

Scrutiny Board

5th June 2018

Report title	Youth Council Mini Scrutiny Reviews Update	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Paul Sweet Children and Young People	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Emma Bennett, Director of Children Services	
Originating service	Looked After Children	
Accountable employee(s)	Andrew Scragg Tel 01902 55602 Email Andrew.scragg@wolverhampton.gov.uk	
Report to be/has been considered by	People Leadership Team	14 May 2018
	Education Leadership Team	21 May 2018
	Strategic Executive Board	22 May 2018

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Scrutiny Board is recommended to:

1. Endorse the recommendations of the Youth Council Mini Scrutiny Reviews and the proposed approach to progressing these
2. Endorse the process of validating the outcome of Make Your Mark with mini Scrutiny Reviews.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To discuss the recommendations from the mini scrutiny reviews, led by young people, that took place on the 22 and 23 February 2018 on Transport, Mental Health and Work Experience in Wolverhampton.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The British Youth Council each year hold the national Make Your Mark Ballot. The purpose of this ballot is for young people to vote for one of ten issues. The top five issues nationally from this ballot paper are then debated by the Youth MPs at the House of Commons during Parliament week. The Children's Participation team and the City of Wolverhampton Youth

Council coordinate the Wolverhampton vote and encourage schools and voluntary groups across the city to participate.

- 2.2 During 2017 there was a record turnout of votes by young people in the city, totalling 8713 votes cast. These results were discussed at Scrutiny Board on the 10 October and the Scrutiny Board recommended that the top three Wolverhampton issues (Transport, Work Experience and Mental Health) should become the focus of Mini Scrutiny Reviews.
- 2.3 Transport was undertaken through working with Laura Shoaf the Managing Director of Transport for West Midlands, due to the nature of a West Midlands approach to the development of Transport in the region. On 15th January 2018 she attended a Youth Council Meeting to discuss Transport issues with the group.
- 2.4 The timeline for the work on Mental Health coincided with the Green Paper titled "Transforming Children and Young People's Mental Health Provision". It was agreed that the Green Paper would provide a focus point for the review and would also provide an opportunity for the Youth Council to respond to the Green Paper.
- 2.5 In preparation, the Youth Council carried out additional questionnaires on the work experience and mental health to ensure they had a full understanding on the issues effecting young people before undertaking the mini reviews.
- 2.6 On Wednesday 21 February representatives of the Youth Council met to discuss Mental Health and to evaluate a coordinated response to the Green Paper. This review was chaired by Councillor Lynn Moran, with Councillor Val Gibson (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People) in attendance. Alicia Woods, the Commissioning Manager and Emma Cleary Programme Manager for Head start, attended the review to give expert knowledge of this area of work.
- 2.7 The Youth Council Scrutiny review on work experience took place on the afternoon of 23 February 2018 chaired by Councillor Bhupinder Gakhal and Youth Council Members. The Panel received evidence from Tony O'Callaghan - Skills and Employability Manager (Young People) and Graham Brown – Education and Enterprise Manager. The Director of Education, Meredith Teasdale also gave valuable contributions throughout the review. Oliver Hermann – Skills and Enterprise Manager gave a case study on Wolverhampton Homes working with work experience students.

3.0 Progress

3.1 The findings and recommendations from each review are as follows:

3.2 Mental Health

- To promote services for young people and to be clearer and easily accessed through links on school webpages

- To develop further awareness for teachers on mental health
- To ensure school communities understand the need for confidentiality for schools in relation to young people's personal situation, thoughts and feelings
- To ensure teachers have the right skill set for delivering mental health support
- To ensure young people are involved in service planning
- To ensure support with specific issues i.e. sexual orientation, gender issues, parental issues is available
- To ensure that there is a focus on community resilience building
- To challenge the timeliness of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHs) support and support from discharge
- To raise profile of the advertisement of the services available and the awareness of them through schools, GP practices etc.

3.3 Work Experience

- The Youth Council to be kept updated on plans by the West Midlands Combined Authority for career hubs
- To improve communication with schools, including promoting websites such as the Council's Workbox
- To develop the use of a 'Super Career type' event, involving a large number of prospective employers, and to ensure all senior schools are aware of these events
- To provide more work experience support to schools including more information on specialist fields
- To ensure that all work experience placements have a clear guide on expectations to avoid disappointment and there should be strong quality assurance
- To challenge the stereotypes of apprenticeships and work experience
- To promote the link between work experience and apprenticeship events
- To work with the schools to encourage flexibility in the timing of work experience dates to ensure a wider breadth of opportunities

3.4 Transport

- Youth Council has representatives on the Transport Youth Forum who will feedback progression of the issues raised. The Youth Council attended the Transport Youth Forum on Saturday 12th May 2018
- The Youth Council survey results have been returned to the Combined Authority, for their progression this includes:
 - Safety on the buses - poor visibility of the Safer Transport Officers
 - Reliability of the buses - issues of waiting for the bus and not knowing what's happened to the bus
 - Bus Shelter Design

3.5 It is proposed that the Youth Council seek the support of appropriate boards to adopt these recommendations and report back to the Youth Council. Therefore, the Youth Council would like to recommend that:

- Mental Health recommendations are managed by the CAMHs Transformation Board
- The work experience recommendations are managed by the Education and Skills Board
- Transport recommendations will be progressed with the West Midlands Combined Authority

4.0 Questions for Scrutiny to consider

- 4.1 Are the recommendations achievable and measurable by the boards above
- 4.2 It is foreseen by the Youth Council that representatives of the boards will feedback on the recommendations in due course.

5.0 Financial implications

- 5.1 The Youth Council work is funded through existing budgets in the Children and Young People's Service.

[NM/10052018/W]

6.0 Legal implications

- 6.1 There are no legal implications as a result of this report.

[RB/09052018/J]

7.0 Equalities implications

- 7.1 The Youth Council is a diverse group that represents young people across the city. Its membership comes from reps of Secondary Schools and Voluntary Youth Groups across the city. The reviews consisted of reps from a diverse background. The consultation did include responses from the Children in Care Council.

8.0 Environmental implications

- 8.1 There are no Environmental Implications attached to this report.

9.0 Human resources implications

Public Report

9.1 There are no direct Human Resource Implications with this report although recommendations may result in future changes to service delivery.

10.0 Corporate landlord implications

10.1 There are no Corporate landlord implications attached to this report

11.0 Schedule of background papers

11.1 Youth Council Update to Scrutiny Board on 10th October 2018