

REPORT TO: NEIGHBOURHOOD RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
– 11 MARCH 2002

REPORT ON: THE PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN DECISION-MAKING

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR, NEIGHBOURHOOD RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT

REPORT NO: 200-2002

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Committee on progress achieved in the development of the participation of young people in decision-making and in particular the development of Youth Voice and involvement with the Scottish Youth Parliament.
- 1.2 To make recommendations about the future development of Youth Voice as an approved Youth Council for Dundee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to approve:

- 2.1 The role of Youth Voice (see para 6.2).
- 2.2 The principles underpinning Council involvement with young people and their participation in decision-making (see para 6.3).
- 2.3 Financial support arrangements (see para 6.4).

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no additional revenue implications in the above recommendations outwith the current revenue budget provision.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Youth Voice, community-based and thematic Youth Fora will within their regular activities consider Local Agenda 21 issues.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The proposals promote social inclusion and equality of opportunities in developing young peoples' ability to influence decisions, which affect their lives and aspirations.

6.0 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The Scottish Executive have established a Scottish Youth Parliament to which 4 young people between 14-25 years have been elected to represent the City.
- 6.2 In June 2000 over 1000 young people throughout Scotland, many of whom come from disadvantaged backgrounds, participated in a national event (Youth Summit) which created several opportunities for young people to comment to the Scottish Executive over issues which affect their lives. As a result of this initiative the Executive are promoting local and national support for the Scottish Youth Parliament.
- 6.3 The Youth Voice group are at the core of promoting a wider range of opportunities to encourage young peoples participation and involvement in decision making structures both at local and city level. Progress is being advanced via a number of initiatives eg School Pupil councils, Youth Housing Fora and thematic forums such as Diversity.

7.0 PROPOSALS

It is proposed that the Council:

- 7.1 note the background information contained in Appendix 1. Over 200 young people are currently involved in regular fora activities.
- 7.2 recognise and support the efforts being made by Youth Voice in discharging the central role of establishing a Dundee Youth Council assembled around representation from school, neighbourhood based and thematic Youth Fora.
- 7.3 Commit Departments to the following key principles as being essential in underpinning service involvement with young people and their participation in decision-making:-
 - Authenticity
 - Respect
 - Openness
 - Partnership
- 7.4 Approve in principle financial support from the Youth Investment Fund to cover administration, travel and programme costs incurred by Youth Voice in the course of involvement in local and national developments.
- 7.5 Commissions an annual progress report on the development of Youth Voice and community-based/thematic Youth Fora.

8.0 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The development of Youth Voice founded on a strong network of community-based and thematic Youth Fora will give prominence and coherence to the views of Dundee's young people at local and national levels.

9.0 CONSULTATION

- 9.1 Internal – The Chief Executive and Directors of Finance, Support Services, Corporate Planning, Housing, Education, Leisure & Arts and Social Work were consulted over the content of this report.
- 9.2 External – Youth Voice, young people involved in community-based and thematic Youth Fora, Children's Services Strategic Planning Groups and the Dundee Youth Work Alliance were consulted in the preparation of this report.

10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 The following background papers as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

U.K. Review of Effective Government Structures for Children 2001 – A Gulbenkian Foundation Report.

Scottish Executive News Release – June 2001 Consultation Toolkit – Save the Children.

Report No. 16/1999 - Youth Work Development Report

Report No 549/1996 - Youth Work Development

Director, Neighbourhood Resources and Development:

Date:

March 2002

APPENDIX 1

Name of Group & Area	Issues/Action	Number Involved	Contact Worker
Shuttlepark Group (Black Street/Benvie Road)	* Development of a Youth Park * Ground for ball games	Max 25	Verity Scott
Blackness Library Group	* Establishing a Youth Forum/Youth Issues Group	Various	Verity Scott
Mid Craigie/Linlathen Youth Forum	* Rowans Building * Crime & Young People * Youth Services * Fund-raising * Shore Terrace Development	11	George Thomson
Douglas Youth Forum	* Cycling Safety * Skate/Bike Park	Max 15	Lucinda Tucker
Broughty Ferry Youth Forum	* Youth facility in Broughty Ferry * DAFT event * Open Day * Youth Achievement Awards * Partnership with DAAT	Max 10	Lucinda Tucker
Menzieshill Community Centre Youth Committee	* Roles and Responsibilities * Action Planning * Access to facilities in the centre * Funding for a Summer Programme * Recruitment of Committee Members	7	Sharon Howie
Baxter Park Crew	* Baxter Park development * Youth Services * Personal Safety * Participation in Youth Issues Group * Shore Terrace Development	6	Leanne Maillie

Name of Group & Area	Issues/Action	Number Involved	Contact Worker
Youth Café (Stobswell)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Youth Services * Sexual Health * Offending 	24	Annette Johnston
Cheviot Project (Fintry)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Play Park Development 	12	Annette Johnston
Mill O' Mains Action Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Increase provision for young people * Partnership with local Residents Association 	12	Annette Johnston
Grey Lodge Youth Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Provision for Young People * Peer Education * International Work 	8	
Highwayman Youth Advisory Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Provision for Young People * Development of the Highwayman 	10	Alison Cameron
Teen Zone (Fintry/Mill O'Mains/Whitfield)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * To improve youth service in Fintry Library * Ordering Resources * Developing a Youth Programme 	9	Annette Johnson
Ardler Youth Action Group (Ardler/St Mary's/Dales)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Action arising from the Community Learning Plan * Capacity Building Training 	6	Mary Smith
Charleston "Two Semis" Youth Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Programming * Special events * Funding/resourcing * Drugs Conference * Local info booklet * Developing a Youth Forum * Anti Drug Video * Internet Café Development 	8	Val Dinsmore

Name of Group & Area	Issues/Action	Number Involved	Contact Worker
Kirkton Kafe Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Kafe Redevelopment * Kafe Stock * Fund raising * Decoration * Purchase of Furnishings * Consultation with Peers * Partnership with students from Art College/Nicolls Studio 	15	Marcelle Harper
Youth Voice City Wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Consultation with Young People throughout Dundee * Representation to Scottish Youth Parliament * Establishing a Dundee Youth Forum 	20	Joyce Guthrie