



CABINET – 24TH APRIL 2019

SUBJECT: JUNIOR AND YOUTH FORUM PRIORITIES

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

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- 1.1 The attached report was considered by the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee on 2nd April 2019 prior to its presentation to the Cabinet. Members were advised that it was with sadness that the young people who were due to present at the meeting had attended a friend's funeral earlier in the day and had extended their disappointment at being unable to deliver their presentation.
 - 1.2 The report, which had been presented by the Senior Youth Service Manager informed Members of issues raised by Children and Young People via the Youth Service's Junior and Youth Forums. Members noted the priorities voted on that were set out in paragraph 5.2 and 5.3 in the report. It was confirmed that the overall priority issue for the Youth Forum is 'Mental Health' - Services should be improved with young people's help and young people should receive mental health first aid education. The Junior Forum's overall priority issue is 'more awareness of support for drugs and alcohol support'. The process that follows the identification of issues was set out in paragraph 2.2 in the report.
 - 1.3 A Member referred to the Youth Forum Conference that he attended and was impressed with the discussions that took place, with particular reference to the issue of mental health. The Cabinet Member had also attended the Conference and was equally impressed with the maturity of responses provided. She added that young people stated that issues of mental health are all around them and also how social media can impact negatively on their mental health. Officers confirmed that all secondary schools have Counsellors that provide support. Funding has been secured for this role that will not be affected by any savings proposals. There is an increase in need for support and the CAMHS Service is flooded with referrals. There is also a need to invest in Elsa and Thrive training to support children and young people.
 - 1.4 Reference was made to the previous priorities presented to and supported by the Scrutiny Committee and a Member queried why feedback in terms of the young people's progress is not brought back to the Committee. It was suggested that the Youth Forum be invited to attend the next meeting scheduled on the 21st May 2019 to provide an update on the priority issues and this was agreed by the Scrutiny Committee.

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

- (i) the Junior and Youth Forum issues be supported and presented to Cabinet;
- (ii) the Youth Forum in addressing their Priority Issue of Mental Health, be supported;
- (iii) the Junior Forum in addressing their Priority Issue of raising awareness of Drug and Alcohol Support, be supported,
- (iv) issues raised by Children and Young People when making decisions which impact upon their lives, be supported.

1.5 Cabinet are asked to consider the recommendations of the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee.

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Appendices:

Appendix A Report to the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee – 2nd April 2019 - Junior and Youth Forum Priorities – Agenda Item 9.