



CABINET – 28TH FEBRUARY 2018

SUBJECT: JUNIOR AND YOUTH FORUM PRIORITIES

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES AND SECTION 151 OFFICER

-
- 1.1 The attached report was considered by the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee on the 9th January 2018.
 - 1.2 The Youth Forum Co-ordinator introduced the report and the representatives from the Youth Forum delivered their presentation that informed Members of issues raised by Children and Young People via the Youth Service's Junior and Youth Fora.
 - 1.3 An overview was provided of the Youth Forum Conference in October 2017 and the Junior Forum meeting in November 2017, where Children and Young People have identified issues important to them and have voted on Priority Issues for 2018. The previous agreed process that follows the identification of issues was set out in the report.
 - 1.4 The structure of the Junior and Youth Fora was discussed and it was explained that they are organised around the five themes of the Single Integrated Plan. The Junior Forum Representatives are aged 7-11 years and the Youth Forum Representatives are aged 11-25 years.
 - 1.5 The Scrutiny Committee were advised that at the Annual Youth Forum Conference Young People are provided with the opportunity to explore issues previously raised via borough wide consultation. From exploring all themes within the context of young people's lives, young people identify and agree on a priority issue for each theme, details of which are set out in paragraph 4.1.2. and 4.1.3. in the report and Members were given the opportunity to discuss each of the issues in detail. The Youth Forum Overall Priority Issue is Bullying and to increase peoples' understanding of what is classed as bullying and to help people understand how to deal with bullying. The Junior Forum Overall Priority Issue is Homelessness where it is considered more support is needed for homeless people.
 - 1.6 In terms of the priority issue of Bullying, a Member asked if all schools adopt the same policy. The Youth Forum considers that schools need continuity in this area and that policy's need to be displayed in schools. Officers confirmed the Council has a model policy in place, although this may not be implemented consistently as this may depend on the profile within individual schools. An excellent campaign has been undertaken where the Local Authority has looked at the different types of bullying and introduced this policy as a result.

1.7 Following consideration of the report and subsequent presentation, the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee unanimously recommended to Cabinet that for the reasons contained therein:-

- (i) the proposal of the Youth Forum in addressing their Priority Issue – Bullying, be supported;
- (ii) the proposal of the Junior Forum in addressing their Priority Issue – Homelessness, be supported.

1.8 Members are asked to consider the recommendations.

Author: Amy Dredge, Committee Services Officer, 3100.

Appendix 1 Junior and Youth Forum Priorities.