

Progress Update of Youth Participation

Health, Adults & Children Services

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 9th November 2016

Author: Director of Adult Services

Wards: All

Locality Affected: All

Parishes Affected: All

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; Swindon's Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs), Swindon Youth Council, Young Inspectors and Thought Tank.
- 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.
- 1.4 This work links to the following One Swindon Priorities:
 - Everyone is enjoying sports, leisure and cultural opportunities
 - Improve health and wellbeing for all by widening participation in sports, leisure and cultural activities
 - Living independently, protected from harm, leading healthy lives and making a positive contribution
 - Increased community involvement so that everyone is able to make a positive contribution

2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Continue to support the work of the Members of Youth Parliament, Swindon Youth Council, 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.

Progress Update of Youth Participation

Health, Adults & Children Services

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Date: 9th November 2016

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- 2.3 Agree when a further report on progress should be brought back to the committee.

3. Detail

Swindon Members of Youth Parliament

- 3.1 Make Your Mark is a unique annual consultation designed by young people for young people. This year, one in six 11-18 year olds across the UK voted on issues that mattered to them, making it the largest youth consultation in the country with 978,216 young people taking part in the process.
- 3.2 Nationally and regionally, young people have backed education reform to be a top priority - 'Curriculum for Life'. The call for education reform is not about the type of school, but what is taught in it. The winning campaign topic is a 'curriculum for life' that would better prepare young people for their life after school. The aim of the exercise is to bring priority issues to the attention of Government Ministers, including the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Culture, Media, and Sport, with responsibility for youth policy, Rob Wilson MP who will attend the UK Youth Parliament's House of Commons Sitting and reply on behalf of the Government. The Commons debate will take place on 11th November, and be chaired by The Rt. Hon John Bercow MP, Speaker of the House of Commons, who recently spoke at the UK Youth Parliament's Annual Sitting in York. Chloe, our Member of Youth Parliament will be attending to represent Swindon.
- 3.3 Swindon's young people contributed 2,793 (15% of those eligible) votes, and have once again voted for an improvement in mental health services and support around emotional wellbeing, highlighting a desire that mental health education should be compulsory and that stereotypes should be challenged.
- 3.4 Swindon's Deputy Members of Youth Parliament and Youth Council will continue to support our Member of Youth Parliament's on-going campaign - which aligns with Swindon's 2015 and 2016, Make Your Mark results. So far an online survey has been circulated, alongside 1000 paper ballots, to gauge children and young people's awareness of services and support available; results will be collated and presented at the end of the year. Chloe has also delivered two successful workshops around mental health awareness to Coram Voice, and our Youth Council.
- 3.5 All MYPs have attended their first 2 UKYP (United Kingdom Youth Parliament) conferences and have signed up to the current 'Don't Hate, Educate' campaign to challenge negative attitudes around race and religion; work with others to educate their communities in order to tackle ignorance around race and religion; and promote integration.

Progress Update of Youth Participation

Health, Adults & Children Services

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 9th November 2016

Swindon Youth Council

- 3.6 The Council have met five times this quarter and are supporting our MYPs and their campaigns as well as their own:

3.6.1 Anti-Social Behaviour / Community Safety – a meeting has been requested with the Police Crime Commissioner again, as we have had no response from previous requests.

3.6.2 Approving the perception of Swindon's Young People in the Media – the Youth Council have been visited by a reporter from the Swindon Advertiser to write an article on them, which was published in August.
[http://www.swindonadvertiser.co.uk/news/14682591.Swindon_Youth_Cou
ncil_is_speaking_out/#articleContinue](http://www.swindonadvertiser.co.uk/news/14682591.Swindon_Youth_Council_is_speaking_out/#articleContinue)

We hope to arrange a follow up article at the beginning of 2017.

- 3.7 The Youth Council have also made links with Healthwatch and have determined a work plan for the forthcoming year:

Area 1 – engagement with Swindon Youth Councils to further our involvement and engagement with young people around mental health and wellbeing - support Swindon wide survey, support action plan , challenge areas of inequality, poor practice etc.

Area 2 – engagement with young people to establish their view on health and social care matters and use the Youth Council to bring together issues and raise awareness of Healthwatch.

Area 3 – to help in the design of 'young person friendly' promotional material.

- 3.8 Work with Great Western Hospital is continuing. Swindon Youth Council members have created a questionnaire to be used by Great Western Hospital (GWH) to obtain feedback about treatment experience and how to improve the experience for young people and ensure they are providing a 'young person friendly' environment.

Members have also provided a list of recommended support services for young people for inclusion on the GWH website.

Young Inspectors

- 3.9 Nineteen young people received training regarding inspection processes and helped to redesign the evaluation and feedback sheets to be used during the inspection process. Nine young people have carried out inspections which are now uploaded onto the Borough's 'Local Offer' website.

Progress Update of Youth Participation

Health, Adults & Children Services

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 9th November 2016

Following the inspections, and submissions of their reports, all young people's recommendations have been actioned by the individual provisions to the satisfaction of the young people.

SBC and Aiming High have committed funding to the mainstreaming of 'Young Inspector's for 2016 / 2017'. Their work plan is detailed below:

TBC	Inspection of GWH	Thought Tank and Swindon Youth Council members
4 th February 2017	Inspection 1 (Saturday) – Hop, Skip and Jump	Thought Tank
4 th March 2017	Inspection 2 (Saturday) – tbc Leisure facility potentially Oasis	Thought Tank and Swindon Youth Council members
13 th April 2017*	Inspection 3 (Thursday) in holidays - Swindon Town Football Community Trust – holiday session	Thought Tank / STEP Saturday Respite group.
1 st June 2017*	Inspection 4 (Thursday) in holidays – tbc	Thought Tank and Swindon Youth Council members
15 th July 2017	Inspection 5 (Saturday) – tbc The Platform	Thought Tank and Swindon Youth Council members
24 th August 2017*	Inspection 6 (Thursday) in holidays – Ben Humphries – Leisure Services (disabled young people provision)	Thought Tank/ STEP Saturday Respite group.

Wider Youth Participation

- 3.10 Meeting to discuss ways of working together to reduce the isolation of young people who come out of Education other than at school (EOTAS) via hospital school, tuition or time away from school.

Progress Update of Youth Participation

Health, Adults & Children Services

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Date: 9th November 2016

- 3.11 A Hospital School questionnaire has been designed with children and young people who attend the hospital school to enable young people, whose education and potential is significantly affected by their medical and emotional needs, to have a say. Young people can say how they have or have not been supported by education while receiving medical intervention, either long or short term. This can then provide information to better guide schools and education provisions on the needs and worries these young people face with regards to inclusion. This will get a 'better deal' for this 'lost cohort' of young people in Swindon.

Areas of concern highlighted:

- Schools are not aware when children are attending; some are not sending appropriate work, if any
 - Re-introduction into school is not consistent or appropriate, not all the staff are aware of ways to make this work for the young people
 - All departments are not speaking to each other throughout the process nor after
 - No system in schools to track them before crisis, during treatment and after return to mainstream
 - As no EHP/EHCP for some of the children, no one takes the lead and coordinates all the services and staff in school that are working with them
 - Other children in schools are not sympathetic to the returning student because they don't understand - "we thought you were dead".
- 3.11 Could we work together to educate schools, heads, governors and the council that these young people do exist and there are a lot more of them than believed? As well as find how to better provide for them while they are off and to reintegrate them when they come back.

Recommendations

- 3.12 It would be good to have an active, maintained register within schools of all the children who are not receiving consistent mainstream education due to health needs.
- Similar accreditation to the 'young carers' one around providing support for these children and young people in schools.
 - Improve the culture of responsibility, tracking, return and social inclusion on return.

Progress Update of Youth Participation

Health, Adults & Children Services

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 9th November 2016

- Meeting with Peter Nathan and Ben Slater to discuss concerns and recommendations.

4. Alternative Options

4.1 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 implications arising from this report.

Diversity Impact Assessment

5.4 A diversity risk assessment is not required as this is an ongoing service.

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 None.