



EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 10TH JANUARY 2017

SUBJECT: JUNIOR AND YOUTH FORUM PRIORITIES 2017

REPORT BY: CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of issues raised by Children & Young People via the Youth Service's Junior and Youth Forums.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Following the Youth Forum Conference in October 2016 and the Junior Forum meeting in November 2016, Children & Young People have identified issues important to them and have voted on a Priority Issue for 2017.
- 2.2 The previously agreed process that follows the identification of issues has been as follows:
- Presentation of issues to DMT for information.
 - Young People present issues to Cabinet for information and to request support in addressing the Youth Forum priority.
 - Young People to present issues to relevant scrutiny groups for information.
 - Issues are presented directly by Young People.
 - Young People form a Project Group that meets weekly to address the Youth Forum priority issue, working directly with Officers and Members as appropriate on a range of initiatives intended to have a positive impact on the issue. This work continues until September 2017, with the process re-starting in October.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Local Participation Action Plan 2013.
- 3.2 The Caerphilly County Borough Single Integrated Plan 2013-2017(SIP) with particular reference to the LSB Citizen Engagement Strategy 2013.
- 3.3 The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, in that the priority themes selected by the Junior and Youth Forums correlate with all 7 of the seven Wellbeing Goals.
- 3.4 The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and Welsh Government Extending Entitlement Guidance.

4. THE REPORT

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The Junior & Youth Forum are structured and organised around the five themes of the Single Integrated Plan: Prosperous Caerphilly; Safer Caerphilly; Learning Caerphilly; Healthier Caerphilly; Greener Caerphilly, enabling children and young people to have a voice on issues that affect them. Junior Forum Representatives are aged 7-11 years; Youth Forum Representatives are aged 11-25 years.

4.1.2 At the Annual Youth Forum Conference Young People are provided with the opportunity to explore issues previously raised via borough wide consultation. Young people attending the conference present their views on each of the themes and engage in a dialogue with relevant Officers and Cabinet members. From exploring all themes within the context of young people's lives, young people identify and agree on a priority issue for each theme.

Following the Conference, an overall priority is voted upon by Young People representing the Youth Service, Schools and Youth Support Services. The issues voted for by 1116 young people for 2017 are:

31% Healthier Caerphilly

Mental Health - Awareness of mental health needs to be improved and stereotypes should be challenged

28% Safer Caerphilly

Car Safety - Young people need to be more aware of car safety both as a driver and as a passenger. This includes: seatbelts, distraction of the driver, use of alcohol and illegal substances, speeding, using mobile phones and overcrowding the car

24% Learning Caerphilly

First Aid Education - All young people should learn basic first aid and mental health first aid

8.5% Prosperous Caerphilly

Transport - Make public transport cheaper and improve local routes to ensure the whole borough is accessible for young people for learning and employment opportunities

8.5% Greener Caerphilly

Adventurous Outdoor Play - Provide safe adventurous play areas suitable for young people to encourage them to use local outdoor spaces

4.1.3 The Junior Forum representatives identified a priority within each Forum theme, raised via consultation and then voted on for an overall priority. The issues voted upon by 109 children are:

25% Greener Caerphilly

More awareness of local wildlife and the harm grass fire cause to natural habitats

24% Learning Caerphilly

More treats and rewards for children who are trying hard to learn

19% Safer Caerphilly

More lights on cycle paths and walkways

17% Healthier Caerphilly

More awareness of what Social Services do for children

15% Prosperous Caerphilly

More awareness of Caerphilly tourist attractions. Provide free transport and improve public transport links to the tourist attractions.

- 4.2 The Youth Forum will attend Education Scrutiny Committee on 10th January 2017, to present on the issues and outline the plans to address the Priority Issue, and wish to proceed with attendance at Cabinet to seek support in addressing the priority issue.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 5.1 These Priority themes intrinsically link with the 7 Well-being Goals and are aligned with the five ways of working, as set out in Links to Strategy above and tabled below, as they are generated by the Children and young people of the County Borough. Therefore, the process is both collaborative and involving as a given, as the Forums are central to Caerphilly's Participation commitment. The priority recommendations are all permanent in nature, thereby demonstrating long term intention. The remaining correlation with Prevention and Integration are acknowledged in the table below.

Junior/Youth Forum priorities	Additional links to 5 ways of working	Wellbeing goals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements to public transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Integration 	<i>A prosperous Wales</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car Safety • More awareness of what Social Services do for children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Prevention 	<i>A resilient Wales</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health - Awareness of mental health needs to be improved and stereotypes should be challenged • First Aid Education • Adventurous Outdoor Play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Prevention ✓ Integration ✓ Prevention ✓ Integration 	<i>A healthier Wales</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More rewards for children who are trying hard to learn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Integration 	<i>A more equal Wales</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More lights on cycle paths and walkways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Prevention 	<i>A Wales of cohesive communities</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More awareness of Caerphilly tourist attractions. • Provide free transport and improve public transport links to the tourist attractions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Integration ✓ Integration 	<i>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of local wildlife and the harm grass fire cause to natural habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Prevention 	<i>A globally responsible Wales</i>

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct equalities implications arising from the report at this stage.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the report at this stage.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no direct personnel implications arising from the report at this stage.

9. CONSULTATIONS

9.1 All priority issues identified have been in consultation with Children & Young People.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 That the Education Scrutiny Committee support the presentation of Junior & Youth Forum issues to Cabinet.

10.2 That Education Scrutiny considers how to support the Youth Forum in addressing their Priority Issue. Awareness of mental health needs to be improved and stereotypes should be challenged.

10.3 That Education Scrutiny considers how to support the Junior Forum in addressing their Priority Issue. More awareness of local wildlife and the harm grass fire cause to natural habitats.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 To ensure Members are informed of priorities identified by Children & Young People.

12. STATUTORY POWERS

12.1 Education Act 1996.

Author: Clare Jones, Youth Forum Co-ordinator
Jonescl1@caerphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: Chris Burns, Interim Chief Executive
Keri Cole, Chief Education Officer
Directorate Senior Management Team
Councillor Derek Havard, Cabinet Member, Education and Lifelong Learning
Councillor Wynne David, Chair of Education Scrutiny Committee
Paul O'Neill - Senior Youth Service Manager
Education Achievement Service (EAS)
Pastoral Leaders (Secondary Schools)
Anwen Rees, Senior Policy Officer (Equalities and Welsh Language)