

AGENDA ITEM No. 2

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL REPORT

To: Youth and Equalities Committee	Subject: Workshop/Development Session for Youth and Equalities Committee – Issues for Consideration and Next Steps
From: Head of Education (Skills, Lifelong Learning and Youth Employment)	
Date: 8 August 2016	Ref: LMCM/BP/FF

1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is firstly to provide feedback on the issues for consideration that emerged from the workshop session held on 28 April 2016 for committee members and secondly to consider proposals for further workshops/development sessions.

2. Background

At its meeting of 28 April 2016, the committee considered a report outlining current and future equalities and human rights priorities for the Council and subsequently approved a range of recommendations pertaining to the specific duties. These priorities include; equality impact assessments, the development of national policy and local strategies, and the Employee Equalities Forum.

Immediately following this meeting, members and officers participated in a workshop session to consider key equalities themes for the council with a particular focus on :-

- Youth Engagement and Participation;
- Strategy for Working with Young People; and
- Equalities and Human Rights Strategic Priorities.

In small facilitated groups, members were not only briefed on the Council's progress to date in relation to each of the themes but were also afforded an opportunity to discuss emerging issues with officers and explore the action required.

3. Considerations

3.1 Themed Discussion Findings

The findings from each of the themed discussions have been reviewed and, in summary, future actions are as follows.

3.1.1 Youth Engagement and Participation

Issue

The engagement and participation of young people in the Youth and Equalities committee should be part of the Committee terms of reference, however this should not be tokenistic, it should be meaningful.

Action

A joint meeting with North Lanarkshire Youth Council and the members of the Youth and Equalities committee to be convened to consider the role of young people within the committee.

3.1.2 Strategy for Working with Young People

Issue

Promotion of the Youth Strategy is a key issue for the committee and, where appropriate, consideration of cross cutting issues should be progressed. In particular it was noted that public transport continues to cause concern for members in relation to young people accessing services. Given that other groups, such as older people, experience similar difficulties, thought requires to be given to the best way to represent a collective voice.

Action

A mid strategy progress report, which also incorporates emerging issues, to be submitted to a future committee meeting

3.1.3 Equalities and Human Rights Strategic Priorities

Issue

Social Media can impact on the mental health of young people

Action

That the committee give consideration to the opportunities across council services to promote the safe use of social media and raised awareness of the potential negative impact on mental health and wellbeing of young people.

Issue

Support to disabled young people to take up a Modern Apprenticeship opportunity.

Action

Committee consider firstly, the scope to improve access to modern apprenticeship opportunities, and secondly approaches to achieve this for young people with protected characteristics.

Issue

3.1.4 Raise awareness of British Sign Language and the needs of people using BSL.

Action

Committee consider a report on British Sign Language (Scotland) Act 2015 and the implications of the Act for the Council.

3.2 Future Planning

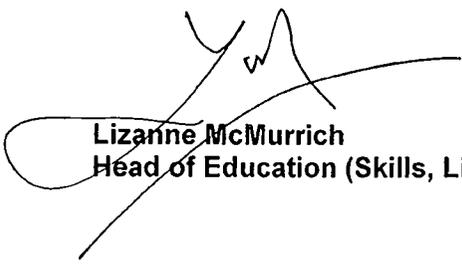
In order to progress action planning around the identified issues, a series of sessions are proposed which will provide committee with an opportunity to consider in detail current aspects of equality and human rights issues which are relevant to North Lanarkshire.

29 September 2016	Workshop	Human Rights and what it means for Local Government (facilitator Wendy Davies, OSDS)
October 2016	Committee	Joint meeting with North Lanarkshire Youth Council
December 2016	Workshop	British Sign Language, deaf awareness - Facilitator to be confirmed
February 2017	Committee	Employee Equality Forum - Presentation

4. **Recommendations**

The Youth and Equalities Committee is asked to:

- (i) note the feedback from the workshop discussions and the relevant points for consideration/action; and
- (ii) agree the details of the plan and associated timescales.



Lizanne McMurrich
Head of Education (Skills, Lifelong Learning & Youth Employment)

For further information please contact:

Lizanne McMurrich, Head of Education (Skills, Lifelong Learning & Youth Employment), on 01236 812338, or
Barbara Philliben, Community Learning & Inclusion Manager, on 01236 812526