impacts?	
What recommendations have you made to eliminate or reduce negative impacts?	
If any negative impacts have been found please indicate if a Full Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment has been recommended?	
Give details of any consultation or involvement which has been undertaken.	Dundee Youth Council and the Young People's Champion for Dundee have been consulted
Is there a need to collect further evidence in regard to data and research?	No
How will monitoring be measured?	We will record the number of young people involved and the impact their efforts are having on local and national developments.

**Department**

<input type="checkbox"/> Communities Division, Chief Executive's Department
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**Type of Document**

Human Resource Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
General Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strategy/Service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Change Papers/Local Procedure	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guidelines and Protocols	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Contact Information

<b>Manager Responsible</b>	<b>Author Responsible</b>
Name        Kenny Lindsay	Name        As per Manager details
Designation Manager, Children/Young People	Designation
Base         Mitchell St Centre	Base
Telephone    435840	Telephone
Email kenny.lindsay@dundeecity.gov.uk	Email

Signature of author of the policy, procedure or strategy: K L Lindsay

Head of Department and Service area:

Date of next review: