

North Lanarkshire Council Report

Youth, Equalities and Empowerment Committee

approval noting

Ref LMcM/EW

Date 29/04/19

Youth Summit – Year of Young People Legacy

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Executive Summary

Building on the strong youth engagement foundations established during Year of Young People 2018, it is now crucial that the potential to better integrate youth engagement and empowerment within the Council's strategic and operational planning is realised.

The Council's commitment to continue to involve and engage with young people to develop the legacy from Year of Young People 2018 is strong. This report outlines the thinking around taking the approach from ongoing dialogue between our young people, the Council and partners, to strategic planning and review. These will be the next steps in North Lanarkshire's youthwork journey.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Youth, Equalities and Empowerment Committee:-

- (1) approve the proposal to organise a Youth Summit;
- (2) note the intention to prepare a final report on the Strategy for Working with Young People 2014-2018 and map out the next phase of the strategy; and
- (3) agree that a report be brought back to Committee setting out the outcome of the Strategy for Working with Young People 2014-2018 and the next phase of the strategy.

Supporting Documents

The Plan for North Lanarkshire The Youth engagement and empowerment activities outlined in this report support all five of the One Plan key priorities.

1. Background

1.1 Year of Young People 2018 – Legacy

Building on the strong youth engagement foundations established during Year of Young People 2018, it is now crucial that the potential to better integrate youth engagement and empowerment within the Council's strategic and operational planning is realised.

The Council's commitment to continue to involve and engage with young people to develop the legacy from Year of Young People 2018 is strong. This report outlines the thinking around taking the approach from ongoing dialogue between our young people, the Council and partners, to strategic planning and review. These will be the next steps in North Lanarkshire's youthwork journey.

Members will be aware of the strong youth participation infrastructure that already exists in North Lanarkshire, principally through the involvement of members of the North Lanarkshire Youth Council in the Youth, Equalities and Empowerment Committee.

1.2 One Plan

In the One Plan, the Council and partners articulate big ambitions stating that;

'in terms of realising large-scale regeneration and infrastructure projects that will continue to bring fresh opportunities. In doing this, it is important that we put local people first in order to maintain and improve the facilities, services, and supports we secure for them. Our people and communities have a significant part to play in developing and delivering the Plan and we will make sure we involve them in the decisions that affect them. We will focus on building their capacity and empowering our communities to help them help themselves.'

Young people in North Lanarkshire have to be at the heart of shaping facilities and services and have mechanisms to engage through the existing youth participation infrastructure which are accessible and trusted.

2. Report

2.1 Youth Engagement and The Plan for North Lanarkshire

An undoubted area of best practice for North Lanarkshire is in the outcomes achieved through youth participation and engagement supported through inspirational youth work.

A Youth Summit will be planned and organised jointly by young people, council officers and community planning partners. The proposed event will take place on Wednesday 19th June 2019.

Linked to key One Plan priorities, the focus of the event will be to strengthen engagement between the Council, Community Planning Partners and young people.

The aim of this engagement event will be not only to shape the way forward for young people and elected members, in order to further enhance young people's voices and give them a wider and deeper role in decision making, across North Lanarkshire Council business, but also to drive the delivery of change at pace.

2.2 **North Lanarkshire Strategy for Working with Young People – Moving from Consultation to Co-Production**

Effective engagement was at the heart of the development of the Council's 2014-2018 Strategy for Working with Young People. As part of the process of developing the Strategy, the views of young people were gathered via a series of surveys, focus groups and events. The maturing approach, in terms of youth engagement and empowerment, which has been developed and celebrated further in North Lanarkshire during Year of Young People 2018, has moved the Council and its partners to a stage where co-production rather than consultation with young people is an achievable key goal in line with both the original Strategy for Working with Young People and the One Plan for North Lanarkshire i.e.

Priority 9 (Strategy for Working with Young People 2014-2018)

'Continue to expand the engagement and participation of young people'

Priority 19 & 20 (The Plan for North Lanarkshire)

'Improve engagement with communities and develop their capacity to help themselves'.

'Improve the involvement of communities in the decisions and development of services and supports, that affect them'.

Over the course of the next six months, the outcomes from the Strategy for Working with Young People 2014-2018 will be assessed and a final report compiled. Members may recall the interim report prepared and considered at the mid-point in 2016 which was well received. Within the final report the next phase of the Strategy will be mapped out as the journey continues for young people in North Lanarkshire against the backdrop of The One Plan. A plan which clearly places them at the heart of public policy making.

3. Equality and Diversity

3.1 Fairer Scotland

Offering young people the opportunity to be involved in strategic and operational planning and review around the One Plan allows them a direct interface with officers, elected members and community planning partners where they can raise issues, consider and co-produce solutions and interventions directly related to child poverty and reducing disadvantage for children and young people.

3.2 **Equality Impact Assessment**

The Council's Youth Strategy was the subject of an Equality Impact Assessment when originally developed. 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 engagement 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 at this stage. The next phase of the Strategy for Working with Young People will encompass an associated financial plan.

4.2 **HR/Policy/Legislative Impact**

An effective Youth engagement and empowerment programme strengthens the Council's approach to establishing best practice in terms of the requirements set out in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

4.3 **Environmental Impact**

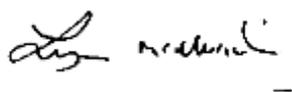
No Impact anticipated

4.4 **Risk Impact**

No Impact anticipated

5. **Measures of success**

- 5.1 An ambitious approach to co-production with young people underpinned by a refreshed Strategy for Working with Young People.
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