

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Communities Committee - 16 April 2007

REPORT ON: Scottish Executive Advice Note on Engaging Children and Young People in Community Planning

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Communities

REPORT NO: 217-2007

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Committee about the Scottish Executive's advice note on engaging Children and Young People in Community Planning published in November 2006.
- 1.2 To advise Committee over current work in Dundee to engage children and young people in community planning.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 2.1 acknowledges the Scottish Executive's Advice Note and the work that is currently taking place in Dundee to engage children and young people in Community Planning.
- 2.2 supports the proposed work with the Voluntary Sector and Partnership groups.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this Advice Note. There are, however, workload implications for Leisure and Communities Youth Work Teams which will be required to absorb the additional work required and fulfil the advice within existing resources.

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Sustainability

The Advice Note supports good practice in engaging children and young people in community planning. Thus it is consistent with the underpinning principles of Dundee's Sustainability Policy.

4.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment

Children and Young People will be consulted about the City Council's environmental assessment.

4.3 Anti Poverty

The Advice Note will support young people's participation in decision-making, collective action with others and their engagement in the political process and representation of interests.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This Advice Note and resulting proposed work should lead to more effective

engagement with a wider range of children and young people, in order to improve their participation in civic community life.

6.0 MAIN TEXT

- 6.1 The Advice Note sits alongside existing advice under the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003, the National Standards in Community Engagement and other advice on community engagement from Communities Scotland.
- 6.2 The Advice Note explores the underlying reasons for and principles of effective engagement and includes illustrations of practice, information on various "toolkits" to support engagement and contacts for relevant organisations.
- 6.3 The Advice Note aims to help Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) and their individual partners to interpret their responsibilities under the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 and other relevant legislation in relation to engagement with children and young people.
- 6.4 The Advice Note adds to existing Community Planning Advice Notes (especially Advice Note 5 on Effective Community Engagement).
- 6.5 The Advice Note aims to encourage CPPs and individual partners to develop or adapt processes so that all children and young people can become aware of their rights and routinely have opportunities to exercise them through Community Planning.
- 6.6 In recent years Dundee has made significant progress in engaging children and young people. In 2006 1193 young people were consulted about issues relating to Community Planning.
- 6.7 Leisure and Communities Department staff have produced action plans for involving young people in community regeneration. The action plans describe key actions for 2007/08 to support young people involved in regeneration activities.
- 6.8 The need to increase the influence of children and young people has been recognised in the Dundee Partnerships' Regeneration Outcome Agreement with Communities Scotland.
- 6.9 The Advice Note will be discussed with CPPs with a view to organising a seminar to further examine how to bed the guidance into practice.
- 6.10 The Advice Note will be shared with colleagues in Education to facilitate discussion with Pupil Councils.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) have been consulted on this report and are in agreement with its contents.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following papers were relied upon in the preparation of this report:

- 8.1 "Engaging Children and Young people in Community Planning" Advice Note, Scottish Executive (2006).
- 8.2 National Standards for Community Engagement, Community Scotland (2005).

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21 MARCH 2007**