

Youth, Equalities and Empowerment Committee

approval noting

Ref LMcM/EW

Date 29/04/19

Youth Work Update

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Executive Summary

This report provides members with an update on key Youth Work activities.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Youth, Equalities and Empowerment Committee note the content of this report.

Supporting Documents

The Plan for North Lanarkshire

The Council's youth work and youth engagement programme supports the following strategic priorities:

Enhance participation, capacity and empowerment across our communities.

Support all children and young people to realise their full potential.

1. Background

In line with the regular updates provided to the Youth, Equalities and Empowerment Committee during Year of Young People 2018, and in respect of the commitment to continue to involve and engage with young people, this report provides an update on recent youth work activities and developments.

2. Report

2.1 Key Activities

A number of key activities of interest to this committee have taken place which are outlined in this section of the report.

2.1.1 Scottish Youth Parliament – 2019 Elections

Voting for the Scottish Youth Parliament Elections took place from 15th – 28th March. Votes were cast electronically by using Young Scot cards. Nine North Lanarkshire seats were returned. Full results will be verbally reported at committee.

2.1.2 Scottish Youth Parliament Awards 2019

The current members of the Scottish Youth Parliament attended the national sitting of the parliament on 16th and 17th March 2019. The annual SYP awards ceremony took place on 17th March 2019, with success for the North Lanarkshire Members. North Lanarkshire had finalists in the following six out of the seven categories;

- Sarah Quinn, MSYP Airdrie and Shotts, finalist in the 'Local Hero', 'Achievement of the Year' and 'MSYP of the Year' categories, was presented with a highly commended award in the latter category.
- Wiktoria Orlicka, MSYP Motherwell and Wishaw, finalist in the 'One to Watch' category.
- Jamie McDairmid, MSYP Cumbernauld and Kilsyth, finalist in the 'MSYP of the Year' category.
- The North Lanarkshire Youth Council finalist in the 'Exceptional Team Work' category.
- Amy Reynolds, Development Officer, was presented with a highly commended award in the 'Support Worker of the Year' category.

2.1.3 National Youth Work Awards 2019

North Lanarkshire enjoyed success at the National Youth Work Awards on 13th March 2019. Coatbridge Youth Action were finalists in the 'Community Based Youth Work category', and Michael Docherty, from Motherwell, was a finalist in the 'Volunteer of the Year' category.

2.1.4 LGBT History Month

Young People from across North Lanarkshire celebrated LGBT History month on Purple Friday (22nd February 2019) with a movie screening and the launch of the LGBT Youth Network.

2.1.5 Year of Young People

The Year of Young People was officially brought to a close in North Lanarkshire with an end of year celebration event in Airdrie Town hall held on 7th February 2019. Two hundred young people, from across North Lanarkshire came together to celebrate at this very successful event.

The report on the Year of Young People has been published and is available for committee members.

2.1.6 Young Scot/Scottish Government – National Strategic Partnership Phase 2

Funding of £100,000 has been secured via a successful bid to the Young Scot and Scottish Government National Strategic Partnership Phase 2. North Lanarkshire was one of three local authorities awarded the funding to take forward phase 2 of this initiative.

This initiative, which is linked to the Scottish Attainment Challenge, will run as a one year pilot from 1st April 2019.

Through support from Young Scot, utilising smart technology opportunities, linked to use of the Young Scot National Entitlement Card (NEC), the Council will offer a flexible range of incentives to further engage young people from S1 to S3 in positive activities, with the aim of improving their attainment. North Lanarkshire has a strong track record of working alongside Young Scot and has one of the highest uptakes of Young Scot NEC cards in Scotland.

In order to help tackle holiday hunger, which has been shown to impact negatively on attainment, eligible young people will be offered free meals along with access to free or reduced price leisure and wellbeing activities, such as the use of local sport and fitness facilities, swimming, leisure classes, internet access, cultural activities and library services. Free travel to and from venues will also be provided through the use of smart technology in partnership with local bus providers. These opportunities will be opened up to young people identified as having barriers to attainment, as well as care experienced young people.

Young Scot Rewards will be built into all of these opportunities, and the council will work with partners and young people to offer more rewards, redemption opportunities and discounts, with a particular focus on opportunities that close the attainment gap.

3. Equality and Diversity

3.1 Fairer Scotland

Offering young people the opportunity to be involved allows them a direct interface with officers, elected members and community planning partners where they can consider and raise issues directly related to child poverty and reducing disadvantage for children and young people. The Young Scot and Scottish Government National Strategic Partnership Phase 2 initiative outlined in 2.8 of the report will positively impact young people and families who experience poverty and disadvantage.

3.2 Equality Impact Assessment

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 Youth, Equalities and Empowerment Committee.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial Impact

No Impact anticipated

4.2 HR/Policy/Legislative Impact

No Impact anticipated

4.3 Environmental Impact

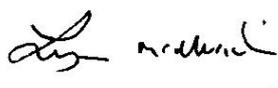
No Impact anticipated

4.4 Risk Impact

No Impact anticipated

5. Measures of success

5.1 Ongoing updates will be provided and outcomes monitored against impact.



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