



Report to Children, Young People and Family Support Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee 5th September 2013

Report of: Policy and Improvement Officer

Subject: Annual Meeting with Young People

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Summary:

One of the items on the Committee's work plan is an 'Annual Meeting with Young People.' The purpose of this paper is to provide some options for the Committee on how this work might be conducted and for the Committee to agree a way to take this work forward.

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	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	
Other	X

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

The Committee is asked to discuss and provide a steer on the following questions:

1. The purpose of why it wants to engage with young people
2. Which young people it can most appropriately engage with
3. How it wants to engage with young people

Background Papers: None

Category of Report: OPEN

Annual Meeting with Young People

1. Introduction

- 1.1. One of the items on the Committee's work plan is an 'Annual Meeting with Young People.' The purpose of this paper is to provide some options for the Committee on how this work might be conducted and for the Committee to agree a way to take this work forward.

2. Purpose – why engage

- 2.1. The purpose of meeting with young people is to hear directly from them on the issues that are affecting them. It is suggested the meeting could cover whatever issues in Sheffield young people wish to talk about and not just those restricted to Council services. However, it would be helpful to know if there are specific issues that the Committee is particularly interested in hearing about.
- 2.2. The Committee is asked to discuss and provide a steer on the purpose and any specific issues it wants to engage with young people on.

3. Which Young People to engage with

- 3.1. 'Young people' covers a potential wide age range and a diverse group of people. It would be helpful for officers in setting up the meeting to know if there are specific age ranges or groups of young people that the Committee is specifically interested to hear from.
- 3.2. It is recognised that meeting with a group of young people is not necessarily going to be an accurate representation of all young people in the city – that is not the purpose. The Committee might therefore want to request additional information the Council has, for example survey data that could complement hearing from individual young people.
- 3.3. The Committee is asked to discuss and provide a steer on which young people it can most appropriately engage with.

4. How to engage

- 4.1. There are different ways the Committee could choose to do this activity. It could choose to invite young people to a committee meeting; however, as meetings are held at 2.00pm on a Thursday its likely not to be particularly convenient for many young people. The Committee could use the time for one of its meetings to go to meet a group of young people at 'their' venue. A further option would be to meet young people at 'their' venue at a time that suits them. Although it is worth noting that this will require Committee members to make an additional time commitment.

- 4.2. The Committee is asked to discuss and provide a steer on how it will engage with young people

5. Follow up after the discussion

- 5.1. It will be crucial to ensure there is some follow up action to the meeting. It is anticipated the type of actions required are likely to fall in to three broad categories:
 1. Specific operational issues or questions officers will need to find out answers on and respond. These types of actions would be forwarded to the relevant officers within the council or other organisation.
 2. Significant strategic issues which the Committee might want to consider adding as an item to the work programme to have a fuller more informed discussion with the relevant service/s. The individuals raising these issues could also be invited to the meeting.
 3. It is worth noting that some issues that arise might be more relevant for other Scrutiny Committees.
- 5.2. For the next municipal year the Committee might want to consider this item as part of the first Committee meeting or to take place in early June and feed in to the Committee meeting.

6. Recommendation

- 6.1. The Committee is asked to discuss and provide a steer on answers to the following questions:
 1. The purpose of why it wants to engage with young people
 2. Which young people it can most appropriately engage with
 3. How it wants to engage with young people

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