

<b>18 March 2014</b>		<b>ITEM: 7</b>
<b>Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>		
<b>Youth Cabinet Activity and Impact 2013/14</b>		
<b>Report of:</b> Sue Green, Strategic Leader Early Years, Families and Communities		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> Key	
<b>Accountable Head of Service:</b> Sue Green Strategic Lead, Early Years Families & Communities		
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Carmel Littleton, Director of Children's Services		
<b>This report is</b> Public		
<b>Purpose of Report:</b> To report on the activity undertaken by the Youth Cabinet and to look at the impact this work has had on young people both as members of the Youth Cabinet and those in the wider community.		

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report will include the activities and events carried out by the Youth Cabinet in the past year and will highlight the impact to young people and the wider community. The report will include the consultations carried out and the projects that the Youth Cabinet have focussed on during the year. It will also provide evidence of impact of the work and young people's progression as part of the Youth Cabinet.

### **1. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**1.1 To continue to fund the Youth Cabinet to enable youth voice and influence.**

**1.2 To identify a Youth Champion from the Cabinet to support future Youth Cabinet involvement.**

### **2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:**

**2.1** The Thurrock Youth Cabinet was formed in 2006 with the aim of providing a voice for all young people in Thurrock. There are currently 33 members (between 11-19 yrs) representing local schools and youth groups. In addition since April 2013 a number of young people (12) have joined via the application process, which through the constitution, makes it open for any local young person to take part.

2.2 The Youth Cabinet carries out its work via a series of meetings, events and sessions. The following have taken place or are planned for the period between April 2013 and March 2014:

- 11 x monthly youth cabinet meetings
- 11 x monthly working groups
- 3 x UK Youth Parliament regional conventions
- 1 x UK Youth Parliament annual sitting
- 1 x youth debate at the House of Commons
- 1 x youth debate at Thurrock Council (Democracy week)
- 1 x summer residential
- 1 x Thurrock urban games
- 2 x teambuilding events
- 1 x civic dinner
- 3 x commissioning reviews

### 3. ACTIVITY / IMPACT

3.1 The following are some of the key pieces of work the Youth Cabinet have undertaken in this time period:

3.2 UK Youth Parliament 'Make Your Mark' ballot

#### **Description**

This national ballot gives all young people an opportunity to vote on their top issue. Any young person (between 11-18 yrs) in the UK can take part, simply by voting on their top issue out of a choice of 15.

Youth Cabinet members got involved in this locally with the aim to get as many young people as possible taking part. The method for doing this was through members going back to their settings (schools, youth groups etc), explaining to young people about Make Your Mark and getting them to cast a vote. Completed ballot papers were then returned to the Participation Officer at the Council.

#### **Impact**

In total 1,741 votes were cast from Thurrock young people in 2013 – a sharp increase from the 698 votes cast in 2012. The impact of this is having 1,741 young people engaged in democracy and having a say in what matters most to them. In terms of the Youth Cabinet members it develops their skills and confidence by going out and getting young people to take part in Make Your Mark. It also gives the Youth Cabinet a mandate to campaign on – it allows members to find out the key issues as voted on by local young people. The Youth Cabinet will now campaign on the top 2 local issues that received the most votes (1<sup>st</sup> - work experience, 2<sup>nd</sup> - bullying) and plans are already underway for these campaigns.

### 3.3 UK Youth Parliament 'Curriculum For Life' Campaign

#### **Description**

In 2013 the UK Youth Parliament ran a campaign called 'Curriculum For Life'. This campaign was aimed at overhauling Citizenship Education & PSHE in schools and ensuring young people were given a curriculum that allowed them to learn key life skills.

#### **Impact**

Thurrock head teachers have signed the Education pledge; stating their schools will ensure students are taught a curriculum that prepares them for life.

### 3.4 Public Transport Campaign / Bus transport

#### **Description**

In the 2012 Make Your Mark ballot, Thurrock young people voted '*safer, more affordable and more accessible public transport*' as their top issue. This issue received 234 of the 698 votes cast. Following this the Youth Cabinet began to campaign on this and chose to work on bus transport and they felt this would be something they may be able to have an influence on. A detailed bus survey aimed at young people was designed and sent out by the Youth Cabinet members. 704 responses were received. The results of this survey were presented to Ensign Bus Company at the November 2013 Youth Cabinet monthly meeting. The Youth Cabinet are now working with Ensign Bus Company on the findings.

#### **Impact**

- 704 young people giving views on bus transport in Thurrock
- Youth Cabinet members now represented on the Thurrock Bus Users forum
- Youth Cabinet assisting in promoting a youth ID card which is accepted as proof of age by bus companies in Thurrock
- Ensign Bus Company will now be consulting/surveying their drivers around young people that use their buses

### 3.5 Young people's involvement in commissioned services

#### **Description**

The Youth Cabinet have been working closely with Mark Livermore from the Commissioning team to make sure young people play an active role in reviewing services.

#### **Impact**

- 3 commissioned youth programmes (young carers, youth at risk & youth mentoring) have been reviewed by Youth Cabinet members with the young people leading the interviews with the providers.
- Youth Cabinet members set a number of interview questions for the recent interviews for the new youth mentoring programme

### 3.6 DVD Project – ‘Straight to the Point’

#### **Description**

The Youth Cabinet worked in partnership with young people from the Children in Care Council to write, act and produce a short DVD aimed at adults working with young people.

#### **Impact**

This DVD is a valuable resource that has been shown to adult workers at corporate inductions, team meetings and various events. The project also developed a range of skills for the young people involved and strengthened the relationship between the Youth Cabinet and the Children in Care Council.

### 3.7 Children’s Overview & Scrutiny Committee

#### **Description**

As the body responsible for reviewing and scrutinising children’s services in Thurrock, the Youth Cabinet has worked to develop a closer relationship to the Children’s Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

#### **Impact**

Youth Cabinet now has representation on Children’s Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Interest from members is so high a rota system has been organised for members to attend future meetings.

## **4. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION:**

Members have identified a lead member from Overview and Scrutiny as a Youth Champion to identify areas of work that are relevant to young people across the borough, attending Youth Cabinet meetings where appropriate and would like to consider this from Cabinet as well.

Youth Cabinet members have also identified the need for a dedicated space and IT systems for the Youth Cabinet to carry out their work, including workshops, campaigns etc.

## **5. CONSULTATION (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)**

N/A

## **6. IMPACT ON CORPORATE POLICIES, PRIORITIES, PERFORMANCE AND COMMUNITY IMPACT**

- 6.1 This report contributes to the following corporate priorities:  
- create a great place for learning and opportunity

## 7. IMPLICATIONS

### 7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Kay Goodacre**  
Telephone and email: **01375 652466**  
[kgoodacre@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:kgoodacre@thurrock.gov.uk)

There are no direct implications as this report is for information only.

### 7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Lucinda Bell**  
Telephone and email: **07971 316599**  
[Lucinda.bell@BDTLegal.org.uk](mailto:Lucinda.bell@BDTLegal.org.uk)

Overview and Scrutiny are asked to note the contents of this updating report only. There would therefore be no decision to make. The report at paragraph 3 makes two recommendations which are not expanded on within the body of the report.

### 7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Teresa Evans**  
Telephone and email: [Tevans@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:Tevans@thurrock.gov.uk)

The Thurrock Youth Cabinet aims to represent the wider community of young people in Thurrock. It is a diverse group in terms of age (11-19 yrs), gender, ethnicity and disability – reflecting the make up of young people residing in Thurrock. Numerous local groups (including Sea Cadets, Scouts, Young Carers) and schools are represented and the Youth Cabinet has a close link with another local young people's forum: Thurrock's Children in Care Council.

In terms of access the Youth Cabinet is open to any young people (11-19 yrs) living or been educated in Thurrock.

## APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:

None

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