

North Lanarkshire Council Report

Youth, Equalities and Empowerment Committee

approval noting

Ref LMcM/EW

Date 11/01/2019

Involvement of Young People

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Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek agreement from the Youth, Equalities and Empowerment Committee for the involvement of young people in future Youth, Equalities and Empowerment Committee meetings, and to set out, for approval, the proposed arrangements.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee agree the proposed arrangements for involving young people from North Lanarkshire Youth Council in the Youth, Equalities and Empowerment Committee as outlined in section two of this report.

Supporting Documents

Council Plan

The proposal outlined in this report supports the following Council plan priorities:-

- Support all children to realise their full potential; and
- Improve relationships with communities and the third sector.

1. Background

1.1 Youth Participation and Engagement in North Lanarkshire

1.1.1 North Lanarkshire's Youth Participation and Engagement currently comprises:-

- 6 locality based Youth Forums;
- the 9 democratically elected Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament;
- school based Pupil Councils;
- links to the TNT (Today not Tomorrow) group which represents care experienced young people; and
- North Lanarkshire Youth Council (NLYC).

1.1.2 There is in place a well-established, dynamic and sector leading approach to pupil /youth engagement through pupil councils, local youth forums, North Lanarkshire Youth Forum, North Lanarkshire Youth Council and the members of Scottish Youth Parliament who support regular consultation events and activities across North Lanarkshire. The young people involved in this diverse infrastructure welcome the opportunity to continue to inform decision making processes.

This desire has been strengthened by the focus of the Year of Young People 2018 and young people have requested increased opportunities of participation as part of the legacy planning.

The involvement of young people in the former Youth, Communities and Equalities Sub Committee worked well from the perspective of members and young people and this presented an opportunity to deepen the level of engagement and influence on the part of young people. Young people are keen to continue to represent the interests of North Lanarkshire's young people at the new Committee.

2. Report

2.1 It is proposed that Chair and Vice Chair of NLYC attend the Youth, Equalities and Empowerment Committee. Other members of NLYC will also be given the opportunity to attend the committee along with either the Chair or Vice Chair of NLYC. This approach will provide continuity as well as an opportunity for other NLYC to gain the experience of attending.

2.2 The young people attending the meeting will be supported by Community Learning and Development Officers regarding the functions of the committee; ie agenda, report/presentation preparation, their role during meetings.

2.3 Although representation at the Committee is on a non-voting basis, the young people will provide an important youth perspective on agenda items. The forum will also continue to ensure that representatives feed back to NLYC and its supporting fora both following Committee meetings and during the agenda setting process.

3. Equality and Diversity

There is representation within our youth participation structures from young people with a variety of backgrounds and experiences including LGBT, young carers, care-experienced young people, young people with disabilities and BME young people. Support will continue to be given to youth representatives to ensure that activities related to this proposal are accessible to all.

3.1 Fairer Scotland

Offering young people the opportunity to be involved allows them a direct interface with elected members where they consider and raise issues directly related to child poverty and reducing disadvantage for children and young people.

3.2 Equality Impact Assessment

As noted above, consideration has been given to supporting an inclusive youth infrastructure, which engages young people with protected characteristics. Further action will be considered in terms of the best ways to support two-way communication flow between under-represented groups of young people and the youth representatives, regarding matters arising at Committee.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial Impact

The youth engagement structure is supported via the Council's Community Learning and Development budget.

4.2 HR/Policy/Legislative Impact

No impact anticipated.

4.3 Environmental Impact

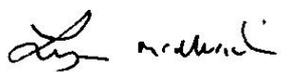
No impact anticipated.

4.4 Risk Impact

No Impact anticipated.

5. Measures of success

5.1 Evaluation and engagement mechanisms will be further developed in discussion with NLYC representatives to determine success. Ongoing dialogue between the representatives and NLYC will be encouraged through the NLYC business meetings.



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