



CABINET – 1ST MARCH 2017

SUBJECT: JUNIOR & YOUTH FORUM PRIORITIES 2017

REPORT BY: CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet of issues raised by Children & Young People via the Junior and Youth Forums. This report was considered by the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee on 10th January 2017 who supported the priorities presented.

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.
- 2.3 The Senior Youth Service Manager presented the Junior & Youth Forum Priorities to the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee Scrutiny, who supported the presentation of the priorities to Cabinet.

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 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and Welsh Government Extending Entitlement Guidance.
- 3.4 The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2016 contributing to:

- *A prosperous Wales*
- *A resilient Wales*
- *A healthier Wales*
- *A more equal Wales*
- *A Wales of cohesive communities*
- *A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language*
- *A globally responsible Wales*

4. THE REPORT

4.1 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.

4.2 At the Annual Youth Forum Conference Young People are provided with the opportunity to explore issues previously raised by young people through a borough wide consultation. Young people attending the conference present their views on each of the five 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 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

4.3 The Junior Forum representatives identified a priority within each theme of the Forum, raised via consultation with children and then vote 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.

- 4.4 The issues raised by Children & Young People via the Junior and Youth Forums were presented by the Senior Youth Service Manager at the meeting of the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee on 10th January 2017.
- 4.5 Members of the Scrutiny Committee noted that the top priority of the Youth Forum (as was raised 12 months ago) is raising awareness in relation to Mental Health issues and what services are available to help young people. It was explained at that time that this is an ongoing issue and that CAMHS (Child and Adult Mental Health Services), is at full capacity in terms of services available and that the Local Authority, with Education Psychologists may need to consider looking at other approaches and developing innovative actions. A Member queried the priority '*Improvements to public transport*' and how this links in with '*A prosperous Wales*' Wellbeing Goals and the Committee were informed there is strong recognition from young people relating to accessing the County Borough and public transport where user friendliness and frequency has also been discussed. It was noted that the Forum will need to engage with Officers to obtain expert guidance on how this issue can be moved forward.
- 4.6 Members also considered the propriety of the Junior Forum – 'More awareness of local wildlife and the harm grass fires cause to natural habitats' and how this could be taken forward.
- 4.7 After due deliberation of both the Junior and Youth Forum priorities, the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee supported the proposal of the Youth Forum in addressing their Priority Issue – 'Awareness of mental health needs to be improved and stereotypes should be challenged', and that of the Junior Forum in addressing their Priority Issue – 'More awareness of local wildlife and the harm grass fires cause to natural habitats', and noted that a presentation would be made to Cabinet in order that they can be taken forward.

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.

<i>Junior/Youth Forum priorities</i>	<i>Additional links to 5 ways of working</i>	<i>Wellbeing goals</i>
<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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Prevention ✓ Integration 	<i>A healthier Wales</i>

<p>health needs to be improved and stereotypes should be challenged</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid Education • Adventurous Outdoor Play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Prevention ✓ Integration 	
<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 issues have been identified in consultation with Children & Young People.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 Cabinet to have due regard to issues raised by Children and Young People when making decisions which impact upon their lives.

10.2 Cabinet 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 Cabinet to support Young People's attendance at Health Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to present their Priority Issue.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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