
**ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE
– INTRODUCTORY BRIEFING**

Purpose of the Report

1. For Members to receive a brief overview of this Agenda Item ahead of the formal committee meeting, where Members will receive a presentation from Cabinet Members, senior officers and a young person.

Background

2. In July 2023, Members agreed to make the issue of “engagement and participation of children & young people” a priority topic for the Committee during 2023/24. At this time, Members were asked what they would wish to consider as part of this topic, and they responded as follows:

Potential Approach:

- Cross- authority issue
- Need to understand the range of E&P with CYP across the authority
- Look at areas of good practice across the authority
- Are there areas for improvement across the authority - gap analysis?
- How are service areas working together?
- Who are key partners?
- How effective are we working with key partners such as Police, Health, third sector?

- What groups/networks of CYP are currently in place and how effective are they?
- Mapping out this work if possible?
- How are we engaging and working with CYP across areas such as community safety; safeguarding board; corporate parenting etc.
- Examples of positive outcomes arising from E&P with CYP.
- Examples of good practice working across partners
- Child Friendly City status – how has this impacted improved E&P

Potential witnesses:

- Would be good to involve those members of council staff leading on the consultation process/ Officers responsible for consultations across Cardiff Council.
- Representatives of young people themselves.
- Relevant staff and clients of the Youth Service.
- Members of Young People's Parliament
- Members of Youth Council (including CYPSC rep)
- Members of other Cardiff wide Youth 'voices' organisations
- Others to be agreed with lead service areas

Issues

3. At this meeting, Members will receive presentations from the following services:
 - Child Friendly City Team
 - Children's Services
 - Youth Services
 - Community Safety
 - Education – Cardiff Commitment and School Organisation Planning
4. The focus of this session is for Members to receive introductory presentations from the above, who will be supported by Cabinet Members. The aim (at this stage) is to give the Committee a briefing on work taking place across these areas, with a view to give Members a baseline for further scrutiny at a later date.

5. Members are requested to note that this briefing will not be a “hold to account” session, but an information briefing; and are therefore asked to keep questions to points of clarification at this stage.
6. Attached at **Appendix A** is a short report from the Child Friendly Cities Team setting the context for today’s session. Members are asked to click on the link in **paragraph 4 of Appendix A**, which sets out a range of supporting information and evidence, which will include information from South Wales Police and Cardiff & Vale Health Board.
7. Members will recall that, during the past 12 months, they have considered a range of evidence arising from engagement and participation of young people, particularly in the School Organisation Planning (SOP) area of work. Members will remember hearing directly from the Cardiff Influencers in July 2023, where the Committee stated its support for the Influencers and recognised the Group as an example of good practice. The Influencers will be invited to May’s meeting of this scrutiny committee when Members will consider the SOP Strategy.

Way Forward

8. At this meeting, the following Cabinet Members will be in attendance and may wish to make a statement:
 - Councillor Sarah Merry, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education
 - Councillor Ash Lister, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services
 - Councillor Peter Bradbury, Cabinet Member for Tackling Poverty & Supporting Young People
9. The above will be supported by the following:
 - **Child Friendly City Team** - Lee Patterson (Child Friendly City Programme Coordinator)
 - **Children’s Services** – Matt Osbourne (Corporate Parenting)
 - **Youth Services** – James Healan (Youth Service Manager)
 - **Community Safety** – Jenny Rogers (Community Safety Manager)
 - **Education** – Carly Davies (Cardiff Commitment Programme Manager); Michele Duddridge-Friedl (School Organisation Planning)

10. Members will be able to agree any comments and observations that they wish to pass on to the Cabinet Members and senior officers during the Way Forward and decide whether they wish to receive further updates from witnesses in the future, in line with information set out in paragraph 2 above.

Legal Implications

11. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

12. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

That Committee considers this report and information provided at the meeting and agrees any comments or observations it wishes to offer to the Cabinet Members and officers; and any future scrutiny Members may wish to undertake on this issue.

Leanne Weston
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10 April 2024