



Report to Children, Young People and Family Support Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee Wednesday 9th February 2022

Report of: Policy and Improvement Officer

Subject: Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Young People:
Recommendations to Co-operative Executive towards recovery from the impact of the pandemic on young people in Sheffield

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In October 2021 this Scrutiny Committee heard from members of Sheffield Youth Cabinet about the continuing impact of Covid-19 pandemic on young people. This report sets out draft recommendations for submission to Co-operative Executive, these proposed recommendations have been developed in collaboration with Sheffield Youth Cabinet for steps towards recovery from the impact of the pandemic on young people in Sheffield.

Type of item: The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	
Other	X

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

- Approve the recommendations from this Scrutiny Committee to Co-operative Executive

Background Papers:

Category of Report: OPEN

Draft for Members of the Sheffield City Council Children, Young People and Family Support Scrutiny Committee – 09.02.2022

Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on Young People: Recommendations to Sheffield City Council Co-operative Executive towards recovery from the impact of the pandemic on young people in Sheffield

Sheffield City Council Children, Young People and Family Support Scrutiny Committee heard from Sheffield Youth Cabinet at a meeting of this Scrutiny Committee October 2021 about the continuing impact of Covid-19 pandemic on young people. In collaboration with Sheffield Youth Cabinet we make these recommendations towards recovery from the impact of the pandemic on young people:

1. **Mental Health:** Explore if a log can be kept of what each school offers as support for young people's mental health – with a particular emphasis on the impact Covid-19 has had through school closures, self-isolation, learning, and exam catch up etc..., as a minimum that all schools are encouraged to adopt Kooth to support young people's mental health, or an equal alternative.
2. **Academic Catch Up:** It is not working, should be looking at students mental health in this time and the impact of catch up stress, young people comment that catch up should be about getting back into learning, not the detail, not about re-learning, there is disparity in learning over lockdown which leads to mismatch in class now - ask lead professionals in the city to find a way to express this view to learning settings and work with them to provide the right catch up to meet individual and school needs. Should we encourage use of the national tutoring programme for Sheffield schools; how many schools in Sheffield are using the national tutoring programme?
3. **Work Experience:** Young People have missed out on work experience, ask city leaders to provide opportunities and support young people to fill this gap and to gain the missed work experience necessary for their future; encourage schools to allow students to take time out to undertake work experience.
4. **Online learning:** There should be more support available to level the playing field, there should not be discrepancies in online learning depending on learning setting, it should be an equal opportunity for all young people across the city. Good online learning practice could be a hybrid solution for students with different learning styles and reduce barriers of access for fairer education in the city. Plan for the future for good practice for all in online learning, ask leaders in education settings to work with students to develop this good practice model. Develop a Sheffield minimum standard for online learning for all schools in the city.