

REPORT

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| To: NORTH AREA COMMITTEE | | Subject: 'YOUTH VOICE' CONFERENCE CUMBERNAULD COLLEGE THURSDAY 4 APRIL 2002 |
| From: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES | | |
| Date: 28 MAY 2002 | Ref: RT/HH/MC/ docs/youth Voice | |

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Members of 'Youth Voice' conference

2. REPORT

- 2.1 The conference was organised by Community Services at the request of the North Area Committee to give young people within the area a chance to have their say on issues important to themselves, the Council's Youth Strategy and the development of Local Youth Forums.
- 2.2 Invitations to attend were sent via schools, youth clubs, youth organisations, companies and through contact with local politicians and Cumbernauld & Kilsyth MSP, Cathie Cragie.
- 2.3 North Lanarkshire Council was represented by staff from Careers, Library Services, Health Promotions along with Community Education with many local councillors in attendance. Other agencies taking part included Strathclyde Police and the Job Centre.
- 2.4 After registration, and breakfast, by over 60 young people, two local members from the Link Youth Café opened the conference. MSP, Cathie Craigie then spoke on the Scottish Parliament's overview on youth issues followed by Councillor Jean Jones who outlined NLC's Youth Strategy. Jim Sweeney, Principal Community Education Officer then discussed the role of young people within the youth forum/area committee role.
- 2.5 Prior to lunchtime, workshop sessions took place, whereby the young people split into various groups to discuss 'How we can strengthen local democracy'
- 2.6 During the lunch recess there was a 'Market Place' where the various agencies provided information on the service they provide – i.e. Libraries, Careers, Youth Enquiry Service.
- 2.7 In the afternoon, NLC Youth Council Team talked about the development of a youth strategy. The young people again split into various workshops with 'Participation & Empowerment', 'Health & Wellbeing' and 'Transport' being the most popular.
- 2.8 Closing remarks came from the new Cumbernauld & Kilsyth MSYPs, Catherine Martin and Lynda Jones.

- 2.9 The evaluation on the 'graffiti' wall from the young people who had taken part ranged from 'Cool' to 'Boring' and 'Too much jargon by facilitators' to 'It was real good'.
- 2.10 The Cumbernauld Community Education Team is now involving the young people who attended the conference in developing Local Youth Forums.

3. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The Committee note contents of this report

Paul Ginties.