



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED: All Wards

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:

**LCYPSP
Corporate Directors Board
Cabinet**

**2nd November 2007
5th February 2008
3rd March 2008**

Leicester Children and Young People's Participation Strategy

1. Purpose of Report

To seek approval from Cabinet to launch the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board Participation Strategy

2. Background

2.1 The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (LCYPSP) Board recognised the need for a cohesive approach to Children, Young People and their Parents and Carers to become involved in the design and delivery of services that affect them and are provided for them. It was apparent that services and organisations were each operating different strategies to engage these groups in a variety of involvement activities, as a result there was an overall lack of overall strategy and direction. The lack of strategy in this area of work could eventually lead to:

- Duplication of resources and funding
- Confusion for officers and elected members in knowing which groups represented various activity
- Lack of direction and influence for various groups of children, young people and parents
- Missed funding opportunities

2.2 In September 2006 the LCYPSP agreed to pilot a post of Strategic Participation Officer in the Children and Young People's Department, to develop a cohesive participation strategy which involved partner organisations and services in its development and ongoing delivery. Thereby informing and ensuring effective commissioning of services, a clear and transparent route of influence and change and the strategic involvement of children, young people their parents and carers in service design and delivery.

2.3 Since September 2006 and the development of this post the influence of children and young people has increased:

- The Youth MP elections have been held
- The Young People's Council elections have been held
- There is ongoing co-ordinated work with parents that will increase their influence in services

- The Hear By Right Standards for Participation have been accepted by key partners and services
 - Training has been delivered by a multi agency training team to x number of organisations
 - The Young People's Charter has been developed and launched
 - The Young Inspectors Group is developing a Leicester Young people's Charter Mark
 - The Youth MP's are campaigning on transport issues
 - Young Councillors have shadowed key officers and have visited a variety of departments
- 2.4 These activities and more have been co-ordinated to ensure the best use of resources by working in partnership with a variety of services and organisations, creating opportunities for young people's informal learning. The in kind contribution of resources from partner organisations by working together has enabled the work to become highly regarded.
- 2.5 The grade of outstanding in relation to positive contribution in the recent Annual Performance Assessment indicates that 'The contribution the council's services make to improving outcomes in this area is outstanding. This has played a very significant part in enabling children and young people to make a positive contribution.' The Participation Strategy has played a key role in enabling this to occur through bringing partners together using common standards and a common action plan.
- 2.6 The Children and Young People's Services Department is committed to the continuation of the work. To date the Strategic Participation post and the ensuing work with young people has been funded from external grant funding. Work is currently underway to establish a permanent post with an associated budget to ensure the work can continue.

3. Summary of the Strategy

- 3.1 The Participation Strategy has been developed over the past 12 months with a range of partners see Appendix A meetings log. The draft document was then consulted on with a wide range of children and young people using a variety of methods during June 2007. The responses have been collated and taken into account during the final editing stages. A final editing meeting was held on 23rd September 2007.
- 3.2 The Strategy outlines:
- The commitment in its statement of intent (Page3)
 - What is meant by participation and the different methods and levels (Page5)
 - How participation activity will be promoted and monitored by the LCYPSP (Pages, 6 & 7)
 - The Structures of Young People's democratic involvement (pages 22 & 23)
 - The structures of Parents and Children's participation (page 19)
- 3.3 The strategy commits to:
- Provide training to representatives of partner organisations in the use of the evaluation toolkit *Hear by Right*
 - Annually collate and monitor *Hear by Right* data to gain an overview of the outcomes achieved as a result of participation activity and to assess how we are progressing across the Partnership

- Co-ordinate an annual conference on participation showcasing highlighted practice thereby offering partner organisations opportunities to share practice and develop skills
- Grade our progress using the *Hear by Right* framework to assess Emerging, Established and Advanced levels of participation and the outcomes achieved for children and young people
- Develop and deliver an action plan for the participation of young people through the Every Child Matters Positive Contribution Theme Group the action plan will be delivered through the Participation Networks and the outcomes for children and young people will be monitored.

4. Launch of the Strategy

- 4.1 On approval of the participation strategy a launch event is planned to take place, involving Elected Members, Young Councillors, Officers of the City Council, members of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board and other key partners. The event will showcase some of the participation Activity that has occurred across the City and will be presented by young people
- 4.2 A press release will be issued through the press office

5. Headline Financial and legal Implications

5.1 Financial Implications

The Participation Officer and participation projects are currently funded from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund, which expires at the end of March 2008. The Department is seeking alternative funding and the specific initiatives arising from the strategy will be developed as resources allow. (Colin Sharpe, Head of Finance and Efficiency, CYPS, ext. 29 7750)

5.2 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications arising from this report (Guy Goodman, Head of Community Services Law – ext 7054).

6. Recommendations:

Cabinet is recommended to:

- Note the contents of the report
- Agree to continue with publication and subsequent launch of the document

7. Report Author/Officer to contact:

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Key Decision	No
Reason	N/A
Appeared in Forward Plan	N/A
Executive or Council Decision	Executive (Cabinet)