

Briefing Note

Title: Youth Engagement Strategy **Date:** 04 06 2019

Prepared by: Kush Patel

Job Title: Childrens Innovation lead

Intended Audience: Internal Partner organisation Public Confidential

1. Purpose or recommendation

- To provide an update on the Youth Engagement Strategy
- To invite a discussion on the strategy development

2. Overview

- 2.1 Rapidly changing economic, social and technological environments has led to a host of opportunities and challenges for young people. Many young people are committed to succeeding and work hard at school/college and then go on to university, vocational courses and/or work. They are interested in the community that surrounds them, be that on a local or global scale, and are passionate about their friends and family.
- 2.2 However, there is the understanding that some local young people experience difficulties in their life which means they need more support than others. Tackling the range and complexity of problems faced by the minority who are at risk relies on collaborative working and every effort will be made to create positive outcomes for young people with adverse childhood experiences. (ACEs). ACEs have been found to have lifelong impacts on health and behaviours and they are relevant to all sectors and involve all of us in society. We all have a part to play in preventing adversity and raising awareness of ACEs. Resilient communities have an important role in action on ACEs.

3 Background

- 3.1 There has been increasing media reporting on youth violence linked to reductions in youth provision. Nationally, regionally and locally in relation to concerns regarding youth violence, gangs and county lines.
- 3.2 Wolverhampton has, in line with other local authorities had to review what services it delivers within the constrained budgets available. This has led to some provision

being reduced or refocussed such as the move away from locality-based youth provision to investment in a centralised facility, The Way.

- 3.3 At the same time as having to find savings, the City of Wolverhampton has also secured funding coming into the City, National Lotteries funding for HeadStart, PCC funding, Early Years funding as well and numerous bids secured from the voluntary sector. This has resulted in a diverse youth offer but also a disjointed offer.
- 3.4 The Strengthening Families Board has recognised that youth provision in the City is fragmented and better coordination is needed. In addition, due to the reduction in funding, the strategy will undertake a needs analysis thereby putting the Partnership in a stronger position to accessing alternative funding opportunities that often require a quick turn around on bids.
- 3.5 It is recognised that the needs and aspirations of local young people can only effectively be met by partnership working between a range of different agencies in the public, voluntary and community sector. This strategy aims to influence the contribution to this collaborative approach, recognising the role of communities in the provision of support offer the young people.
- 3.6 The recommendation is for a strategy to bring together the various youth related strategies into a single document, for example youth violence, exclusions and those young people not in education, employment and training (NEET).

4. Proposal for a Youth Engagement Strategy

- 4.1 The aim of the strategy is to provide a coordinated approach to opportunities for children and young people to engage positively. It will be a framework to guide organisations to ensure it makes the most of the opportunities to benefit local young people.
- 4.2 Proposed strategy objectives will include;
 - Being Healthy:** understanding what keeps young people happy and well.
 - Being Connected:** how do young people stay connected with their friends, family and the community.
 - Being You:** - ensuring young people have the chance to be their best version.
- 4.3 Proposed strategic priorities

<p>Co-production</p> <p>Put young people at the heart of policy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Young people making their voices heard by decision makers, with young people contributing to service design, delivery, monitoring and evaluation b. Young people holding organisations to account for delivering better quality services and improved development outcomes c. Young people are involved in Supporting young people to fulfil their potential to shift social norms and change behaviour both of young people and the wider population
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Improve Awareness	<p>a. How providers market their services and facilities must be driven by new media and reach young people in a format and language they associate with.</p> <p>b. Coordination of local marketing needs to be addressed.</p>
Improve Access	The provision of positive activities and opportunities encouraging active participation. The scope of this includes the range of activities and facilities, how they are designed and how easily accessible they are to young people in terms of location, transport, and cost.
Collaborative working	<p>a. To agree a shared vision, outcomes and objectives</p> <p>b. Joint commissioning arrangements</p> <p>c. Sharing information.</p>
measure our impact	<p>a. Strong realistic performance framework, with clear outcomes</p> <p>b. Build the evidence base on what works</p>

5. Implementation Plan and timescales

Activity	By When	By Whom (Lead)
Task and Finish group established	June 2019	Strengthening Families Board
Desk top analysis of existing youth related strategies	July 2019	Kush Patel
Mapping of current provision (currently underway)	Oct 2019	CWC Insight and Performance
consultation with young people, families, organisations Survey 'Growing up in Wolverhampton'	July- Sept 30	Task and Finish Group
Draft strategy	Oct 2019	Kush Patel
Final Strategy to Cabinet	Nov 2019	Andrew Wolverson

5.1 Task and finish group members representation CWC Children Services, Community Safety Team, WMP, Public Health, Education, Voluntary Sector CCG