

<b>8 March 2016</b>		<b>ITEM: 6</b>
<b>Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>		
<b>Youth Cabinet Activity and Impact 2015 / 2016</b>		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b>	
<b>Report of:</b> Patrick Kielty – Working with Youth Cabinet Michele Lucas – Interim Strategic Lead Learning & Skills		
<b>Accountable Service Manager:</b> Michele Lucas - Interim Strategic Lead Learning & Skills		
<b>Accountable Director:</b> David Archibald – Interim Director Children's Services		
<b>This report is: Public</b>		

## **Executive Summary**

This report sets 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.

### **1. Recommendations**

- 1.1 To continue to support the work undertaken by the Youth Cabinet thus enabling young people to remain at the heart of decision making regarding youth related activities.**
- 1.2 To continue to support members of the Youth Cabinet in the development of an alternative vehicle for delivering youth related activities recognising the need to secure savings going forward, whilst ensuring young people remain at the heart of the regeneration agenda.**

### **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 42 members (between 11-19 yrs) representing local schools and youth groups. In addition since April 2014 a number of young people (11) 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 will have taken place between April 2014 and March 2015:

- 11 x monthly youth cabinet meetings
- 11 x monthly working groups
- 3 x UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) regional conventions
- 1 x UKYP annual sitting
- 1 x UKYP 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
- 2 x commissioning reviews
- 1x Youth Conference

### 3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

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

3.2 It has grown rapidly in 2015 and we now have 42 members from across Thurrock. Below are some of the outcomes from the last year:

- **2015 UK Youth Parliament 'Make Your Mark' Ballot** - this is a national consultation open to all young people 11-18 years in the UK. Young people vote on their top issue (out of a choice of 10) and the issues with the highest number of votes are then debated by Members of Youth Parliament (MYP's) in the House of Commons. Following the debates all MYP's subsequently vote on what will be the 2016 UK Youth Parliament national campaign.

This work is led locally by the Thurrock Youth Cabinet. In 2015 there were 6,904 votes cast by Thurrock young people which equated to a voter turnout of 42%.

- **Supporting Pathways Group** – members of the Thurrock Youth Cabinet were represented on this group which looked at work experience and preparing young people for future employment. Both the young people on this group and the wider youth cabinet were involved in this work, the discussions which took place and the development of the recommendations that came out of it.
- **The Fairness Commission** – our Member of Youth Parliament was an active member of the Thurrock Fairness Commission – a group looking at the issue of fairness in Thurrock. The recommendations of this group have recently been published.

- **C2C Youth Panel** – the train operator has recently set up a youth panel to seek the views of young people about train travel and areas such as security, pricing and safety. The Chairperson of the Thurrock Youth Cabinet is a member.
- **Thurrock Peer Review** – as part of this review a group of youth cabinet members will be interviewed about their involvement with the council and their understanding of the growth agenda within the borough.
- **Planning Group** – this group has been set up in partnership with the council's planning department. Youth Cabinet members on the group will be developing their knowledge around planning and helping to ensure young people are aware of local developments and can play an active role in shaping these.
- **Staff Recruitment** – members of the youth cabinet continue to be involved in the recruitment of council staff working with children and young people. A youth cabinet panel was part of the recruitment for the Chief Executive and the same panel will be in place for the upcoming appointment of the Director of Children's Services
- **Thurrock Youth Conference 2015** – members both planned and delivered this annual conference in November with 80 young people attending from a variety of schools in Thurrock. Youth Cabinet members took responsibility for the running of the event which included chairing debates, facilitating workshops and organising the market stall area.
- **Inspire Youth Charity** – members have been involved in the proposals to set up a charity outside of the council to deliver youth related activities. This has taken the form of regular consultation and dialogue and has now developed to be a youth board which meets on a monthly basis and will be responsible for scrutinising future plans and working with the council of the developments of Inspire.

#### **4. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 4.1 The Thurrock Youth Cabinet aims to give a voice to all young people in Thurrock and to ensure local young people are actively involved in democracy and decisions which affect them and their peers.

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

The Youth Cabinet have been involved in a number of consultation exercises over the year to ensure that young people have a voice in the local decisions which impact both on themselves and the wider communities of Thurrock.

**6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact**

6.1 This piece of work directly links with the 5 corporate priorities of Thurrock Council.

**7. Implications**

**7.1 Financial**

Implications verified by: **Kay Goodacre**  
**Finance Manager**

The support provided to the Youth Cabinet sits within the Thurrock Youth Offer, we will continue to work closely with the Youth Cabinet in relation to the councils savings over the coming year.

**7.2 Legal**

Implications verified by: **Lucinda Bell**  
**Education Lawyer**

The Committee is asked to note the report content and continue to lend its support.

**7.3 Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Price**  
**Community Development Officer**

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 schools and local groups (including Sea Cadets & Scouts) 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.

Through its membership and activities the Youth Cabinet is committed to equality and diversity. The membership reflects the diversity of the local area and members run a number of events throughout the year to engage diverse groups (e.g. youth conference, outreach events, joint sessions with the Thurrock Children in Care Council). A number of Youth Cabinet members have trained as Hate Crime Ambassadors and are committed working in this area. In February 2015, the Youth Cabinet will receive a presentation on the newly formed Thurrock Fairness Commission, with a view to getting involved in this.

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

7.4 **Other implications** (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

None

8. **Background papers used in preparing the report** (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- None

9. **Appendices to the report**

- None

**Report Author:**

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