

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 11 MARCH 2013

REPORT ON: DUNDEE YOUTH COUNCIL CONSULTATION AND MANIFESTO

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR, LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES

REPORT NO: 49-2013

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this Committee Report is to advise Council about the findings from a consultation conducted by Dundee Youth Council (DYC) in 2012 and their Manifesto outlining the main findings and issues arising from the consultation.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Committee:

- 2.1 Acknowledges the efforts made by DYC to establish the views of young people in Dundee, about a range of key services.
- 2.2 Agrees to ongoing dialogue between the Dundee Youth Council and Dundee Partnership Agencies and elected members on the main issues of concern highlighted by this consultation.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The cost of supporting the Dundee Youth Council in dealing with the issues emerging from their consultation and manifesto can be met within the Communities and Policy Youthwork budget.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In May 2012 Dundee Youth Council conducted a survey of 4,494 young people from across Dundee, to establish their views about key services in Dundee and how they might be improved.
- 4.2 The majority (94%) of young people who took part were contacted through their secondary school; efforts were also made to include young people attending College/University or participating in Youth Work programmes. In addition surveys were conducted in the City centre and at Community Festivals.
- 4.3 Over 90% of respondents were in the 11 – 17 age range. Just under 90% stated that their ethnic origin was white. There was a fairly even split between male (47%) and female respondents (53%).
- 4.4 The survey asked young people for their views about Education, Jobs and the Economy, Transport, Health, Justice and Safety, Sport and Leisure, Equality, Communities and Scotland and the World. Young people were asked to rate their experience of each of these areas, on a scale ranging from very poor to very good, and to give their views about how services might be improved.

- 4.5 On the whole young people declared that their experience, of the areas described above, has been good or very good. Exceptions to this were their experiences of Jobs and the Economy, Transport and Equality where the balance in the majority of views lay between poor and good.
- 4.6 Overall the top areas where young people would like to see improvements were:
- Access for young people to GP and Dental surgeries
 - Safety for young people in their communities
 - Bus services in Dundee
 - Cost of sport and leisure facilities
- 4.7 Dundee Youth Council will take forward the actions noted in their manifesto through discussion with local and national elected representatives and the key people in the Dundee Partnership.
- 4.8 An executive summary of the main findings and action points is attached as appendix 1. The full Manifesto is available on the Youth Council's website at www.dundeeyouthcouncil.org.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. No major issues have been identified.
- 5.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and will be made available on the Council website <http://www.dundee.gov.uk/equanddiv/equipact/>

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services, Head of Democratic and Legal Services and Director of Education along with Dundee Youth Council have been consulted on this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Equality Impact Assessment.

STEWART MURDOCH
DIRECTOR, LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES
23 January 2013

Getting Young People's Views Across – Dundee Youth Council Consultation

Executive Summary

Dundee Youth Council's Manifesto has been drawn from the views of 4494 young people who were surveyed in May 2012. It should be noted that not all young people answered all the questions in the surveys.

The survey sought the views of young people through schools, college/universities and from Youth Projects across the City. Surveys were also completed in the town centre and at community festivals. The result of this was that 4494 young people participated, making this survey one of the largest ever carried out in Dundee by young people.

The Chair of Dundee Youth Council, in year one, said that DYC should be a strong voice to improve Dundee and that DYC would make sure that everyone was included and had their say. He expressed the belief that one of the main targets for DYC in year two was to consult and use the results to create a manifesto that would get young peoples' views across, on issues important to them.

Young people gave DYC their views on Transport, Education, Health, Culture, Media, Sport & Leisure. They told DYC about their experiences of Jobs & the Economy, Justice & Safety and Equality. DYC also asked young people about Scotland and its place in the World, and the Communities in which they live.

Young people were asked about their experiences of the key areas described above and where they felt improvements might be made.

This Manifesto is DYC's declaration of what young people have said they would like to see happen in Dundee and the world around them. The document sets out Dundee Youth Council's priorities around which we invite you to discuss and debate. DYC will work with partners and elected representatives, both locally and nationally, to make the improvements that young people have said they would like to see.

The results and actions for each section were as follows:

Education

We asked: How would you rate your experience of Education in Dundee?

Very Poor 107 (2%)
Poor 289 (7%)
Good 2483 (56%)
Very Good 1519 (35%)
Total Responses 4398

Statement DYC agrees with young people that they require more support to develop their knowledge and understanding of the day to day financial decision making that they will face once they leave home.

Policy DYC believes that all young people should receive informative and effective financial education in PSE, covering issues such as mortgages, loans and living costs.

Action DYC will share the results of the consultation and work with the City Wide Pupil Council, Education Department and the Convenor of Education, Dundee City Council on the concerns and issues identified by young people.

Statement DYC agrees with young people of Dundee that apprenticeships and vocational opportunities should be equally promoted alongside further and higher education.

Policy DYC believes that there should be more widely promoted and accessible vocational opportunities and apprenticeships for young people.

Action DYC will share the results of the consultation with the Scottish Government Minister for Youth Employment as well as the Education Department of Dundee City Council, to highlight the opinion that not all young people feel suited, or want, to enter further or higher education.

Statement DYC agrees with the young people of Dundee that there should be no tuition fees for university education in Scotland. DYC also agrees that living expenses should not be a barrier for young people who aspire to move on to further and higher education.

Policy DYC believes that more should be done to tackle the cost of university by maintaining free tuition and narrowing Student Awards Agency for Scotland support bands so more support is given to those who need it most.

Action DYC will share the results of the consultation with the Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning to bring to his attention the feelings and opinions of young people in Dundee.

Jobs and the Economy

We asked: How would you rate your experience of Jobs and the Economy?

Very Poor 473 (15%)

Poor 1329 (43%)

Good 1133 (37%)

Very Good 160 (5%)

Total Responses 3095

Statement DYC agrees with the young people of Dundee in being concerned by the unacceptably high level of youth unemployment. DYC also agrees that ,although training for job applications and interviews is vital, youth unemployment is more down to a lack of job opportunities.

Policy DYC believes there should be more job opportunities available for young people in the city, in a variety of areas.

Action DYC will support campaigns and initiatives that aim to tackle youth unemployment and wider job creation.

Statement DYC agrees with the young people of Dundee that it is unfair for an 18 year old with a year's experience to be paid less than a 30 year old without experience, for the same job.

Policy DYC believes that there should be a minimum wage for all ages – one job, one wage. DYC supports the Scottish Youth Parliament in its “One Fair Wage” campaign.

Action DYC will share these views with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions.

Transport

We asked: How would you rate your experience of Transport in Dundee?

Very Poor 295 (7%)

Poor 1210 (28%)

Good 2383 (52%)

Very Good 424 (13%)

Total Responses 4312

Statement DYC agrees with the young people of Dundee that bus fares for children and young people are increasingly unaffordable. DYC feels this is placing young people out of the jobs market and making leisure facilities harder to get to.

Policy DYC aims to raise the concerns and issues young people have around transport through the “It’s No’ Fare” campaign.

Action DYC will approach all elected representatives for Dundee, locally and nationally, to ask for their support with the campaign. DYC will also share the results of the ‘It’s No’ Fare’ survey with local bus companies. We will seek to raise a public petition within the Scottish Parliament.

Statement DYC agrees with the young people of Dundee that the environment is of massive importance and public transport should reflect this.

Policy DYC believes that there should be more investment in and implementation of eco-friendly travel.

Action DYC will share the results of this consultation with the Scottish Government Minister for Transport and Veterans.

Statement DYC agrees with the young people of Dundee that bus services across the city are of a poor standard and that timetabling does not take into account the need to arrive at certain times, for example to get to places of education and work for 9am or in time for regular leisure events such as 7pm skating at Dundee Ice Arena.

Policy DYC believes there should be a vast improvement in the bus services available in Dundee with more buses running on time, cleaner buses and more friendly staff. DYC also believes that timetables should be reassessed to make arrival times the priority.

Action DYC will share the results and ideas from the consultation with Stagecoach Strathtay and National Express Dundee

Health

We asked: How would you rate your experience of Health Services in Dundee?

Very Poor 81 (2%)

Poor 334 (8%)

Good 2269 (53%)

Very Good 1611 (37%)

Total Responses 4295

Statement DYC agrees with the young people of Dundee that they should be involved in making decisions about health services.

Policy DYC believes that the Youth Talkin' Health group has shown how effective co-production of health policy and health services with young people can be and believe that Youth Talkin' Health's future should be secured within Tayside and used as best practice nationally.

Action DYC will continue to support Youth Talkin' Health and will share the results of the consultation with NHS Tayside Board and the Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing.

Statement DYC agrees with the young people of Dundee that GP and Dental appointments are often difficult to get to due to times being incompatible with day to day education, training and employment.

Policy DYC believes that more surgeries and appointments should support the needs of young people by having appointments available outwith normal education/working hours, therefore releasing more appointment slots to meet demand.

Action DYC will seek the support of Youth Talkin' Health in taking these results to the Primary Care Manager and Clinical Director of General Dental Services, NHS Tayside.

Statements DYC agrees with the young people of Dundee that there is a lack of good quality, affordable healthy food available from shops, takeaways and restaurants in and around the City Centre.

Policy DYC believes healthy food outlets should be encouraged, in and around the City Centre, perhaps through business rate reductions, planning and licensing support or links with other healthy living services – this would benefit awareness of healthy lifestyle, public health outcomes, job creation and economic growth.

Action DYC will seek the support of Youth Talkin' Health in taking these results to the Head of Economic Development, Dundee City Council, and to the Director of Public Health, NHS Tayside.

Justice and Safety

We asked: How would you rate your experience of Justice and Safety?

Very Poor 234 (6%)
Poor 819 (21%)
Good 2356 (59%)
Very Good 573 (14%)
Total Responses 3982

Statement DYC understands that many young people feel unsafe in certain areas of Dundee due to the high levels of vandalism and crime.

Policy DYC believes that crime and vandalism should be tackled with a more visible Police presence on the streets.

Action DYC will share these results with the Community Safety Manager, Dundee Community Safety Partnership and Tayside Police to bring the concerns raised by young people to their attention.

Statement DYC agrees with the young people of Dundee that certain crimes have disproportionate punishments. For example, getting community payback for assault, while someone committing fraud is jailed.

Policy DYC believes that non-violent crimes should be punished through the use of Community Payback Orders rather than wasting prison space that could be better used to protect the public from violent individuals.

Action DYC will share these results with the Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary for Justice, as well as the Lord Advocate and work towards a fairer and more rational justice system.

Sports and Leisure

We asked: How would you rate your experience of Culture, Media, Sport and Leisure in Dundee?

Very Poor 166 (4%)
Poor 693 (16%)
Good 2230 (51%)
Very Good 1249 (29%)
Total Responses 4338

Statement DYC agrees with the young people of Dundee in saying that the existing facilities are quite good. However, DYC also agrees that there should be greater choice in the range of activities for young people, in particular teenagers, and that the cost of activities should be more affordable.

Policy DYC believes that the cost of sport and leisure facilities should be more affordable, perhaps with the introduction of discount schemes and a multi pass which would offer one price for entry and transport to/from facilities.

Action DYC will share these results with the Board of Leisure & Culture Dundee and the Head of Transport and enter into discussions about the ideas being put forward by young people.

Statement DYC agrees with the young people of Dundee that they should have a voice in the future of sport and leisure in Dundee.

Policy DYC believes there should be a wider variety of better promoted facilities available to young people, which have been created through consultation with young people.

Action DYC will bring this issue to the attention of the Leader of Dundee City Council, the Leisure and Culture Dundee Board and Communities and Policy Division.

Equality

We asked: How would you rate your experience of Equality?

Very Poor 212 (5%)
Poor 610 (15%)
Good 2456 (62%)

Very Good 658 (18%)

Total Responses 3936

Statement DYC agrees with the young people of Dundee that inequality is something which regularly affects young people, as many are discriminated against directly as a result of their age. An example of this is the practice by shopkeepers of limiting lunchtime access to shops to two school children at a time.

Policy DYC believes that young people should never be treated differently based purely on age. Being young is not a crime, so assumptions that young people are going to cause trouble simply because they are young should not be made in any instance by any organisation.

Action DYC will continue to promote the best in Dundee's young people and work to change attitudes.

Statement DYC agrees with the young people of Dundee that many still experience sexism, racism or homophobia and that young people in the main are uninformed about their rights.

Policy DYC believes that young people in school should receive more detailed and effective social education regarding discrimination.

Action DYC will share the results of the Citywide Consultation and work with the Citywide Pupil Council, the Education Department and the Convenor of Education of Dundee City Council and work to tackle these concerns and issues.

Communities

Statement DYC agrees with the young people of Dundee that homelessness in our communities is unacceptable.

Policy DYC believes awareness needs to be raised about the problem of homelessness and that urgent action is required to tackle this. This support should not only help those affected to get off the streets but also to stay off the streets.

Action DYC will share these results with the Scottish Government Housing Minister and the UK Government Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and Shelter.

Scotland and the World

Votes at 16

Statement DYC agrees with the young people of Dundee that it is inconsistent for 16 and 17 year olds to be deemed responsible enough to marry, pay the wages of, and train to fight for, their elected representatives but are not deemed to be responsible enough to vote on who that elected representative is, or in referenda.

Policy DYC believes that the voting age should be 16 for all elections.

Action DYC will continue to support local Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYP's) in the "Vote at 16" campaign.

Statement DYC agrees with the young people of Dundee who want to have their say about Scotland and the World. DYC is committed to providing an objective educational resource to inform young people of their choices in 2014.

Policy DYC believes that young people should be fully informed, involved and engaged in the 2014 independence referendum. DYC believes that political and civic organisations have a responsibility to support young people through this process.

Action DYC will work with Education Partners to develop the above resource and will share this resource nationally including with the Deputy First Minister of the Scottish Government.