

## EDUCATION & YOUTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2018
<b>Report Subject</b>	Youth Council
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Education
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer Education & Youth
<b>Type of Report</b>	Strategic

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Flintshire Cabinet have commissioned the establishment of the Youth Council. The Youth Council will provide a representative voice to all young people aged 11-25 years in Flintshire. *“This Council supports the establishment of a Youth Council for Flintshire to discuss relevant issues, engage with decision-makers and contribute to improving the lives of young people within the county”.*

A Youth Council will meet the requirements of the Duty of Due Regard to the United Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) Article 12.

Members of the Youth Council will represent organisations and groups within Flintshire which will include young people from diverse backgrounds to ensure their voices are heard at Cabinet level.

The development of the Youth Council has already begun with representatives from community groups and schools councils forming a steering group and undertaking preparatory research work. The young people are currently promoting the Youth Council and membership through peer group networks and via the participation team’s professional networks.

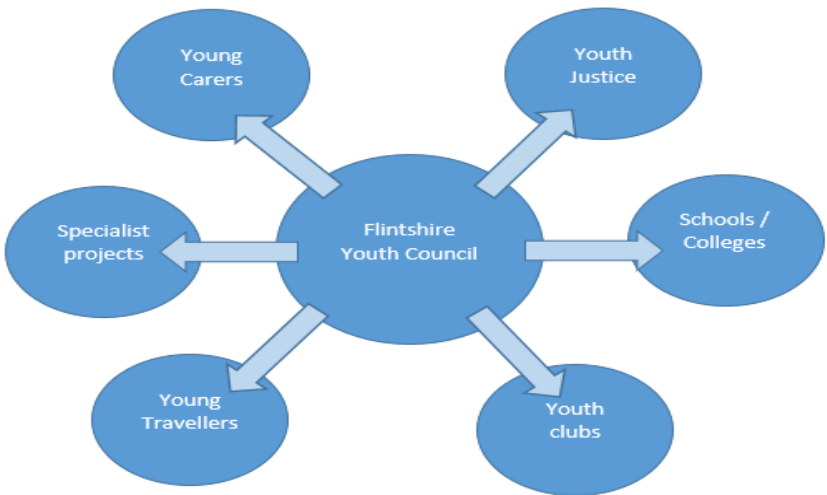
The representatives of the Youth Council are due to meet with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council to formalise the establishment of the Youth Council. The recommendations in this report have been developed entirely by the young people engaged in this process.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To support the establishment and maintenance of a Flintshire Youth Council to represent all young people in Flintshire in line with the National Participation Standards.
2	To actively consult with the Youth Council to create guiding principles and to provide feedback to the Youth Council on outcomes of consultations to bridge the gap between Local Government and Flintshire young people by opening the lines of communication, leading to meaningful participation and enabling them to engage as citizens in the “here and now” to influence the future.
3	To establish regular opportunities for the Youth Council to meet with them to broker opportunities for assessing and securing the sufficiency of services that affect the lives of young people they represent. This will be especially important when assessing the opportunities for those who are identified as having suffered adverse childhood experiences (ACE’s) which have impacted on their lives.
4	To ensure all information is communicated in a format and language appropriate for the cohort offered in language of choice for young people in order for them to give informed opinions and make decisions.
5	That Cabinet establishes a method for consulting with the Youth Council ensuring an appropriate timeframe for them to participate in line with Children and Young People’s Participation Standards.
6	To ensure that the views of the Youth Council and the young people they represent are embedded in the decision making process by using the wellbeing goals, ensuring participation is offered in a meaningful and accessible way and embedding the guidance of Annex B of the guidance for Public Service Boards. “To promote and facilitate the participation of children and young people in decisions which may affect them”.
7	The Youth Council will be involved in assessing and securing the sufficiency of services that affect the lives of young people they represent. This will be especially important when assessing the opportunities for those who are identified as having suffered adverse childhood experiences (ACE’s) which have impacted on their lives.

## REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE FLINTSHIRE YOUTH COUNCIL</b>
1.01	The Youth Council meets the requirements of statutory guidance under ‘Shared Purpose: Shared Future’ which enables public bodies subject to the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 to respond positively to the duties they now have. Authorities are encouraged to take an inclusive approach to achieving well-being goals by involving children and young

	people.
1.02	The Youth Council enhances the delivery of the Duty of Due Regard to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child as outlined in the 'Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure' 2011. The Youth Council will work within the recommendations of the National Participation Standards.
1.03	<p>The diagram below shows the wide range of groups engaging in the development of the Flintshire Youth Council.</p>  <pre> graph TD     FYC((Flintshire Youth Council)) --&gt; YC((Young Carers))     FYC --&gt; YJ((Youth Justice))     FYC --&gt; SC((Schools / Colleges))     FYC --&gt; YCubs((Youth clubs))     FYC --&gt; YT((Young Travellers))     FYC --&gt; SP((Specialist projects)) </pre> <p>For some of the young people within specific groups e.g. Young Travellers, Youth Justice Cohort it may not always be possible for them to attend all the meetings. However, they are supported by a youth professional to ensure that their ideas can be fed back to the Youth Council and taken into consideration when decisions are made. Flintshire County Council is committed to ensure that any future planning for the delivery of services for young people made are fully inclusive and informed by the voice of those young people.</p>
1.04	The Youth Council will meet in venues across Flintshire at appropriate times and on an agreed frequency to encourage participation by as wide a group as possible. In order to give full opportunity for all young people to engage in the Youth Council transport will be provided. The venues will be low cost/ no cost.

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	The development of the Youth Council is supported by the Participation Team within the Integrated Youth Provision (IYP) who are qualified and experienced youth workers and who are all registered with the Education Workforce Council (EWC).
2.02	The Youth Council is designed to bring together young people from across Flintshire. The approach is aimed to ensure a diverse cross section of

	young people's voices are consulted, heard and acted on.
2.03	The work of the Youth Council is integral to existing work of the Participation Team and ensures due regard to the UNCRC as outlined in the 'Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure' 2011.
2.04	Annex B of the guidance for Public Service Boards sets out what is expected of Local Authorities working with their partners to enable children and young people to have a voice in the decisions of the Local Authority. The Youth Council is bespoke in its approach to ensure that <b>ALL</b> young people have the opportunity to be part of the Youth Council.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	Members of the Flintshire Youth Forum (FYF) were consulted on the establishment of a Flintshire Youth Council.
3.02	Members of IYP youth club provision cohort were consulted.
3.03	Members of the school council from the Alun School were consulted along with the Alun School Diversity group.
3.04	Young people from the Gypsy and Traveller community were consulted.
3.05	Professionals from within Flintshire County Council and members of the North Wales Consultation group were widely consulted.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	To ensure the safeguarding of all young people involved in the Youth Council. All staff working with the Youth Council to be fully aware of issues of young people and correct reporting mechanisms. Good practice guidance will be shared as appropriate.
4.02	Staffing to be kept constant to ensure continuity for the young people involved. The specialist staff members will be from permanent posts within IYP.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix 1 - Delivering Together, Integrated Youth Provision delivery plan.

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
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6.01	<p>Welsh Government Participation For Children and Young People -link includes The National Participation Standards.  <a href="http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/children-and-young-people/rights/ParticipationforChildrenandYoungPeople/?lang=en">http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/children-and-young-people/rights/ParticipationforChildrenandYoungPeople/?lang=en</a></p> <p>Welsh Government Compliance Report on Children’s Rights Measure - link explains the Duty of Due Regard to the United nations Convention on the Rights of the Child through the Children’s Rights Measure 2011.  <a href="http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/children-and-young-people/rights/report-childrens-rights-measure/?lang=en">http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/children-and-young-people/rights/report-childrens-rights-measure/?lang=en</a></p> <p>Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011  <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2011/2/contents">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2011/2/contents</a></p> <p>United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)  <a href="http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/children-and-young-people/rights/uncrc/?lang=en">http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/children-and-young-people/rights/uncrc/?lang=en</a></p> <p>Guidance for Public service Boards – Annex B sets out what is expected of Local Authorities working with partners  <a href="http://gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/161111-spsf-3-collective-role-en.pdf">http://gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/161111-spsf-3-collective-role-en.pdf</a></p> <p>Core Guidance, Shared Purpose- Shared Future Section 4.3 details the involvement principle that makes reference to the National Participation Standards  <a href="http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/future-generations-act/statutory-guidance/?lang=en">http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/future-generations-act/statutory-guidance/?lang=en</a></p> <p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Ann Roberts  <b>Telephone:</b>01352 704112  <b>E-mail:</b>ann.roberts@flintshire.gov.uk</p>
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<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	<p><b>ACE’s</b> - Adverse Childhood Experiences. ACE’s are traumatic experiences that occur before the age of 18 and are remembered throughout adulthood. These experiences range from suffering verbal, mental, sexual and physical abuse, to being raised in a household where domestic violence, alcohol abuse, parental separation or drug abuse is present.</p> <p><b>Annex B of the guidance for public service boards</b> - This statutory guidance is to enable the public bodies that are subject to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 to respond positively to the duties they now have.</p> <p><b>Children and Young People’s National Participation Standards</b> - The Children and Young People’s National Participation Standard identify the key issues that all workers should be aware of when working with children and young people in Wales.</p> <p><b>Diverse backgrounds</b> - Young people from a range of backgrounds including</p>

minority status, cultural and language perspectives, religious and spiritual beliefs, socioeconomic status, as well as sex, age, race, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, gender identity and disability.

**Families First** -The national programme providing a vehicle for delivering on the child poverty strategy (WG 2010) for Flintshire £1.6 million approx. Managed by Senior manager of IYP.

**Flintshire Local Voluntary Council (FLVC)** - FLVC is the umbrella and support organisation for over 1,200 voluntary and community groups based within Flintshire.

**Flintshire Youth Forum FYF** - The Flintshire Youth Forum is a group of young people from all over Flintshire. The Forum gets involved in local and national issues to make sure young people's voices are represented. The Forum meets weekly and is led by qualified experienced youth workers.

**IYP** - Integrated Youth Provision is the collaboration of the original Flintshire Youth Service, Youth Justice (youth offending) Service, SORTED substance misuse service, the Families First anti-poverty programme and the Flintshire Play provision (formerly leisure). Also the innovative partnership arrangement with the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector for delivery for our young carer projects (via Barnardos) , Welsh language provision (via Urdd Gobaith Cymru) and specialist young people projects e.g. targeted work and residential work/ international exchange work. The model offers scope for shared delivery, resource savings, and bespoke packages and is always led by the service plan, "Delivering Together (2014 - 2018)".

**'Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure'** - Measure of the National Assembly for Wales to make provision for and in connection with giving further effect in Wales to the rights and obligations set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child; and for connected purposes.

**Shared purpose: shared future: statutory guidance which enables public bodies subject to the well-being of future generations (Wellbeing of Futures Generations (Wales) Act 2015)** - This statutory guidance is to enable the public bodies that are subject to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 to respond positively to the duties which they now have.

**UNCRC** - The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is a legally binding international agreement setting out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of every child, regardless of their race, religion or abilities. The UNCRC consists of 54 articles that set out children's rights and how governments should work together to make them available to all children.

**Young People** - Any young person from the age of 11-25 years.