

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

7th January 2014

Report of the Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults

Big Vote 2014 – 16

1. Purpose of Report

To inform the Cabinet Member of the work undertaken by Derbyshire Youth Council (DYC) in reviewing and making recommendations for the Big Vote elections 2014 -16.

2. Information and Analysis

The current Youth Council has been in office since April 2012 and has operated within the Participation Framework 2012 -14.

It has four key aims:

1. To improve the lives of young people in Derbyshire, particularly through the improvement of services offered to young people by Derbyshire County Council.
2. To ensure that young people are directly consulted on all issues that are likely to have a significant impact on their well-being, and providing a system through which this consultation can occur.
3. To encourage more young people to become involved in their local community.
4. To promote the views held by young people about wider issues, such as the environment and global responsibility.

Youth Council Review

In line with the Participation Framework 2012 -14, 56 Youth Councillors were elected and have fulfilled their roles and responsibilities to represent the voice of Derbyshire young people aged 11 -19 years old at local, regional and nation levels.

Youth Councillors have gained a wealth of participation and decision making experience and have influenced a wide range of policies and services.

Youth Councillors are aware of the need to engage more young people in the local decision making process, especially those from targeted or vulnerable groups and need the support of their Youth Workers to do this.

They are also aware of the great financial difficulties which Derbyshire County Council is facing over the next three years which will have an impact on staffing and transport.

Youth Councillors have been involved in a series of workshops and suggested the following recommendations in shaping and strengthening the voice of young people through the next DYC and Big Vote elections 2014-16.

Recommendations:-

- More focus and involvement of young people at a local level.
- Better promotion of District Youth Forums.
- Better use of social media to involve more young people.
- Involve District Forums in local grant allocations, e.g. Youth Action Grants.
- Build links with local Elected Members and Local Area Committees.
- No longer hold a separate DYC Cabinet – all Youth Councillors to be invited to 6 conferences per year (3 Business / 3 Workshops).
- Build better links with Caring Voice (Children in Care Council), and Special Schools Forum and Youth Scrutiny.
- The role of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary to be appointed for leadership. Others such as Equalities, Media and Environment to be appointed as required.

3. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered – prevention of crime & disorder, equality of opportunity,

and environmental, health, legal & human rights, property and transport considerations.

4. Background Papers

Cabinet Report – Restructuring Youth Worker Roles, 1st October 2013
Minutes of the DYC Cabinet meeting, 26th November 2013
Derbyshire Children's Trust Young People's Participation Framework
2014 – 16
Big Vote 2014 Time Line

5. Key Decision?

No

6. Call-in

Is it required that the Call-in period be waived in respect of the decisions being proposed in this report? No.

7. Recommendation

The Cabinet Member notes the work of Derbyshire Youth Council and accepts the recommendations for Big Vote 2014 -16 as agreed in minutes of the meeting on the 26th November 2013.

Ian Thomas, Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults



Cabinet Meeting

Committee Room 1, County Hall, Matlock

26th November 2013

6 – 8:30pm

1. Greetings and apologies registered.

Apprentices and visitors introduced.

2. DYC Website and Publicity

- Izzy fed back about the DYC's new page on the website. It will include info on transport and other services with hopefully a postcode entry system.
- Apprentice Libby gave a short overview of a planned article for the B-Line magazine (what do we think of the Youth Council, best things that we have done, what difference do we feel we have made, how did it affect our lives, etc). We will need to get these submitted by the **7th December- to Izzy McNulty please!** The B-Line magazine will be rebranded and renamed to coincide with the new "YouTHink" brand for DYC.

A meeting will be called by Chris Campbell to complete the branding on the 4th December at DCAS – starting anytime between 4:30 and 5pm. For those who cannot attend, electronic feedback will be organised.

3. Big Vote 2014 – 16

- The new levels of involvement in DYC were introduced by Ruaridh. Main changes include abolishing the Cabinet and strengthening the links with the Youth Scrutiny Group and the local Youth Forums. Youth Forums will also be expected to strengthen their links with local County Councillors if possible. Youth Forums will also be able to hold mini training days for prospective candidates if they wish to do this.

- The timetable to bring in the new DYC will be quicker due to changes, in part due to new guidelines from the British Youth Council. The first conference will be a lot more heavily based on campaigning and training ("Old" members will be asked to help with this). Elections for officer roles including the new post of secretary will be held after this first meeting.

- Youth Scrutiny would be invited to the "set-up" meetings and would require two new members.

- Nominations booklet has been decreased from 12 pages to 8 pages.

- Apprentices mentioned a short-term promotional social media account as well as a long-term Twitter account. This will probably be used for inspiration and quotes during the campaigning and then it will become a "real-time" news feed for during meetings.

- Vote on the recommendations: MOTION PASSES

Those in favour: 10

Those against: 1

Abstentions: 0

4. UKYP #HoC feedback

- Feedback on the "new" national and devolved campaigns was given and the MYPs accepted the congratulations of the Youth Council. Special congratulations were given to Shakeel Hajat for his excellent despatch box speech as a debate lead for the winning motion of "Votes at 16".

5. School Nurses Services

- Teresa Cresswell (Public Health Leader for Children) mentioned the redesigning of the school nurses service. She mentioned that most young people do not know who their school nurse is or how to access them. This is a nationwide problem. Every school has a school nurse but Teresa mentioned that the majority of people do not know about this. The Youth Council was invited to help give “the right answer” to the County Council on behalf of young people via a questionnaire through schools, the Youth Forum and the general public. Meetings of a working group will hopefully have finished by March 2014, coinciding with the finishing of this term of DYC; this term’s members will therefore be involved.

BREAK

6. Launch of “Fearless” – The new branding of Crimestoppers for young people.

- Fearless is an independent charity that has just been awarded £11 000 by the new Police and Crime Commissioner. Fearless asked whether the youth council believed that the advertising is a useful and effective way.

- “Young people are victims of crime as well as perpetrators of crime. However many young people do not report crime... for fear of repercussions if you are found out to be the one who reported the crime” – Gordon Savage, Crimestoppers Derbyshire volunteer

- Fearless will be completely anonymous and will not trace you at all – however, you will be given a code instead that can be used to notify you if and only if the police ask for more information. You will only be identified by this code and you will not have to report anything else unless you freely choose to.

- The website to go to is <http://fearless.org/> and the phone number to call is 0800 555 111 (to report a crime anonymously)

- The brand needs to be embedded firmly into the psyche of young people, especially in areas of high vulnerability (for example by theatre, education, games). 6 main areas need to be highlighted as part of the grant programme.

Workshops may be able to be run by Fearless for training youth councillors during the next term of DYC.

- Over 120,000 calls have been made, resulting in or assisting with the recovery of over £300m of illegal drugs and over £126m of stolen goods during the Crimestoppers programmes. With youth engagement, hopefully this can be boosted.

- Real Life scenario: One young man in the South of England got into drugs. His parents sent him to live with his grandparents in Derby City and the grandmother discovered this- she took the drugs away from him, but... he needed to give a drug dealer £80 or he was going to be killed. The grandmother confronted the drug dealer, knowing that the grandson was in danger.

- Possibly this project could be launched in a localised manner all across the County at the same time, rather than in a major big event manner.

7. Feedback from District Forum meetings.

- South Derbyshire's train safety video distribution has had to be slowed down due to lack of funds. The video will be put on YouTube as well.

- Amber Valley have been designing a "Day Off" DVD and have also been organising a training day for prospective youth councillors.

- Derbyshire Dales have teamed up with another group and are trying to raise awareness on substance abuse.

- High Peak – nothing to report back

- North East – nothing to report back

- Chesterfield – Big Sleepout had to be cancelled due to lack of interest.

- Bolsover – nothing to report back

8. Action Groups

- Environment – nothing to report back

9. Planning for DYC Conference on 11th Jan 2014

- First weekend after Christmas holidays
- Apprentices Libby & Shane will help to promote and organise this.
- Chris to email out about this

10. Special Schools forum

- The Special schools reps (no more than 10 schools) would like to attend on the 11th January to see how the Youth Council works before they commit to standing for elections.

11. Next meeting will be Tuesday 28th January 2014. Merry Christmas!

FINISH MEETING

Big Vote 2014 – 16 Time Line

NOV	DYC Review and update Letter to schools from Chris Campbell Letter to MAT Managers to identify Link workers to support Big Vote Candidates.
27 th NOV	Chris Campbell to attend the Head teachers conference
6 th JAN 11 th JAN	Publicity and Information into schools Derbyshire Youth Council Conference – Reinforcement of publicity and information by the youth council. Getting their involvement.
13 th JAN	Nominations open
12 th FEB 17 th – 22 nd FEB	Close of Nominations – all nominations to be returned to Chris Campbell by February 14 th at 5pm. Collation of nominations and information about candidates
24 th FEB – 7 th MAR	Hustings and Canvassing (Campaigning)
3 rd – 7 th MAR 10 – 14 th MAR 17 th – 18 th MAR	Ballot papers delivered to school Voting in schools Votes counted by Big Vote Workers in each MAT and results emailed to Chris Campbell by 5pm on Tuesday March 18 th
20 th MAR	Results night at County Hall, Matlock
5 th APR	Derbyshire Youth Council (DYC) Induction for newly elected Youth Councillors