

**REPORT TO:** CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES COMMITTEE – 28 JANUARY 2019

**REPORT ON:** YEAR OF YOUNG PEOPLE 2018

**REPORT BY:** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES

**REPORT NO:** 45-2019

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

As part of the Scottish Government's programme of themed years, 2018 was identified as the Year of Young People (YOYP). The Dundee YOYP plan was approved in March 2018, Article II of the minute of this Committee of 12 March 2018, report no 102-2018 refers) and this report provides members with a summary of key events that have taken place over the course of the year across the city.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Committee:

- i. notes the range of activities that have taken place, as described in this report

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None.

## **4.0 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The purpose of the Year of Young People (YOYP) was to inspire Scotland through its young people, celebrate their achievements, value their contribution to communities and create new opportunities for them to shine locally, nationally and globally. There were 6 key themes on Participation; Equality and Discrimination; Education; Health and Wellbeing; Culture; and Enterprise and Regeneration. In Dundee, it has been an exciting opportunity to co-produce an innovative and dynamic calendar of projects, activities and events to celebrate and showcase young people.
- 4.2 In Dundee, our shared partnership vision is that "our children and young people have the best start in life and Dundee is the best place in Scotland to grow up". Partners have always recognised that young people are one of our greatest assets. This is evident though the existence of a number of forums, such as School Pupil Councils, City Wide Pupil Councils, Young Peoples Sports Panel, Young Ambassadors, Sports Committees and the Champions Board. These forums allow young people to have their views heard, showcase their talent and co-produce work. The Year of Young People has provided an opportunity to build on these arrangements and has helped to maximise opportunities for their voices to be heard and acted upon.

## **5.0 UPDATE**

### **5.1 EDUCATION**

- 5.2 **YOYP Innovation Lab** - A Year of Young People Innovation Lab Event was held in partnership with Abertay University in September. This is the first time a project like this, on this scale, has been organised before and it was a new opportunity for young people to engage with decision makers in the city and influence policy. Young people were surveyed by Dundee Youth Council in advance of the event to find out what

they believed to be the big issues for them in Dundee right now. These were mental health, bullying, exam stress and moving on after school.

- 5.3 It was an all-day event, conference style with motivational speaker Sir Tom Hunter, founder of the Hunter Foundation and supporter of Year of Young people in Scotland, and also Gavin Oattes from Tree of Knowledge. As well as the motivational speakers and the workshops, the young people had an opportunity to experience taster sessions from each of the academic schools.
- 5.4 The young people debated the big issues and devised ideas and solutions to the issues. A key concept of the Innovation lab is that these ideas be considered and where appropriate, used to influence future policy. Feedback from the day from both young people and staff was overwhelmingly positive and that they would like a similar event to be held again in the future. The young people enjoyed the interaction with others from across the city and the motivational speakers. They thought the workshops were enjoyable and the practical activities offered by Abertay University. There was overwhelming support from the young people to establish this as an annual event. The next steps are for the young people to be involved in fleshing out the ideas from the event and deciding on how they are to be taken forward. A link to a short video of the Innovation Lab can be found here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgsE7UUFY4g>.
- 5.5 **The Young Ambassadors for Inclusion** - This group has met throughout the year and comprises young people with additional support needs from the 8 secondary schools in Dundee. Feedback from the young people has been positive and so far, they have gathered information for the national group in Glasgow on pupil voice in relation to inclusion, and they have had a local input into amendments to the Education Scotland Act 2016, which have led to new rights for people with additional support needs.
- 5.6 **Looked after Children Engagement and Participation Strategy** - Building on the Champions Board, which has been recognised nationally as a model to engage with looked after children and young people and care leavers, a new strategy was co-produced. This extends the principles of the model to include more children and young people in engagement and participation activities depending upon their age, stage of development, needs and interests. The strategy will be used to more systematically gather their views on current or proposed new services and inform key developments'.
- 5.7 During Care Experienced Week in October 2018, various awareness raising activities and opportunities for care experienced children and young people were available. They included a peaceful March organised by Who Cares Scotland to raise awareness of care and recognise the need and right to be and feel loved within care and also a "Time to Shine" festival. One of the care experienced young people who attended the festival, showcased her amazing singing talent and took to the stage along with other participants who performed at the event. It was greatly enjoyed by all who attended and was an opportunity to celebrate care experience and for the young people to have fun.
- 5.8 **Maggie's Penguin Parade** - A total of 97 4ft penguin sculptures have been designed, created and nurtured by young people from all across Dundee. The penguins were crafted by children of all ages, from every nursery, primary, secondary and all the children's houses in Dundee together with 40 inspiring community groups across the city. Over 10,000 pupils, teachers and communities have been able to showcase their artistic talents and learn more about the service that Maggie's provides. The Maggie's Penguin Parade Learning Programme has provided children and young people the opportunity to get excited about arts and design as well as engaging them in important topics of conversation, such as the environment, health and wellbeing and raising money to help others.

## **6.0 ENTERPRISE AND REGENERATION**

- 6.1 **Apprenticeship Civic Reception Celebration** - An event took place to celebrate the achievements of young people who have successfully completed their Modern Apprenticeships during the last year. The young people have either been directly employed by Dundee City Council or supported through Scotland's Employer Recruitment Incentive (SERI) and employed in private sector companies. A total of 34 young people successfully completed their Apprenticeship during the last year. Dundee City Council is committed to increasing job and training opportunities for young people in the city and has significantly expanded the Apprenticeship offer over the past few years.
- 6.2 **Jobs Fair** - Dundee's biggest Jobs Fair took place at the Caird Hall in September. Senior Pupils from schools across Dundee were amongst those that attended. A specific session was held for the young people in the morning of the event, which included a question and answer session with Simon Hewitt, Vice Principal (Curriculum and Attainment), Dundee and Angus College. The young people were encouraged to speak to a variety of employers and educational establishments and were able to explore opportunities available to them.

## **7.0 HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

- 7.1 **Active Schools Volunteer 10,000 Hour's** - At November 2018, the total hours for the campaign was sitting at just under 7000 hours which is a great achievement by all the volunteers. Over 134 volunteers have been logging hours to help achieve the 10,000 hour target for the year. Volunteers have been coaching table tennis to dance and gymnastics to rugby, presenting at meetings, leading and officiating, supporting inter-house competition and health events.
- 7.2 **Active Schools Volunteer Awards** - The Active Schools Volunteer Awards ceremony took place at the Apex Hotel on the 12th May 2018, honouring the very best volunteers who go above and beyond in providing school sport opportunities for local pupils. Each award was presented by a Young Ambassador for Active Schools and they were exceptional in their presentation.
- 7.3 **Dundee's Physical Activity Strategy** - The strategy was launched on 3rd May and Dundee became the first place in Scotland to launch a physical activity strategy. It aims to help everyone connected to the city lead healthier and more active lives and the event was led by young people.
- 7.4 **Dundee's Young People's Sports Panel** - The Dundee's Young Persons Sports Panel was created to give young people a voice and contribute to the development of local sport and physical activity opportunities. The group are working on an action panel to raise the profile of school sport and encourage more young people to volunteer in sport.
- 7.5 **Sports Leadership Academy** - This Academy was launched in June and over 160 young people from 3rd, 4th and 5th year in Schools across Dundee attended a week long programme, where they took part in a variety of sports coaching and officiating courses.

## **8.0 CULTURE**

- 8.1 **Pecha Kucha Night** – In May there was a Pecha Kucha Night Dundee takeover at the Whitehall Theatre in Dundee, in partnership with Dundee Design Festival. The event has been curated by local young people, from selecting the speakers – and speaking themselves – to marketing, filming, hosting and social media. In partnership

with Hot Chocolate Trust and V&A Young People Collective, a handful of meetings took place with a group of interested young people. The Creative Dundee team were blown away by the commitment of local youngsters who showed a lot of insight, from including speakers of all ages to choosing a 'dry bar'. We hope this process can give young people helpful skills and experience, but we cannot understate how much we have learned from their experience and opinions."

- 8.2 **Dundee Secondary Schools Dance festival** - A Dundee Secondary Schools Dance festival took place in April. It was an exciting event that had Dance groups from local secondary schools across Dundee showcasing their talents in Street, Contemporary and a new Open category. All the dance acts were entirely choreographed by the school pupils and assisted by school staff.
- 8.3 **Dundee Design Parade** - Dundee's first Design Parade took place in May. Nearly 500 young people from across Dundee descended on City Square, watched by an estimated 3,750 members of the public. On the lead up to the event, youth groups from across the city worked with designers and artists to take inspiration from cities in our global UNESCO City of Design Network to create artworks for the parade. These included Police Scotland Youth Volunteers, LGBT Scotland, Dundee Young Careers Voice, The Corner, YOYP Ambassadors, Yousaf Youth Initiative and many community based groups.
- 8.4 **V&A Dundee 3D Festival** - A two-day celebration of design, music and performance took place in September to mark the opening of the V&A Dundee. The festival included a packed programme of music, performance, creative collaborations and design workshops. The 3D Festival was co-designed by V&A Dundee's Young People's Collective, a group of 16-24 year olds from across the city, involved in everything from performers to designing the collaborations.

## 9.0 PARTICIPATION

- 9.1 **City Wide Pupil Council** - Members of the City Wide Pupil Council (CWPC) are continuing to be involved in decisions which affect them and the wider school population. They are given the opportunity to feel included, respected and responsible and they participate in setting the agenda, gathering evidence, co-ordinating and chairing the meetings. During term time the CWPC meets on a monthly basis.
- 9.2 This year a member of the CWPC attended the Children and Families Committee and the Education Review Group. The CWPC was consulted on issues affecting young people by Dundee City Youth Council. They completed a consultation on school lunches and were involved in a focus group on planning the roll out of the Government Period Poverty initiative in schools. CWPC members attended the Education Scotland Conference and participated in a questions and answer session and they have also met with members of DCC Children and Families Senior Management.
- 9.3 **Tayside Council on Alcohol (TCA) Summer Programme** - The overarching Aim of TCA's Young People service is to reduce the disadvantage experienced by some children/young people by supporting them to stay safe, healthy, get involved in community activities and to achieve things they want in life. One of the activities in the summer programme included a group of young people from the Klub group, which brought dashes of colour to Reform Street, in a bid to create an uplifting atmosphere in the city centre. The Klub girls group worked alongside dozens of other young people on designs at the Re-Formation live street art event on the thoroughfare's cobbles. Their design was inspired by themes of equality, challenging stereotypes, strength and respect and the message "real queens fix each other's crowns" is about how close and supportive they are as a group and motivating other girls to support each other too.

- 9.5 **Purple Dragons Event** - In autumn, the first ever Pride event took place in Dundee and young people were at the heart of it. Young people secured investment for a special Youth Zone and are now able to organise and run their own events, supported by LGBT charities Pink Saltire and LGBT Youth Scotland. The group has been established to help those under 25 learn new skills through volunteering and to help them make new friends. Their first youth-led event was on the day of Dundee Pride and took place in the Marryat Hall. The event was opened by the Minister of Equalities, Christina McKelvie, MSP and included performances, open mic sessions, gaming and literature. This is an example of investing in the ideas of young people to improve the lives of LGBT people.

## **10.0 CONCLUSION**

- 10.1 This report highlights some of the key activities that have taken place over 2018 to mark the Year of Young People. The activities and events that have taken place have created new platforms for young people to have their views heard and acted upon, allowed for the recognition of the impact of teachers, youth workers and other supporting adults on young people's lives and have provided opportunities for young people to express themselves through culture, sport and other activities. It has been an instrumental year for ensuring young people's voices are heard and leaves an important and exciting legacy for the future.

## **11.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainable Development, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Integrated Impact Assessment and Risk Management.
- 11.2 There are no major issues.

## **12.0 CONSULTATIONS**

- 12.1 The Council Management Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

## **13.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 13.1 None.

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