

Bolsover District Council

Executive

4th March 2019

Review of The Authority's Perception of Young People

Report of the Chair of Healthy, Safe, Clean & Green Communities Scrutiny Committee

This report is public

Purpose of the Report

- To present to Executive the completed report for the recent Review of The Authority's Perception of Young People.

1. Report Details

- 1.1 The Healthy, Safe, Clean & Green Communities Scrutiny Committee agreed to undertake a Review of The Authority's Perception of Young People, as part of the 2018/19 Work Programme, following consideration of a range of topics suggested at the Annual Scrutiny Conference.
- 1.2 The issue was initially raised by Bolsover District Youth Council (The Young Voice) and suggested as an area for review by scrutiny. When considering possible review topics during the Scrutiny Conference 2018 and subsequently as part of setting the Committee Work Programme, it was felt that Scrutiny could add further momentum/support to the existing work of Youth Council on stereotypes.
- 1.3 The review supports the Corporate Plan Aim of 'Supporting Our Communities to be Healthier, Safer, Cleaner and Greener'. While it does not directly support a specific Priority of the Corporate Plan, it does link to the area of Social Inclusion as per the Committee Terms of Reference in the Constitution.
- 1.4 The aims of the review were:
 - To establish the current approach across frontline services when interacting with young people and to ensure the Council portrays a positive image.

The key issues identified were as follows:

- Clarify existing protocols when working with young people to ensure a positive approach is taken which values their involvement/interaction.
- Clarify current satisfaction with council services by young people – specifically where the service is solely for them i.e. leisure programmes.

- Ensure practices are in place which encourage young people to engage with the Council and that accessing services is a positive experience.
- How should the Council engage with Young People?
- What is the experience of Young People accessing our services?
- What is the problem of 'stereotyping' and what effect does it have?
- What can we do to influence how we operate/communicate to improve how Young People access services?
- Do we portray a positive image of Young People?

2. Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

2.1 The Committee have put together two recommendations which will hopefully assist the Council in maintaining and further enhancing its positive approach when dealing with young people.

2.2 The key findings arising from the review are:

- That the Council's existing policies and protocols embed a positive approach to service delivery to young people.
- That the CSP continue to review current delivery to ensure that engagement with (and reward to) vulnerable/'at risk' young people requiring additional support/mediation services is maintained, wherever resources allow.
- That further consideration be given to equality of access to leisure provision, with particular reference to the location of provision and ensuring wherever possible that this is spread across the District.
- That the Council continues to work closely with The Young Voice (the Youth Council), as a mechanism of ensuring young people are fully engaged in our planning and decision-making processes; and able to feedback to the Council as and when required on the quality of our services.

2.3 It is hoped that the recommendations set out in this review report will help in ensuring the Council continues to promote positive engagement with/involvement of young people.

3. Consultation and Equality Impact

3.1 All Scrutiny Committees are committed to equality and diversity in undertaking their statutory responsibilities and ensure equalities are considered as part of all Reviews. The selection criteria when submitting a topic, specifically asks members to identify where the topic suggested affects particular population groups or geographies.

3.2 The Council has a statutory duty under s.149 Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity and to eliminate discrimination.

3.3 Within the process of the review, the Committee has taken into account the impact of equalities. As part of the document review, the Equality Impact Assessments for both our Customer Service Code of Practice & Standards and the Compliments, Comments and Complaints procedure have been examined. Members are satisfied that our current approach complies with the requirements of current equalities legislation.

4. Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 Executive could choose not to endorse the recommendations of the review, where they feel the course of action recommended is beyond the delivery capacity of the Authority.

5. Implications

5.1 Finance and Risk Implications

- 5.1.1 None from this report.

5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection

- 5.2.1 In carrying out scrutiny reviews the Council is exercising its scrutiny powers as laid out in s.21 of the Local Government Act 2000 and subsequent legislation which added/amended these powers e.g. the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
- 5.2.2 The Council has a statutory duty under s.149 Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity and to eliminate discrimination.

5.3 Human Resources Implications

- 5.3.1 None from this report.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 That the Executive endorses the recommendations of the review outlined in section 2 of the attached report.
- 6.2 That for recommendations approved by Executive, monitoring by Committee takes place over a twelve month period via the PERFORM system with an update report to Committee at the end of the monitoring period.

7. Decision Information

<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:</p> <p><i>BDC: Revenue - £75,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Capital - £150,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>NEDDC: Revenue - £100,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Capital - £250,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i></p>	No
<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</p>	No
<p>Has the relevant Portfolio Holder been informed</p>	Yes
<p>District Wards Affected</p>	N/A
<p>Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework</p>	Aim: Supporting Our Communities to be Healthier, Safer, Cleaner and Greener

8. Document Information

Appendix No	Title
5B.1	Review of The Authority's Perception of Young People
<p>Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)</p>	
<p>Please contact Scrutiny & Elections Officer where further information is required.</p>	
Report Author	Contact Number
Joanne Wilson, Scrutiny & Elections Officer	01246 242385