

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Youth Wise – Brighton and Hove's Decision Makers</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> January 2020</b>		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Executive Director for Families, Children &amp; Learning</b>		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Deborah Corbridge</b>	<b>Tel: 29-2953</b>
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<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	<b>(All Wards);</b>		

**FOR GENERAL RELEASE**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide information on the current arrangements for young people to participate in decisions on services for young people in the city.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 That the Committee acknowledges and support the arrangements and agree the attached terms of reference for Youth Wise.

**3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The group was formed as a result of the 'Protect Youth Services Campaign' that resulted in funding for youth services being retained. Councillors and senior officers were keen to keep open communication with young people from across the city and ensure they played a key role in making decisions around funding for services that impact on them.
- 3.2 The group has been running for two years. Young people representing a range of youth services, councillors from across the parties, senior officers and youth workers have attended meetings approximately every 3 months.
- 3.2 The group have to date covered and consulted on various items, including:
- **Youth Portal** (development of a website comprising of a wide range of services and activities on offer to young people)
  - **Youth Bus** (consultation and decisions made on the previously council owned youth bus which resulted in it transferring to the Hangleton and Knoll Project)
  - **Youth Led Grants Programme** (young people led on setting priorities, developing a framework for distributing the additional £90,000 for youth projects and setting up a young people's panel for evaluating bids. There have been two bidding rounds to date).
- 3.3 The young people have a range of agenda items they would like to see on future agendas, including:

- Building networks/communication
  - Highlighting good practice
  - Transport
  - Youth Service Grants Programme – recommissioning process
  - BYC / central hub development
  - Youth led Grants Programme
  - Themed campaigns on youth issues
  - Engaging young people in politics – education, understanding how money is spent on young people, votes for 16 year olds etc.
  - Mental Health
  - Transgender/sexual identity - bullying, accessing medical help, group need to be given a voice
  - Housing crisis
  - Bullying in schools and social media
  - Drug/alcohol misuse
- 3.4 The Brighton and Hove City Council 2020 to 2023 Corporate Plan outlines its commitment to deliver high quality youth services and states that we will give young people a stronger voice in future services. The development of this group is recognised as instrumental in delivering on this commitment.
- 3.5 The group was previously known as the Youth Cross Party Working Group; however after consultations and voting on a name they have agreed on Youth Wise – *Brighton and Hove's Decision Makers*
- 3.6 The youth groups that are represented at this meeting (or have been during the two years) include:
- Youth Council
  - Brighton Youth Centre
  - Hangleton and Knoll Project
  - Allsorts
  - Turner Community Project
  - Audio Active
  - Trust for Developing Communities
  - Children in Care Council
  - Youth Advice Centre
  - Impact Initiatives
  - Right Here

Other youth groups have been invited regularly but have not, as yet, attended.

- 3.7 The group have agreed their terms of reference (see appendix). It was also agreed that young people would be given bus tickets to help them attend the group.

#### **4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 4.1 The group has developed but acknowledge the numbers of young people involved is limited and they have an aspiration to significantly increase the numbers of young people participating in decisions that impact on them and will

be working on models to achieve this, particularly reaching the most disadvantage and those with protected characteristics.

## **5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 As part of their role young people attending the meeting will be representing the organisation they are part of and have agreed that the agenda is planned and disseminated well in advance (month before the meeting) so they have time to garner the views from the young people in their group so their voices can also be brought to the meeting.
- 5.2 Young people have in the past presented reports to this Committee and Housing Area Panels and would welcome further opportunities to present as the group's agenda widens.
- 5.3 It is acknowledged that youth workers from both the council and voluntary sector youth providers are integral to encouraging and supporting young people to have a voice and participate in consultations.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 The work of this group has created a forum where young people's voices are heard and valued; where they have been at the forefront of making decisions on how resources are allocated and would welcome further opportunities to impact on services for young people in the city.

## **7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

### Financial Implications:

- 7.1 Funding to support the participation of young people is included in the Youth Participation Team budget and the Youth Service Grants.

The Youth Participation Team Budget for 2019-20 is £472,100

The Youth Service Grants Gross Budget for 2019-20 is £740,000 (includes £250,000 HRA income)

*Finance Officer Consulted: David Ellis*

*Date: 11/12/19*

### Legal Implications:

- 7.2 Section 507b of the Education Act 1996 places a specific duty on the Council to secure 'as far as reasonably practicable' sufficient educational and recreational activities for the improvement of young people's well-being, and sufficient facilities for such activities. Young people are defined as those aged 13-19, and those with learning difficulties to age 24.
- 7.3 Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities on Services and Activities to Improve Young People's Well-being issued in 2012 clarifies that it is not prescribed which services and activities for young people local authorities should fund or deliver or to what level. Local authorities are responsible for securing, so far as is reasonably practicable, a local offer that is sufficient to meet local needs and

improve young people's well-being and personal and social development. They should strive to secure the best possible local offer within available resources. Under the guidance it is for local authorities to determine the mix of open access, targeted, preventative and specialist provision needed to meet local needs and how to integrate all services around young people and decide what facilities are needed and how to make these available and accessible, wherever possible maximising the utilisation and potential of all local partners' assets.

*Lawyer Consulted:*

*Name: Natasha Watson*

*Date: 02/01/2020*

### Equalities Implications

The Group aim to widen membership to ensure that young people from all protected groups are represented.

### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

Appendices: None

Documents in Members' Rooms: None

Background Documents: None

## Appendix

### Youth Wise Terms of Reference (Brighton and Hove's Decision makers)

#### Purpose

Views and recommendations from this group will be taken into account and will be represented at the Children, Young People and Skills Committee by the Councillors and Youth Council representative.

#### Membership

- Councillors – usually one Member from each of the three political groups in the council who attend the Children, Young People and Skills Committee
- Young people from different areas, groups and youth services in the city including representatives from the Youth Council, Children in Care Council, commissioned youth projects and other youth organisations.
- Executive Director or Assistant Director for Families Children & Learning.
- Youth workers to support young people if deemed necessary
- Council Officer to oversee organisation and administration

#### Frequency –

Every 3 months, with task and finish groups as agreed and additional meetings set up when deemed necessary. Young people to meet before the more formal meeting with councillors and senior officers.

#### Venue –

The young people were keen to hold the meeting in various venues because it would be good to get to know other youth venues. Agreed to rotate venues across the city and include more formal meeting places to give young people that experience.

#### Agenda

The young people would like the agenda going out well in advance (month before the meeting) so they have time to garner the views from the young people in their group so their voices can also be brought to the meeting. Agenda items can be proposed by young people, councillors or senior council officers.

#### Chairing

The Chair of Children, Young People and Skills Committee Lead to chair the meeting with, if there is a volunteer, a young person.

#### Organisation/Administration

Council Officer to organise the meeting, consult and agree an agenda, circulate papers a month in advance and type up notes from meeting and circulate.

#### Communication

We need to reach out to other young people; past members have been involved, mainly due to knowing and having a good relationship with a youth worker. It was agreed that we need a robust communication plan with the meeting dates, agenda items and how they can feed into the group published widely via various routes such as Facebook. It was agreed that further discussion is required on this.

