



EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 12TH JANUARY 2016

SUBJECT: JUNIOR & YOUTH FORUM PRIORITIES 2016

REPORT BY: CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of issues raised by children and young people via the Youth Service's Junior and Youth Forums and the current Priority Issues chosen and to seek support and confirmation that they be presented to Cabinet for consideration.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Following the Youth Service's Youth Forum Conference in October 2015 and the Junior Forum Meeting in November 2015, children & young people have identified issues important to them and have voted on a Priority Issue for 2016.
- 2.2 The previously agreed process that follows the identification of issues has been as follows:
- Presentation of issues to Department Management Team (DMT) for information.
 - Young people present issues to Cabinet for information and to request support in addressing the Youth Forum priority.
 - Young People present issues to relevant scrutiny groups for information.
 - Youth Forum issues are presented directly by young people.
 - Junior Forum issues are presented via a digital story as part of the Young Peoples' presentation, for information.
 - 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 2016, with the process re-starting in October.
 - Delegates will be invited to attend the Junior Forum meeting in June 2016 to discuss the children's priority issue

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Local Participation Action Plan 2013.
- 3.2 The Caerphilly County Borough Strategic Integrated Plan (SIP) with particular reference to the LSB Citizen Engagement Strategy 2013.
- 3.3 The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and Welsh Government Extending Entitlement Guidance.
- 3.4 Welsh Government (WG) Future Generations Bill

- 3.5 WG National Youth Work Strategy
- 3.6 Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC) Youth Service Strategy

4. THE REPORT

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The Junior & Youth Forum are structured and organised around the four themes: Education for Life; Living Environment; Health, Social Care and Well-Being; and Regeneration. 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 and present their views on each of the four themes and engage in a dialogue with officers that are responsible for delivering the objectives of each theme, along with 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 one.
- 4.1.3 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 552 young people for 2016 are:
 - Education for Life – To modernise the Youth Service so it fits young people's lifestyles (for example establishing the provision of Wi-Fi in all building-based locations, improving access to the service and increasing awareness of the service through the use of social media) – 50% of the vote
 - Living Environment – To make young people feel safer in their communities (seeing people under the influence of drugs and alcohol make young people feel unsafe in their communities – 22% of the vote
 - Health, Social Care & Wellbeing – To raise awareness of what Mental Health is and how to support people - 15% of the vote
 - Regeneration – To increase employment opportunities for young people– 13% of the vote
- 4.1.4 The Junior Forum representatives identified a priority within each theme of the Fora, and then voted for an overall priority. The issues voted upon by 117 Children are:
 - Living Environment – People need to respect the natural habitat of wildlife – 37% of the vote
 - Education for Life – Misbehaving pupils can take up too much lesson time – 27% of the vote
 - Health, Social Care & Wellbeing – Stop hunger. More foodbanks available for people that need them and to help them make healthier meal choices – 23% of the vote
 - Regeneration – Public Transport needs to be cheaper and safer for children – 13% of the vote
- 4.2 The Youth Forum will attend Education for Life Scrutiny Committee on 12th January 2016, 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.

4.3 Previously the young people have attended Education, Regeneration, Living Environment and Health & Social Care Scrutiny. However, in 2015, the young people attended Cabinet and Education for Life Scrutiny. DMT to advise which Scrutiny meetings the young people are required to attend.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

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

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 All responses are reflected in the report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 That Members support and confirm presentation of Junior & Youth Forum issues to Cabinet.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 To ensure Members are informed of priorities identified by children & young people.

11. STATUTORY POWERS

11.1 The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and Welsh Government Extending Entitlement Guidance

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Councillor W. David, Chair of Education for Life Scrutiny Committee

Councillor J. Pritchard, Vice Chair of Education for Life Scrutiny Committee

Councillor M Prew, Caerphilly Youth Champion

Paul O'Neill – Senior Youth Service Manager

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