



## **EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 2ND APRIL 2019**

**SUBJECT: JUNIOR & YOUTH FORUM PRIORITIES**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES**

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### **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. The report is seeking the views of Members prior to its presentation to Cabinet.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 Following the Youth Forum Conference in January 2019 and the Junior Forum meeting in November 2018, Children & Young People have identified issues important to them and have voted on Priority Issues for 2019.
- 2.2 The previously agreed process that follows the identification of issues has been as follows:
- Presentation of issues to SMT for information.
  - Young People present Junior Forum issues to Cabinet for information only and to request support in addressing the Youth Forum priority.
  - Young People to present issues to relevant scrutiny groups for information.
  - Young People to present issues to the Public Services Board (PSB) 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 December 2019, with the process re-starting in January.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 That the Education Scrutiny Committee supports the presentation of Junior & Youth Forum issues to Cabinet.
- 3.2 That Education Scrutiny Committee considers how to support the Youth Forum in addressing their Priority Issue of Mental Health.
- 3.3 That Education Scrutiny Committee considers how to support the Junior Forum in addressing their Priority Issue of raising awareness of drug & alcohol support.
- 3.4 Education Scrutiny Committee to have due regard to issues raised within this report by Children and Young People when making decisions which impact upon their lives.

#### 4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To ensure Members are informed of priorities identified by children and young people.

#### 5. THE REPORT

##### 5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The Junior & Youth Fora are structured and organised around five themes: 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.

- 5.1.2 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 for by Young People representing the Youth Service, Schools and Youth Support Services. The issues, as voted for by 2656 young people in a post conference consultation for 2019 are:

5.2 39% Healthier Caerphilly – **Overall Priority Issue**

Mental Health – Services should be improved with young peoples help. Young people should have mental health first aid education.

27% Safer Caerphilly

Knife Crime – Stop the knife crime epidemic

21% Prosperous Caerphilly

Tackling Homelessness – Every person should have a place to live and the opportunity to live comfortably. There needs to be more affordable housing.

9% Learning Caerphilly

Put an end to Period Poverty – Sanitary Products are an essential item. CCBC should make them free and accessible for all young people who need them whilst accessing schools and youth services.

4% Greener Caerphilly

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

- 5.3 The Junior Forum representatives identified a priority within each Forum theme, raised via consultation and then voted for as the overall priority. The issues voted for by 110 children are:

Junior Forum Issues:

41% Healthier Caerphilly – **Overall Priority Issue**

More awareness of support for drugs and alcohol

25% Learning Caerphilly

More support for children with Additional learning needs

19% Prosperous Caerphilly

More homeless shelters and opportunities for homeless people

11 % Safer Caerphilly  
Speeding cars in communities are dangerous

4% Greener Caerphilly  
Community litter picks

- 5.4 The Youth Forum will attend Education Scrutiny Committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019. 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.

## **6. ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 No related assumptions have been felt to be necessary in relation to this report.

## **7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES**

- 7.1 Youth Service Plan 2018-2021.
- 7.2 Education Service Improvement Plan 2019.
- 7.3 Statutory duties for the participation of children and young people under the children and families measure, Wales 2010.
- 7.4 Public Services Board Delivery Plan Enabler: E2 – Communications and Engagement.
- 7.5 Caerphilly County Borough Council Corporate Plan priority – The Well-being Objective “Improve Education opportunities for all”.

## **8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS**

- 8.1 This report contributes to the Well-being Goals as set out in Links to Strategy above. 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.
- 8.2 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 Children’s Rights.

## **9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 This report is for information purposes only, so the council’s full Equalities Impact Assessment process does not need to be applied.
- 9.2 The participative activity that has taken place 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.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no financial implications with respect to this report.

## **11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 There are no personnel implications with respect to this report.

## **12. CONSULTATIONS**

12.1 All responses from the consultations have been incorporated in the report.

## **13. STATUTORY POWER**

13.1 '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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