



Report to Policy Committee

Author/Lead Officer of Report: Ian Turner

Report of: *Ajman Ali*
Executive Director, Neighbourhood Services

Report to: *Communities Parks and Leisure Policy Committee*

Date of Decision: *11th March 2024*

Subject: *Sheffield Youth Cabinet and UK Youth Parliament*

Type of Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) undertaken	Initial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Full <input type="checkbox"/>
Insert EIA reference number and attach EIA	2634	
Has appropriate consultation/engagement taken place?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Has a Climate Impact Assessment (CIA) been undertaken?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>If YES, give details as to whether the exemption applies to the full report / part of the report and/or appendices and complete below:-</p> <p><i>“The (report/appendix) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (insert relevant paragraph number) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).”</i></p>		

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to inform the Policy Committee of the work of the Sheffield Youth Council and UK Youth Parliament in providing a local, regional and national voice for the young residents of the city.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Communities Parks and Leisure Policy Committee:

1. Notes the update about the Sheffield Youth Cabinet (SYC) Elections and the work of young residents through SYC and the UK Youth Parliament (UKYP).
2. Notes the increase in participations of young residents in local democracy and decision making in their communities, across the city and nationally.

Background Papers:

Appendix A: Sheffield Youth Cabinet presentation

Lead Officer to complete:-		
1	I have consulted the relevant departments in respect of any relevant implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist, and comments have been incorporated / additional forms completed / EIA completed.	Finance: <i>Adrian Hart</i>
		Legal: <i>Robert Parkin</i>
		Equalities & Consultation: <i>Ed Sexton</i>
		Climate: <i>N/A</i>
	<i>Legal, financial/commercial and equalities implications must be included within the report and the name of the officer consulted must be included above.</i>	
2	SLB member who approved submission:	<i>Ajman Ali</i>
3	Committee Chair consulted:	<i>Richard Williams Chair, Communities, Parks and Leisure</i>
4	I confirm that all necessary approval has been obtained in respect of the implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist and that the report has been approved for submission to the Committee by the SLB member indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1.	
	Lead Officer Name: <i>Chelsea Renehan</i>	Job Title: <i>Head of Community Youth Services</i>
	Date: <i>29/2/24</i>	

1. PROPOSAL

1.1 Introduction

1.1.3 The **Youth Voice and Influence Service** are a team within the Sheffield City Council's Community Youth Services of professionally qualified Youth and Community Workers who all have a passion for ensuring young residents voices in the city are heard.

They support and empower young people to shape, lead and produce their own activities and programmes such as:

- **SENDing Voices** – This group is for young residents aged 13 to 25yrs with a Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND).
- **SYP YPIAG** - The group allows young residents aged 13yrs to 25yrs to give direct feedback to the police on issues that matter to them and others.
- **Community Young Advisors** – There are numerous groups across the city for young residents aged 11 - 17yrs that gives the opportunity to engage with decision makers and influence change in their local area.
- **Sheffield Youth Cabinet** (see below)
- **Sheffield UK Youth Parliament** (see below)

1.1.2 Sheffield Youth Cabinet (SYC)

This is the citywide voice group for young residents in Sheffield. There are 35 elected young people (5 per Local Area Committee area). Elections take place once every 2 years and you need to be 11 to 17yrs old to stand in the elections. The youth Cabinet also have special interest/ link seats (which go up to aged 25) to try to ensure a diverse range of voices are represented.

SYC enables young Residents to have a say on issues that matter to them and to influence decision making at a local, regional and national level. SYC members represent the voice, views and opinions of their peers in their local areas. Their work is voluntary, and they are all passionate about making Sheffield and the UK a better and fairer place for young residents.

1.1.3 Sheffield UK Youth Parliament (UKYP)

We have 3 young residents elected as Members of UK Youth Parliament for Sheffield. They lead on national campaigns and the bi-annual Make your Mark Survey. Elections take place once every 2 years and you need to be 11 to 17yrs old and already elected to the Youth Cabinet to be able to stand for one of these roles.

1.2 Activity and Involvement

- 1.2.1 Youth councillors attended and took part in the Roots and Futures consultation on culture and heritage. Throughout summer and into autumn 2023, they worked on the schedule for the 2024 elections that will see a new youth cabinet elected including developing an online self-nomination form and introductory flyer and PowerPoint.

One SW youth councillor was also successfully select for the national British Youth Council Select Committee for Cost of Living.

The East Member of Youth Parliament attended the UKYP Annual Conference Leeds University to begin developing the national Food for Learning Bill.

- 1.2 In September, the SYC Full Cabinet met to review their priority area shifting focus slightly to develop a piece of work on the cost-of-living crisis and look at period education available in schools.

UKYP members voted for their national steering group rep and debate leads at the House of Commons. The three members of UK Youth Parliament will be attending a Youth Conference shortly in readiness for the House of Commons event in November.

SYC members attended the Regional Youth Con in October taking part in media training and worked on the national spill the tea campaign inputting their views to be fed in via MYP's to the House of Commons.

All three Sheffield Members of UK Youth Parliament (MYP's) attended the House of Commons Debate on the Food for Learning Bill in November ([British Youth Council | UK Youth Parliament Campaigns | Food for Learning: the Campaign for Universal Free School Meals \(byc.org.uk\)](https://www.byc.org.uk/campaigns/food-for-learning))

1.3 **SYC Elections**

Over 12,000 young residents voted in the SYC elections to elect the 35 Youth Cabinet members (5 from each Local Area Committee). The results were announced on 22nd February at an event at Bramall Lane.

2. **HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE ?**

2.1 **Sheffield City Council Plan 2024 – 2028**

A place where all children belong and all young people can build a successful future

***People** – we want Sheffield's children and young people to feel secure and safe in their lives, with a strong support network: to feel they can belong, whether that is in their local communities, their school, or wherever they want to be. We want them to have the opportunity to get involved in things that matter to them, to know that they are listened to and for Sheffield to help them build the foundations to succeed.*

Ensure all children and young people can feel like they can belong and thrive in Sheffield.

SYC and UKYP provide a voice for young Residents to influence and change the things that matter to them. Through this representation, young people can communicate the expectations of all young residents locally, regionally, and nationally and know that they are being heard at all these levels.

2.2 Sheffield City Council Youth Strategy 2022-2025

Sheffielders shape services

We want Young Sheffielders to have a say in all aspects of their services which spread beyond Community Youth Services but mean recognising Young Sheffielders in all areas of council decisions that affect them. To do this means we commit to actively listening to our young people.

We want young people to be heard and to feel safe enough to share their direct feedback. For this to happen we must provide a variety of platforms for young people, in particular those from underrepresented groups, to have a say.

SYC and UKYP aren't the only ways that young residents can voice their opinions but the expansion of SYC in 2022 means that more young residents from vulnerable and previously underrepresented groups have a voice locally, regionally and nationally.

3. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?

- 3.1 Sheffield Youth Cabinet and Sheffield UK Youth Parliament are both fundamentally about consulting with and involving young residents in the city about decisions regarding how services are provided.

4. RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

4.1 Equality Implications

- 4.1.1 Sheffield Youth Cabinet and UK Youth Parliament have a positive impact on young people. Thousands of young residents are engaged through the biennial elections to the Cabinet. The Cabinet gives voice and influence to young residents from across the city.

4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications

- 4.2.1 There are no financial or commercial implications of this decision.

4.3 Legal Implications

- 4.3.1 There are no legal implications of this decision.

4.4 Climate Implications

4.4.1 There are no climate implications of this decision.

4.4 Other Implications

4.4.1 None

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 None

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The elections to the SYC have been a great success, engaging over 12,000 young residents across the city in electing their representatives.

SYC and UKYP enable young residents to have a say on issues that matter to them and to influence decision making at a local, regional and national level. SYC members represent the voice, views and opinions of their peers in their local areas.