

## **DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO: POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

**REPORT ON: INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE IN DECISION MAKING**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR, LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES**

**REPORT NO: 204--2013**

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Committee about progress being made in the development of opportunities for young people to be involved in decision-making, following Committee Report No. 514-2011.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Committee:

2.1 Note the progress being made in the development of opportunities for young people to be involved in decision making as described in Appendix 1.

2.2 Acknowledge the election of Dundee's Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament:

- Daniel Coleman
- Sibelius Erskine-Smith
- Louise Dunnin
- Louise Doak

2.3 Acknowledge the election of Daniel Coleman and Matthew Roud as Chair and Vice Chair respectively, of Dundee's Youth Council.

2.4 Approve the following improvement actions:

- Expand the reach of the Youth Council to include local and thematic youth advisory groups and thus develop greater involvement by more young people in meeting the commitments in the Youth Council's Manifesto.
- Develop a consistent programme of support for young people to engage with decision making bodies in each of the Ward areas. This includes exploring the possibility of securing a guaranteed place for a youth representative at every LCPP.
- Include support for young people to develop the skills, knowledge and confidence to become more involved in local decision making as an important agenda item for Local Learning Partnerships
- Develop opportunities for young people to progress as volunteers within Youth Work
- Develop accreditation opportunities, including SQA's Volunteering Award

### **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 All costs associated with this report can be contained within the Communities and Policy Division's Youth Work budget.

### **4.0 BACKGROUND**

4.1 Committee Report No 514-2011 outlined a menu of actions to improve opportunities for young people to get involved in decision making. Good progress has been made overall in implementing these actions and a progress summary is attached as appendix 1. The inspection of Community Learning and Development in The Ferry Ward in February 2013 noted that there are good examples of young people shaping local services.

- 4.2 An area of focussed attention has been the development of Dundee's Youth Council. DYC held its second AGM on 28th March 2013 at which a new Chair (Daniel Coleman) and Vice Chair (Matthew Roud) were elected. The Youth Council launched their manifesto (Getting Young People's Point Across) at the AGM. The manifesto commitments are drawn from a survey of the views of around 4,500 young people in Dundee (see Committee Report 49-2013). DYC are currently arranging discussions with key people, including groups of interested young people, in order to progress the key actions and commitments made in the manifesto. Meetings are being arranged with Leisure and Culture Dundee and the Convenor for Education to discuss specific areas of the Manifesto.
- 4.3 An area for future development for the Youth Council is to broaden their network of contact with groups of young people in order to foster greater involvement in meeting these commitments. In particular this will ensure that young people from protected characteristics communities are represented.
- 4.4 DYC supports Dundee's Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYP's). The MSYP's are also members of the Youth Council. There are four MSYP's for Dundee and they have regularly attended the SYP General Meetings throughout the two years of their term in office. The latest SYP elections were held in March 2013 and the following were elected: Daniel Coleman, Sibelius Erskine-Smith, Louise Dunnin and Louise Doak. The number of votes cast was 3148.
- 4.5 One of Dundee's MSYP's, Daniel Coleman, has been prominent in championing the "It's No' Fare" campaign to improve public transport for young people. Daniel has also been selected to represent Scotland on the British Youth Council's Select Committee for the School Curriculum. He is the first in Scotland to be asked to play this role with the British Youth Council.
- 4.6 Good progress has been made, in some Ward areas, in involving young people in the work of the LCPP and/or CRF. This is not consistent across all Ward areas. However, it is clear that young people are influencing decisions about services including, for example, the development of green space, improvements to play facilities and the award of regeneration grants. During 2012/13, 418 young people were recorded as being involved in influencing local and/or national developments. An improvement priority will be the development of a consistent programme of support for young people to engage with decision making bodies in each of the Ward areas. This will build on the good practice developments described in appendix one and will include:
- Inviting representatives of local decision making bodies in each of the Ward areas to meet young people and see the activities in which they are involved
  - Agreeing the criteria for youth representation on Local Community Planning Partnerships
  - Local opportunities for young people to contribute their views about local services through consultations
  - Capacity building opportunities for young people as a key agenda item for Local Learning Partnerships
- 4.7 Young people are regularly involved in the ways in which services develop, through their participation in, for example,
- Advisory Groups influencing such as the DISC Project in Maryfield where young people make the decisions about how the programme develops
  - Projects such as Peer Education/Health Buddies which is supporting young people to lead sessions concerned with drugs, alcohol, sexual health and relationships and through this model are influencing the ways in which these topics are addressed in schools.
  - The Looked After Children Champions Board where young people, who are Looked After, are advising senior officers and elected members about improvements that should be made to services for Looked After Children/Young People.

- 4.8 Throughout the Youth Work programme young people are taking on volunteering roles and getting involved in supporting service delivery thus actively influencing the ways in which Youth Work and other services develop. In 2012/13 over 1,000 young people were involved, with Youth Work support, as a volunteer. This figure reflects a wide range of involvement from senior members taking more responsibility in their Youth Group, to DofE Award participants undertaking their sectional certificate, to those young people who are volunteer members of a staff team responsible for aspects of a Youth Work programme. Some young people have been able to progress into paid employment as a part time Youth Worker as a result of their volunteering experience. A priority for improvement is to further develop support, and opportunities for progression, for young people who wish to volunteer.
- 4.9 Young people are often recognised for their involvement, through accredited awards such as Youth Achievement Awards, Duke of Edinburgh's Award and the Saltire Award. An improvement priority will be to explore the introduction of SQA's Volunteering Award as a means of recognising young people's achievements as volunteers.

## **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. .
- 5.2 An Equality Impact Assessment is attached to this Report.

## **6.0 CONSULTATION**

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

## **7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 None.

**STEWART MURDOCH**  
**DIRECTOR, LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES**  
12<sup>TH</sup> April 2013

## Involving Young People in Decision Making – Summary of Progress

## Appendix 1

Improvement Priority	Key Actions	Progress Report
<b>Dundee Youth Council</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support Youth Councillors to attend LCPP's</li> </ul>	<p>Youth Councillors are supported by the local Youth Work Team to attend LCPP's in the Strathmartine and Lochee Wards and are encouraged to get involved in all aspects of the agenda.</p> <p>Strathmartine LCPP received a presentation on the Youth Manifesto consultation results.</p> <p>Input by young people to the East End LCPP</p>
<b>Youth Action Groups</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with Pupil Representative Councils</li> <li>We will support young people to form Youth Action Groups to take forward concerns and ideas that are of interest to them as and when these arise.</li> </ul>	<p>Braeview Academy Pupil Representative Council involved with Whitfield Green developments.</p> <p>The Communities Officer in the East End attends Craigie HS PRC meetings once per year</p> <p>The Communities Officer in the West End attends Harris Academy PRC meetings twice per year in order to share information about her role, local decision making opportunities, opportunities to get involved and support to do so.</p> <p>Young people in St Paul's Academy supported to create a short film highlighting young peoples' rights under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The film will be used in school PSE classes.</p> <p>Changing Horizons in the Coldside Ward has its own Youth Management Group</p> <p>The Cultural Integration Project has its own Youth Advisory Group</p>
<b>Involvement in Community Planning Processes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify with young people, priorities within each Local Community Plan, that they have</li> </ul>	<p>Young people, including Youth Councillors, are working with Regeneration staff on consultation about Green Space developments in Lochee.</p>

	<p>influenced and which they can lead on.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If there is sufficient interest we will establish a group of young people in community regeneration areas that can advise about applications for Diversionary Activity funding.</li> <li>• Facilitate structured opportunities for LCPP members to meet young people to raise awareness of young peoples' views.</li> <li>• Ensure that young people are informed about the key decision-making groups and community engagement events in their area.</li> <li>• Support young people to engage and to understand how community planning processes work.</li> </ul>	<p>Young people in Colonside consulted about the proposed new community facility</p> <p>Young people in the East End Ward have assisted with decisions about regeneration funding applications.</p> <p>The DISC Youth Advisory Group met with the Maryfield LCPP to seek support to maintain service provision</p> <p>Young people in the Lochee Ward invited members of the local CRF to come along to their provision. This helped to raise awareness of the Forum's role and the views of young people.</p> <p>Young people in Strathmartine have attended the local CRF</p> <p>Young people from the NE Ward supported to attend the local CRF to observe the process.</p> <p>Young people from NE, East End and Maryfield Wards supported to participate in the Integrated Children's' Services Stakeholders event.</p>
<p><b>Capacity Building</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support young people to develop the skills to work together to take action on issues of concern to them.</li> </ul>	<p>The Corner's STATE Project is a community art and outreach project, working with groups of young people across Dundee, with the aim of creating a series of 'Urban Art Installations' focussing on mental health and community identity. A group of young women from the Lochee Ward are working on an installation in the new play facility on South Rd. This builds on effective involvement of young people in the consultation and development of the new play area.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that opportunities to get involved in planning Gala Days and other community events are open to young people.</li> <li>• Explore appropriate accreditation opportunities including YouthLink Scotland's Involvement in Decision Making certificate.</li> </ul>	<p>Young people in The Shore are leading art based workshops for other young people</p> <p>Support across the City for young volunteers keen to develop leadership skills and to take on roles in supporting Youth Work programmes.</p> <p>Young people from the Coldside Ward were involved in organising the Hilltown Festival of Light</p> <p>The DISC Advisory Group participated in the Equally Well Test Event</p> <p>The Disc Advisory Group supported a Community Safety Event in Morgan Academy</p> <p>Young people involved in the planning and delivery of the Hilltown Fun Day</p> <p>The Friends of Swannie Ponds are engaging young people through Morgan Academy and the Boomerang Club in Maryfield</p> <p>Young people receive accreditation for their efforts through, mainly, Youth Achievement/Dynamic Youth Awards, Duke of Edinburgh's Award and Saltire Awards.</p>
<p><b>Communication</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop, with young people, a communication strategy that incorporates a range of methods, including the use of developing technology such as social networking.</li> </ul>	<p>Young people involved in designing The Corner's website and the sexual health 'app' developed in response to the views expressed by young people in the Youth Talkin' Health report.</p> <p>Various youth groups have their own Facebook pages.</p> <p>The use of Facebook as a medium for consulting young people, was piloted in Grove Academy.</p> <p>Contact is maintained with young people participating in Duke of Edinburgh's Award through Facebook and Twitter.</p>

## EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT TOOL

### Part 1: Description/Consultation

<b>Is this a Rapid Equality Impact Assessment (RIAT)?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Is this a Full Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Date of Assessment: 10 April 2013</b>	<b>Committee Report Number: 204-2013</b>	
<b>Title of document being assessed: Involving Young People in Decision Making</b>		
<b>1. This is a new policy, procedure, strategy or practice being assessed</b> (If yes please check box) <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>This is an existing policy, procedure, strategy or practice being assessed?</b> (If yes please check box) <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>2. Please give a brief description of the policy, procedure, strategy or practice being assessed.</b>	This is a report to P & R Committee which provides an update on progress in the development of opportunities for young people to get involved in decision making.	
<b>3. What is the intended outcome of this policy, procedure, strategy or practice?</b>	Several improvement priorities have been identified. The report is intended to update elected members and to seek approval for future developments.	
<b>4. Please list any existing documents which have been used to inform this Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment.</b>	Dundee Youth Council's manifesto 'Getting Young Peoples' Point Across'.	
<b>5. Has any consultation, involvement or research with protected characteristic communities informed this assessment? If yes please give details.</b>	Young people from protected characteristic communities were involved in the consultation which lead to the Youth Council's manifesto and which subsequently informed, in part, this report.	
<b>6. Please give details of council officer involvement in this assessment.</b>  (e.g. names of officers consulted, dates of meetings etc)	John Hosie, Manager, Regeneration and Health	
<b>7. Is there a need to collect further evidence or to involve or consult protected characteristics communities on the impact of the proposed policy?</b>  (Example: if the impact on a community is not known what will you do to gather the information needed and when will you do this?)	It is intended that opportunities for young people to get involved are as inclusive as possible. We will work to ensure that the impact of this strategy on protected characteristics communities is measured as part of our annual reporting.	

### Part 2: Protected Characteristics

Which protected characteristics communities will be positively or negatively affected by this policy, procedure or strategy?

NB Please place an X in the box which best describes the "overall" impact. It is possible for an assessment to identify that a positive policy can have some negative impacts and visa versa. When this is the case please identify both positive and negative impacts in Part 3 of this form.

If the impact on a protected characteristic communities are not known please state how you will gather evidence of any potential negative impacts in box Part 1 section 7 above.

	Positively	Negatively	No Impact	Not Known
<b>Ethnic Minority Communities including Gypsies and Travellers</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Gender</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Gender Reassignment</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Religion or Belief</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>People with a disability</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Age</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Socio-economic</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Pregnancy &amp; Maternity</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Other (please state)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Part 3: Impacts/Monitoring

<p><b>1. Have any positive impacts been identified?</b></p> <p>(We must ensure at this stage that we are not achieving equality for one strand of equality at the expense of another)</p>	Opportunities, through Youth Work, are extended to all sections of the youth community in Dundee.
<p><b>2. Have any negative impacts been identified?</b></p> <p>(Based on direct knowledge, published research, community involvement, customer feedback etc. If unsure seek advice from your departmental Equality Champion.)</p>	No negative impacts identified.
<p><b>3. What action is proposed to overcome any negative impacts?</b></p> <p>(e.g. involving community groups in the development or delivery of the policy or practice, providing information in community languages etc. See Good Practice on DCC equalities web page)</p>	N/A
<p><b>4. Is there a justification for continuing with this policy even if it cannot be amended or changed to end or reduce inequality without compromising its intended outcome?</b></p> <p>(If the policy that shows actual or potential unlawful discrimination you must stop and seek legal advice)</p>	N/A
<p><b>5. Has a 'Full' Equality Impact Assessment been recommended?</b></p> <p>(If the policy is a major one or is likely to have a major impact on protected characteristics communities a Full Equality Impact Assessment may be required. Seek advice from your departmental Equality lead.)</p>	NO
<p><b>6. How will the policy be monitored?</b></p> <p>(How will you know it is doing what it is intended to do? e.g. data collection, customer survey etc.)</p>	Annual reporting using data collection, feedback from young people, records of meetings.

**Part 4: Contact Information**

<b>Name of Department or Partnership</b>	Chief Executives Department
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<b>Type of Document</b>	
Human Resource Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>
General Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strategy/Service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Change Papers/Local Procedure	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guidelines and Protocols	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Manager Responsible</b>	<b>Author Responsible</b>
<b>Name:</b> Kenny Lindsay	<b>Name:</b> Kenny Lindsay
<b>Designation:</b> Manager, Children and Young People	<b>Designation:</b> Manager, Children and Young People
<b>Base:</b> Mitchell Street Centre	<b>Base:</b> Mitchell Street Centre
<b>Telephone:</b> 01382 435840	<b>Telephone:</b> 01382 435840
<b>Email:</b> Kenny.lindsay@dundeecity.gov.uk	<b>Email:</b> Kenny.lindsay@dundeecity.gov.uk

<b>Signature of author of the policy:</b>	Kenny Lindsay	<b>Date:</b> 12/04/2013
<b>Signature of Director/Head of Service:</b>	Stewart Murdoch	<b>Date:</b> 12/04/2013
<b>Name of Director/Head of Service:</b>	Stewart Murdoch	
<b>Date of Next Policy Review:</b>	None proposed	