



EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 26/09/17 INFORMATION ITEM

SUBJECT: PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE LOCAL PARTICIPATION ACTION PLAN (LPAP)

REPORT BY: CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform Members of the progress made against the Local Participation Action Plan during 2016/17.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 The Welsh Government issued statutory guidance for Children and Young People's Participation in February 2013, which placed a statutory duty on Local Authorities to make arrangements to promote and facilitate participation by children and young people in decisions of the authority that might affect them.

2.2 The Local Participation Action Plan (LPAP) 2013-2016 sets out the arrangements for promoting and facilitating children and young people's participation in decision-making in Caerphilly County Borough. It has also served as the delivery plan for ensuring that statutory duties under the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 (section 12), are being met.

2.3 A LPAP progress report has been produced since 2014, with a summary of participative activity and developments made by a range of CCBC service areas and key partners who work to improve the involvement of children and young people in decision making.

2.4 The progress report for 2016/17 summarises key participative activity throughout 2016/17 and evidences how statutory duties are being met.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

3.1 The LPAP and the progress made during 2016/17 contribute to the Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2016:

- *A prosperous Wales – Engaging young people in decision making and associated rights-based participative activity enables skills development and access to a variety of experiences which assists on a pathway to further education and employment.*
- *A resilient Wales – Participation in eco-schools initiatives, as demonstrated in the progress report, educates children in having a voice in how to nurture and protect the natural environment.*

- *A healthier Wales – The Healthy Schools initiative and much participation related activity supports physical and mental well-being as well as raising self-esteem and positive aspirational behaviour for the future.*
- *A more equal Wales – The LPAP aims to give all young people access to having a voice and being informed of their rights, regardless of background or circumstance.*
- *A Wales of cohesive communities – Much of the participative outreach related activity has been delivered in community based locations, aiming to connect communities of young people to local decision-making.*
- *A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language – Young People are often engaged in participative related activity through a range of cultural, sporting and recreational activity.*
- *A globally responsible Wales – Youth Forum related activity embraces the rights-based agenda with national and European activity, with links to the National Assembly for Wales, the UK Youth Parliament and the European Youth Parliament, enabling local young people to contribute to and influence global issues.*

3.2 The PSB Communication & Engagement Strategy, of which adheres to the National Principles of Engagement and the National Participation Standards for Children and Young People.

4. THE REPORT

4.1 The LPAP Progress Report 2016/17 is attached in Appendix 1.

4.2 The LPAP has four key objectives: Objective 1, To support organisations to involve children and young people in decision making; Objective 2, To promote children and young people's right to be heard on a range of issues; Objective 3, To support organisations to develop a clear commitment to the national participation standards for children and young people; and Objective 4, To develop sustainable mechanisms enabling children and young people to influence decision-making.

4.3 Participative activity against each of the four objectives has been very good across a range of LA areas who have worked to directly involve children and young people in decision making. Work has also been undertaken to support schools and other service providers to develop their participative practice through delivering training and facilitating engagement with a variety of schemes that evaluate and award good participative practice.

4.4. The scope and variety of participative activity is excellent and clearly demonstrated in the annual progress report, with examples of how pupil voice in schools is developing, examples of the continued developments and successful engagement of children and young people in the LA Junior Forum and Youth Forum, and how harder to reach young people are being engaged in rights based education through outreach programmes.

4.5 The progress report illustrates a clear commitment of the LA to the participation of children and young people in decision making and evidences that statutory duties are being fulfilled.

4.6 The LPAP will be reviewed during 2017/18 and will continue with the aim of developing practice and process around the promotion and facilitation of children and young people's participation.

4.7 Under the direction of the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children, Welsh Government regularly conducts monitoring visits to determine how statutory guidance is being implemented in Local Authorities. WG Officers visited CCBC in October 2016 and August 2017 and on both visits were very positive and pleased with the high level of pro-active commitment to participation demonstrated and with the level of engagement with children and young people. Both visits concluded that there is strong evidence to demonstrate that Caerphilly meets the requirements as set out in the statutory guidance.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 5.1 This LPAP Progress Report and all associated activity contribute to the Well-being Goals as set out in Links to Strategy above. The LPAP aims to improve and enable processes through which children and young people have a say in decisions which affect them, ensuring they are able to express their views and ideas for improving their own lives and the lives of others, both now and for future generations.
- 5.2 It is consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act by working with children and young people (and supporting other service providers to work with children and young people) to impact on decision making for short term and long term needs. By listening to the voices of children and young people, service providers are better able to respond to needs, better able to identify and understand problems as experienced by our citizens and thus better able to shape services in the future in a more effective responsive way.
- 5.3 Involving children and young people in decision making at all levels fosters a culture of expectation and responsibility, strengthened by increasing their knowledge and understanding in Childrens Rights.
- 5.4 The LPAP aims to be a multi-agency plan, where a range of service areas and partners develop and report on participative activity in a collaborative way, sharing practice and contributing to the outcomes as achieved in the progress report.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 This report is for information purposes only, so the council's full Equalities Impact Assessment process does not need to be applied.
- 6.2 The participative activity that has taken place throughout 2016/17 has benefitted many different groups in the community with many children and young people having been recipients of engagement activity, rights-based education and informed service delivery.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There no financial implications in this report.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no personnel implications in this report.

9. CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 All responses from consultations have been incorporated in the report

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 Members are requested to note the contents of the LPAP Progress Report 2016/17

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 For information for members.

12. STATUTORY POWER

12.1 'Shared Purpose: Shared Future, Statutory Guidance on the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015', and in particular SPSF 3 – Annex B, which is issued in accordance with Section 17(3) of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 and applies to local authorities in respect of local well-being plans and whenever they take decisions which might affect children and young people.

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Appendices:
Appendix 1 Local Participation Action Plan (LPAP) Progress Report 2016/17