

Progress Update of Youth Participation

Children's Health, Social Care and Education

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 2nd September 2015

Author:	Board Director / Head of Service
Wards:	All Wards
Locality Affected:	All Locality Area
Parishes Affected:	All Parish Area

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 This report provides the Children's Health, Social Care and Education Committee with an update of performance and key issues relating to youth participation, Thought Tank, and Members of Youth Parliament (MYP)
- 1.2 A key purpose of Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview & Scrutiny Committee is to hold Commissioners of Children's Health and Social Care Services to account.
- 1.3 Any Commissioner of Children's Health and Social Care Services in Swindon is required to provide information on the planning and provision of children's health and social care services within the Borough and consult with the Committee on any planned substantial changes or developments to service provision.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Continue to support the work of the Members of Youth Parliament, Thought Tank and the wider youth participation agenda across Swindon
- 2.2 Make available opportunities for young people to contribute to the work streams of Health, Adults & Children Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 2.3 Agree when a further report on progress should be brought back to the committee.

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3. Detail

3.1 What are the challenges that your organisation is facing?

Top Priorities	Process	Outcomes
Maintaining regular numbers within the core group of the Youth Forum	Redesigned model of youth participation whereby the 'core group' is not always necessary to do all work / projects. Work / projects are taken directly to young people appropriate to the task. E.g. Anti-Bullying vision was created alongside Swindon Young Carers, STEP, and Members of Youth Parliament.	Positive outcome, engaging with an even wider number of young people from differing backgrounds. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Young Carers = 8 young people• STEP = 30 young people• Complex Health Needs Assessment = 6 young people• Routes 2 Employment Work = 2 Apprentices Total = 46 young people
School engagement with specific projects, and buy in from other youth organisations.	Dedicated 'youth participation worker' role created to build relationships and be in regular contact with schools (and other youth organisations	Already seeing a greater uptake / interest in upcoming projects – visiting all schools in September and linking directly with school councils. See table below

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Claire Smith, Direct Dial 01793 465815, cesmith@swindon.gov.uk.

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Wider Engagement

Where	Number	Contacted	Willing to Engage	Unwilling to Engage	Undecided	No response
Academies (Secondary)	11	11	7	0	2	2
Secondary Schools	2	2	1	1	0	0
Special / EOTAS	9	9	4	0	0	5
Further Education	2	2	1	0	0	1
Other Youth Groups	9	9	4	0	0	5

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3.2 What have you done well?

Top Achievements	Steps taken	Next steps
Supporting the South West Regional Mental Health Campaign	Utilising existing resources created by the Youth Forum and co-ordinating current work to fit around specific outcomes that match both criteria.	Looking at other opportunities where information gathered can be shared wider; adding value to more than one work stream.
Building confidence within the group and outputs from Thought Tank, ensuring the group, and their peers voices are listened to in respect of local / national change, directly feeding into the commissioning process.	Working with decision makers to ensure consultation exercises are meaningful and relevant to the young people. Training to ensure that the young people have the right skills to fulfil their role.	Develop a programme whereby the young people will become 'young inspectors to ensure services available to them are visited and reviewed by them.

3.3 Supporting Information

3.3.1 Swindon Youth Forum and Member of Parliament Update

3.3.2 Each year the Members of UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) debate topics in Parliament to decide their campaigns for the following year. Before this happens young people from across the UK need to decide on the topics that they feel are relevant. Swindon's young people contributed to this by taking part in the Make Your Mark ballots through schools across Swindon during November 2014.

3.3.3 3007 young people across 9 schools and youth organisations took part in the Make your Mark ballot:

3.3.4 Make Your Mark results

Make your Mark results 2014	Votes
Everyone should be paid at least the Living Wage.	583
Work Experience available to all	377
A Curriculum to prepare us for life.	340

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Mental health services should be improved.	328
Bring back exam resits in Maths and English.	312
Votes at 16.	289
Euthanasia.	207
Fund our youth services, don't cut them.	205
Young people should be directly involved in making laws.	169
Give young people a voice in improving their communities.	153
No vote / Multiple Votes	44
Total votes	3007

3.3.5 Work is currently being undertaken to engage more schools and youth organisations in preparation for both the 2015 Make your Mark Ballot, forthcoming Swindon Member of Youth Parliament elections, and the wider participation agenda. A dedicated worker has been employed to act as link with these organisations.

3.3.6 Living Wage Campaign

876,488 young people across the country who voted, and 'Everyone should be paid a living wage' was chosen as the 2014-2015 priority

A meeting was held with MP Robert Buckland to discuss the 'Living Wage Campaign'. An Interesting debate took place around the practicalities of all employers being able to adhere to the requirements, especially considering smaller organisations. The conclusion was that in order for young people to be placed in the best possible position within the job market, Ellie's campaign for 'Striving to Achieve' should be pursued further.

3.3.7 Encouraging young people to Achieve

Ellie, our member of Youth Parliament has continued with her campaign to encourage young people to embrace education.

Ellie is currently working on a pack to go out into schools in September, to not only encourage young people to take advantage of education while it is made available to them for free, but to provide information – following her consultation around 'barriers to achieving your goal' – on where to go for support and help should young people need additional emotional support, and guidance to prevent disengagement.

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3.3.8 Routes to Employment

On the 25th August young people will be meeting to run a day workshop to finalise the design for promotional materials to raise the profile of apprenticeships, these will be distributed throughout schools and youth organisations.

They will support the work currently commissioned to raise awareness of the types of employment and apprenticeship opportunities available to young people and the career progression routes available.

Further updates will be given during the meeting on the 2nd September.

3.3.9 Zero Tolerance Toward Bullying

Final artwork has been completed, and gone to print of Swindon Children and Young people's 'Anti-bullying Vision'.

See Appendix 1

Wilf, our Deputy MYP will be contacting head teachers to ask them to sign up to the vision and display the poster in their schools, along an information sheet signposting other avenues of support around bullying. Wilf will also be offering the opportunity to have an Anti-bullying session delivered within their school organisation.

An additional poster is being produced by the Thought Tank group to ensure that the language is appropriate for Special Schools and SEND young people.

3.3.10 Mental Health

Our MYPs and Youth Forum have supported the UKYP national campaign 'Mind the Gap' which aims to praise services that are meeting the mental health needs of young people, and highlight where young people are missing out on mental health services.

We have received feedback from South West Regional Youth parliament that Swindon is the only area in the south west to provide useful resources.

We provided them with 2 films completed by Swindon Youth Forum to help remove the stigma around mental health

The two films can be viewed by following the links below.

Not Just a Diagnosis

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L8iPRettD38>

Remote Control

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YMgL3x0l9lg>

Alongside this, the Youth Forum has supported a mental health needs assessment as requested by the Senior Public Health Manager - Swindon Borough Council. Two questionnaires were designed; one for young people who have received a service from mental health practitioners and one for those who haven't to find out if young people know how to access help.

Final reports can be seen in Appendix 2 and 3

3.3.11 Police Crime Commissioner

Ellie, alongside Wiltshire's Member of Youth Parliament, has been meeting with the Police Crime Commissioner to produce a survey to go out across Swindon and Wiltshire to gather the views in relation to crime and education.

Further updates will be given during the meeting on the 2nd September.

3.3.12 Thought Tank Update

SEND Reforms

Thought Tank have completed their poster highlighting the important changes for young people through the recent SEND reforms, and this has been agreed by Swindon Borough Councils' Participation and Engagement sub group. Posters will be distributed to all special schools and special resource provisions throughout Swindon. See Appendix 4

3.3.13 Priorities

The young people were asked what issues they feel are affecting them. They especially wanted to highlight the issues they had due to being a young person with disabilities;

- Misinterpretation

Adults getting the wrong idea of what you are trying to say – you get the feeling that you are not being listened to so give up in the end.

Adults not taking the time to check back with you what you mean, so they may put things into action which are wrong and don't meet your needs – you end up with the wrong help, which can be worse than getting no help at all.

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- Being trusted by adults (parents, carers, and teachers) to do things independently

To try new things

Missing some skills that may affect us when we are older, for example managing money and housing

Getting the right help

From this activity the young people have decided their priority campaigns for the next year will be to address these issues.

3.3.14 Complex Health Needs Assessment

3.3.15 Thought Tank have supported Swindon Borough Council in their 'Children with complex healthcare needs assessment'. Taking part and supporting the discussion process with other young people, to understand what works well and what doesn't work so well when you have complex medical needs. Following the needs assessment, the reports will assist in the review of services complex to see where improvements can be made.

Anonymised reports can be seen in Appendix 5

4. Alternative Options

None.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

5.1 There are no financial or procurement implications arising from this report

Legal and Human Rights Implications

5.2 There are no direct legal or human rights implications arising from this report

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

5.3 There are no other implications

Diversity Impact Assessment

5.4 A Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA) has not been completed for the following reasons: This is an update on progress to date.

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Risk Management

- 5.5 A risk assessment has not been completed, as this report is not recommending a specific amendment to a policy or strategy.'

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Board Director, Resources (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Anti-Bullying Vision 2015
- 8.2 Mental Health Services Report 1 C&YP - NOT accessed services
- 8.3 Mental Health Services Report 2 C&YP - Accessed services
- 8.4 C&YP SEND Reforms Poster
- 8.5 Children's Complex Health Needs Assessment
- 8.6 Mind the Gap Campaign Survey tool v.2