



## **EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 11TH JANUARY 2021**

**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 the issues raised by Children & Young People via the Youth Services 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 2020 and the Junior Forum meeting in November 2019, Children & Young People have identified issues important to them and have voted on Priority Issues for 2020. However due to Covid-19, presentations to Education Scrutiny and Cabinet by young people were cancelled. Therefore the issues still need to be presented.
- 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 will continue until December 2021, with the process re-starting in January 2022.
- 2.3 The decision to continue the priority issues for a second year has been made due to the high numbers of children and young people consulted on the priorities originally. Consulting with children and young people at this time to identify new priorities would

result in a lower response rate and not offer a representative view of young people's issues across the authority.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 That the Education Scrutiny Committee supports the presentation of Junior and Youth Forum issues to Cabinet by young people.
- 3.2 That Education Scrutiny Committee considers how to support the Youth Forum in addressing their Priority Issue - Raising awareness of emergency services – Educate young people of what to do in an emergency.
- 3.3 That Education Scrutiny Committee considers how to support the Junior Forum in addressing their Priority Issue - Speeding cars.
- 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 the priorities identified by children and young people.

### **5. THE REPORT**

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 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 3310 young people in February 2020 and will continue throughout 2021 are:

26% Safer Caerphilly - Raising awareness of emergency services – Educate young people of what to do in an emergency. **Overall Priority Issue**

22% Greener Caerphilly - Parks - Many people vandalise parks, we need parks that are suited to young people over 12 years old.

21 % Healthier Caerphilly - Mental health first aid for teachers- Help teachers have a better understanding of mental health.

18% Learning Caerphilly - Employability- we need to know how to prepare ourselves for the world of work, and a curriculum that will give us life skills for employment.

13% Prosperous Caerphilly - Poverty - Poverty isn't always visible. We need to raise awareness of poverty and how to help.

- 5.4 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 112 children and will continue throughout 2021 are:

Junior Forum Issues:

25% Safer Caerphilly - Speeding cars can injure or kill people. **Overall Priority Issue**

21% Learning Caerphilly - Make learning in school fun and interactive.

20% Healthier Caerphilly - Promote a safe lifestyle and avoiding 'risk taking' behaviour.

18% Prosperous Caerphilly - Make more people aware of local support for local homeless people.

16% Greener Caerphilly - Make better use of our green space so we can take part in adventurous play.

5.5 **Conclusion**

The Youth Forum will attend Education Scrutiny on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 to present the issues and give an overview of the projects activity for 2020, including any plans to address the issues during 2021. We wish to proceed with attendance to 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 **Corporate Plan 2018-2023.**

This report contributes to the following Corporate Well-being Objectives:

Objective 1 - Improve education opportunities for all.

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

8.1 The report contributes to the Well-being Goals:-

- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales.

This report 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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