

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**1 September 2015**

**REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN &  
YOUNGER ADULTS**

**Derbyshire Youth Council Update – (Children and Young People)**

1. **Purpose of the Report**

To update Cabinet on the work of Derbyshire Youth Council (DYC).

2. **Information and Analysis**

The notes from the DYC conference on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2015 are attached in order to update Cabinet on the latest work by DYC.

**Key points**

- DYC has now completed its manifesto for 2015 (second year of term of office) and this will be shared also at full Council and Children's Trust. This outlines its 4 priorities:
  - Young People's mental health
  - Living Wage
  - Work Experience
  - On-line safety
- Achievements, Outcomes and Impact highlights some case studies of what members have gained from their first year of being a Youth Councillor.
- Following the workshop looking at Employability Skills, a report has been sent to the Skills and Employment Board to inform their future work.
- Members took part in the 'Over to You' consultation looking at policing priorities and have been invited to visit police HQ over the summer holiday period to meet the Police Commissioner and discuss things in more detail.

- Scrutiny, led by Cllr D. Charles, asked DYC to consider issues around Safeguarding to inform the continual work stream. A report was submitted to Scrutiny following the performance of Chelsea's Choice and follow-on workshop.

3. **Other Considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: - human; financial; legal and human rights; equality of opportunity; prevention of crime & disorder; health, environmental, property and transport considerations.

4. **Key Decision**

No

5. **Strategic Director's Recommendation**

For Cabinet to note the work of Derbyshire Youth Council.

**Ian Johnson, Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults**

## **Derbyshire Youth Council Conference**

### **23<sup>rd</sup> May 2015**

**Present:** 18 members, Cllr Western, Rosie Kightley, Rachel Sidebottom, Ruth Peat, Richard Hale, Ruth Pownall

12 visitors joined at lunchtime for the afternoon production of Chelsea's Choice

**Apologies:** 5 members, Ian Johnson, Cllr Greenhalgh, Cllr Coyle

Today's conference was Rachel's last conference with DYC and Rachel introduced Ruth, who would be taking over this role from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015.

### **Matters Arising**

- Manifesto – agenda item
- Mental Health – Tom has delivered presentation to Children's Trust outlining mental health work and this included Izzy's film. This presentation has also been given at all of the Management Seminars as an example of best practice showing what DYC are doing.
- On Line Safety – Alter Ego Theatre Company have been invited and are attending this afternoon with a performance and plenary session of Chelsea's Choice. Other guests will be joining for this session.

### **Youth Council Manifesto**

The Youth Council previewed their Youth Council Manifesto film which had been produced as a result of work done at the previous conference. This was the first preview of the film and members gave their critique and discussed any changes needed.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DV5Esi3HahQ>

Members agreed to share this with Full Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015 and the young people involved in making the film would present to council on behalf of DYC.

Comments following the film preview

- Music needs to fade a bit more during the talking – sometimes hard to hear the voices
- End frames feel a bit too long compared to the rest of the film
- Could there be key words in the background of subtitles to make it more accessible?
- Like the use of #
- Film is concise and to the point
- Like the consistency
- Good length – to the point
- Could there be something between the speakers?

- Needs visual text
- Informative
- Mitch's name blends into the background – might need to move it or recolour writing

Youth Council members felt that this was reflective of their priorities and it was a good way to present their work.

Once the slight amendments were made council members were happy for this to go onto YouTube and agreed that it should then be promoted and suggested that there should be a link to it from Something to Say on YOUTHINC.

If the manifesto is to be a printed document then members felt it needed to be

- Bright
- Colourful
- Include pictures / images
- Informative – expand on what the council are going to do
- Consistent with film

### **Achievements, Outcomes and Impact**

Youth Council members have served half of their term of office and spent time reflecting on what they have done and achieved, and what support they needed for the future in order to fulfil their manifesto.

All the Youth Councillors said they have grown in confidence and improved their public speaking and communication skills.

Make Your Mark was a clear achievement for all of the youth council members as they collectively doubled the previous year's number of ballots, giving 14,321 young people in Derbyshire the opportunity to have a voice in the national consultation as well as inform the DYC priorities for the next year.

Young people worked individually and below are some of the case studies from what young people have been involved in and the difference it has made.

#### **Mitchell**

- I achieved 623 ballots through running the Make Your Mark campaign in my school
- I have been elected as a Member of Youth Parliament and contributed to the campaigns
- I have emailed my local MP and arranged my own work experience placement with her and I learned that I can sort out important things with no help. The impact is that I am confident to email and sort out important things which will help in the future.

- I have attended regional conventions led by British Youth Council and contributed to the focus group consultations and workshops at these conventions
- I am helping with the e-safety campaign and have learned that I can work with a group of young people. The impact for me is that I can put my ideas across
- I have learned that I am committed and more confident
- I have learned that I can speak in front of other people and get their attention
- The impact is that I have made sure that other young people have had a chance to have their say (in Make Your Mark) and that this can make a difference

### **Lucy**

- I have wrote letters to my local council and local MP in my capacity as MAYP and had meetings with both in relation to the Living Wage campaign at the MP's office
- I have had articles in the Glossop Chronicle and Buxton Advertiser promoting meetings and campaigns, including my picture
- I have learned how my MP was elected and how he campaigned
- I have learned about publicising things on social media and how to further the Living Wage campaign
- I went to the High Peak General Election ballot count supporting my local independent candidate (who was elected) and met the High Peak Parliamentary candidates. By doing this I learned how the ballot count works and saw how local democracy works as well as spoke to members and learned more about party policies. It was also interesting to see how members of different political parties interact.
- I have been on ITV on a debate in Birmingham in the run up to the General Election and spoke on behalf of young people in the East Midlands regarding Votes@16 and a youth manifesto regarding the General Election. I learned different opinions regarding issues and policies from different young people from diverse backgrounds.

### **Libby Brown**

- I am doing lots of things in schools like Head of Year Student and Young voice.
- I achieved over 1000 ballots in Make Your Mark making sure young people in my school got the chance to take part
- I have learned to use my voice and attend the local community meetings where I got the pot holes in Shirebrook filled in. this had an impact on my community and I was proud of myself and the achievement.
- I have worked with Declan (youth councillor from Special School) and we have delivered a school assembly and I got a lot out of working with

and supporting young people with disabilities. I learned I have patience and am good at communicating.

- I gave a presentation around YOUTHINC to the Bolsover Local Area Committee
- I need help with printing costs as I have spent all the budget

### **Ivan**

- I learned that we had an anti-bullying page in our school planner and I have redesigned the anti-bullying page it for all young people so the information is clearer.
- I was part of the Big Day Out and learned about the Canal and Waterways Trust (and had a birthday boat ride and cake)
- I am on my 3<sup>rd</sup> term of the school council and have learned that with great power comes great responsibility

### **Rachel**

- I wrote a letter to my Head Teacher regarding Work Experience asking him to allow us to do this again. The result was that work experience was re-introduced into school. I plan to write to more schools to get Work Experience onto the school agenda.
- I worked with other members of Amber Valley Youth Forum to create the YOUTHINC presentation for the Local Area Committees and presented this to the Amber Valley Local Area Committee. As a result of this the local councillors now understand what YOUTHINC is and have asked us to get more involved.
- I launched YOUTHINC to young people in Amber Valley and emphasised how this would benefit all young people.
- I have gained public speaking skills and learned to be more confident. I spoke at Leicester's We Empower Youth Day and gave a speech to 500 people in order to empower youth and inspire them to make a change. I also shared the work I have done with them.
- I met the DCC Council Leader to about the Living Wage Campaign and learned more about what DCC already do to support this campaign
- I wrote to my local MP about the Living Wage and Mental Health campaigns to make him aware of who I am and to gain his support for these campaigns

### **Baden**

- Presented at the High Peak Local Area Committee and told the Councillors about YOUTHINC
- I have learned to be confident and that I am able to speak in public

### **Declan**

- I am doing a schools assembly with Libby at Stubbin Wood School
- I go to the Special School forum regularly and lead discussions

- I have learned to be more confident and speak in front of others

### **Asha**

- I was elected as a Member of Youth Parliament and have been to the British Youth Council Conventions in Birmingham
- I have been to my local youth forum to explain about Derbyshire Youth Council and what we are doing
- I have learnt other people's views and opinions and to respect other people have different views
- I have learned valuable skills like teamwork and communication and learned more about what the role is to help me choose whether to stand to be a member again
- I attended the YOUTHINC launch and learned more about what YOUTHINC is and how it works
- I went on a residential in Kent with Youth Councillors, MYP's and DMYP's in which I represented Derbyshire. While I was there I learned a lot more about our mental health campaign, made lots of new friends and learned about just how important my role as MYP is.

### **Tyla**

- I have done assemblies in schools based on the campaigns as well as class sized talks. I have been to school council meetings and have written articles to go in the school newspaper based on the things we are doing. I have spoken to other people about their thoughts about the campaigns
- I have learned to be more confident and how to put my opinions across
- The impact has been that I have helped to change things to help make life better for young people
- I plan to carry on putting my opinions across and make my main desire to has always been to make mental health services better which I will carry on trying to do.
- I have met lots of new people and this has made me more confident
- I plan to help get on of the highest number of ballots possible in Make Your Mark so young people have a voice
- I have learned so much and want to carry on helping to make a difference

### **Alex**

- I am currently doing my own independent research on sporting opportunities within the High Peak.
- I have learned that there are plenty of opportunities but young people aren't aware of them.
- My next plan of action is to sit in on a couple of the opportunity sessions to see what they are like and then blog or similar to promote the opportunity. I will need to find the contact details for the places to visit.

### **Nakita**

- I have taken part in the Children's Trust Board meetings and developed my networking and communication skills
- More aware of issues of young people in the UK
- I'm now Head of press and publicity in 6<sup>th</sup> Form
- Started developing an E Safety scheme with Head Master and Head of ICT
- Gained more confidence - ran for 6<sup>th</sup> Form President (didn't get it)

### **Samantha Beacham**

- I was part of the Youth voice Leadership Residential in Kent and learned about other campaigns people are doing in their areas.
- I was part of the group who put together the Derbyshire Youth Council manifesto film and learned teamwork and communication skills
- I plan to keep on top of the campaigns I am involved with and continue to make an impact on young people's lives
- I need help and support to spread the message about the campaigns

### **Joel Smith**

- Being part of the Youth Council and Children's Trust Board meeting has taught me all about punctuality and being prepared for things – we have to confirm our attendance and commit to attend meetings
- As a youth councillor I attend Amber Valley youth forum and we are responsible for looking at the PAYP bids. This has taught me all about decision making and debating

### **Merrin**

- I represented Derbyshire Youth Council at the British Youth Council Youth Voice Leadership residential in Kent. I learned more about the role of PG's, MYP's, DMYP's and the British Youth Council
- I spoke at Erewash Local Area Committee meeting in Long Eaton about YOUTHINC and have improved my public speaking skills
- I have learned more about how the County Council is structured

### **Tom**

- I am campaigning for our local bus service. I have learned that organising a campaign is a little harder than I anticipated, but young people and the wider community will have their voice in the redesign of the service. I need to work with local youth workers, Parish Councils etc. to develop my campaign.
- I have learned that work with bus companies allows us to come up with an action plan that works and as a result young people have got a better service



- My plan is to continue working with the bus companies as it is and to continue to improve the service
- I did a presentation in schools around Make Your Mark and learned that young people are interested in the priorities we are setting for ourselves as they have been asking me about the campaigns after my presentation
- Young people have been allowed to have a voice and input into the work being done for them
- We need to work together to create the best campaigns we can

### **Imogen**

- Attended BYC residential – learned better communication skills and met loads of new people
- Featured in the Derbyshire Youth Council manifesto film and was part of the group who made this film – learned teamwork
- Worked with others to put together YOUTHINC presentation and delivered this at the Local Area Committee in Amber Valley – boosted my confidence and learned that adults do listen to young people

### **Adam**

- Been on the national Scrutiny group – met ministers and MP's (Michael Gove etc) and been consulted on new government policy. This involved working with a lot of other groups and organisation
- Know more about the issues in Derbyshire (and that DCC is more complex than I imagined) and how I can help and have a voice in these issues
- I plan to make more changes to my school that will benefit future students
- I need the support and backing of schools leaders and friends as well as the support of students
- Been on Derbyshire Youth Council for six years and learned lots of new skills and had lots of different opportunities

## **Employability Skills Workshop**

### **Summary**

The Youth Council split into groups to discuss 5 key questions and their thoughts are recorded below.

In summary the Youth Council felt that issues around employability should be given more time in schools, with more effective careers advice and careers advice time prioritised.

There is an inconsistency in the way careers advice is delivered across the county and the Youth Council felt this inconsistency needed to be challenged in order to make sure all young people had access to the same high quality advice.

The Youth Council felt strongly that good quality work experience was essential as this was often young people's first experience of the world of work, and that is why they are backing the campaign to make this compulsory in all schools.

It was discussed that better links between schools and employers would help young people into the world of work, and that there should be a focus on developing employability skills (communication / teamwork etc.) in schools as well as academic achievement.

The Youth Council champion the YOUTHINC web site and made several suggestions on what could be changed / added in order to help them better prepare for employment.

**1. What different ways (advertising) would young people look for employment?**

- Careers advice at school
- Kudos
- Careers interview – need better advice on where to go after school
- Internet
- Shop windows
- All online job searches are very adult orientated and some are difficult to understand

**2. If you have been looking for employment what have you done? (CV / personal approach etc.)**

- Need to develop a web site where young people can put in email / personal statement / grades etc. and all the information be saved in one place
- Work experience in school is a positive experience to have a go at something you might be interested in, but not all the placements are what you want
- 6<sup>th</sup> Form work experience needs to be future career related
- Gained part time job through work experience in Y10 – even more useful if it is linked to something you want to do in the future

**3. What are the challenges in looking for employment? (experience / skills / availability)**

- Online searches seem all adult orientated. Nothing to support younger people and difficult if looking for something part time if 16 or under
- Not enough time or careers advice in schools to be able to consider options
- Don't know where to look
- Don't know how to write a CV
- Not enough focus on employability skills – focus is on academic achievement but employers want other skills too
- Would be good to be able to book mock interviews
- Need more careers advice focussing on life after uni (if that where you are going) and not just how you get to uni
- No experience and employers are looking for experience – this is why work experience should be compulsory!

#### **4. Who would you go to for support in finding employment?**

- Careers Advisors and teachers need to be more supportive to dreams and aspirations
- Web site but need something that links to other sites for apprenticeships / mock interviews / CV building etc. – need it all in one place or with really good links
- Online newsletter for young people with step by step guide could YOUTHINC be developed to include all of this??)
- Careers Advisors – could use YOUTHINC more and have section for chat or questions

#### **5. What support would you like?**

- Interview skills training – could post interviews on YOUTHINC with a different profession each week / month with handy tips on interview techniques. Would need to make them look real and not staged. Make this a bank of interviews for different professions so you have an idea of what you can expect depending on what you might be interested in.
- More advice on mainstream jobs (ICT, Admin, retail) as there seems to be a lot on professions such as medical / teaching etc. need more detail around supporting roles in school and the medical profession
- Colleges need to explore gaps in labour market and put on courses to meet need and not just 'popular' courses that don't necessarily lead anywhere.
- Trusted employed scheme currently being explored
- Need more support in South Derbyshire for careers advice in schools
- 'Live Chat' to employers / careers advisors
- All careers advice should be in school but some young people don't feel that this is useful and talked about Careers Advisors needing more training

- Need consistency of quality with DCC Careers Advisors and privately bought in careers advice
- Need extracurricular activities to support CV building / application writing – need more support in being prepared for school / college / training / work
- Careers time in schools is often used for other things (exam revision etc.) – schools don't appreciate the importance of this time
- Home Educated young people – they should have the same access to careers advice and be invited into the school to access this advice ... or it should be available on line at home
- Would be helpful to easily be able to find sample CV's and personal statements
- Need a web site that has a search bar and is really easy to navigate around (no search bar on YOUTHINC and not easy to find what you want)
- The value of employing young people needs to be promoted to businesses (Manchester City Council offer financial incentive for employing 16-24 year olds and apprentices. Is this promoted to Derbyshire employers?)
- Need more advice on less obvious jobs
- Need to focus on every stage of journey to employment and not just on the end goal (take young people through the process of how to find a job)
- Need to help young people 'sell' themselves
- Need a broader spectrum of advice – more personalised
- Businesses / employers could be great advisors – need more links
- Need support in understanding all the options available and knowing where to go to find out more information

### **Over to You Consultation**

DYC watched a video from PCC Alan Charles introducing the Over to You Consultation to look at Policing priorities and took part in the consultation. Members also took information about the dates for the community consultations and the web link to encourage more young people to take part.

### **Safeguarding**

Youth Council members have identified online safety as a priority in their manifesto for 2015-16. To help them shape this work, and to support the work of the Scrutiny Group, they saw a performance of Chelsea's Choice at the Youth Council Conference. This was followed up by a workshop to consider

what safeguarding services we currently have, how aware the youth council are of these services, and where there may be any gaps.

Young people completed an evaluation star before and after watching Chelsea's Choice to see if watching the play impacted on their level of knowledge and confidence in relation to issues raised.

There was an increase in both knowledge and confidence after watching the production. However it is interesting to note from the evaluations that, despite an increase in confidence, many of the young people still rated confidence in talking to parents as 3 on average (with 5 being highest) which indicates the need for other services for young people to talk to.

Young people's confidence in seeking help if needed showed the largest improvement. However, in the workshop following Chelsea's Choice Youth Council members felt that not all young people are aware of different services, indicating a need to do some work around access and promotion.

In discussion following Chelsea's Choice, Youth Council members stated how valuable and impacting this was and questioned whether targeting year 8 students was sufficient. They recommended that CSE and online safety should be something discussed throughout the schools years, and possibly into the upper end of primary school, providing these discussions were relevant and age appropriate.

1. What services are currently in place to keep children and young people safe?

- Childline
- Police
- Youth Workers
- Safe and Sound
- CEOP
- Fearless
- Family
- Schools
- Youth clubs
- Youth forum
- Doctors
- Crimestoppers

2. Do you think all young people in school are aware of these services?

- Not all young people are aware
- Get information through schools ... but young people who aren't in school or are home schooled might not be aware

- Not aware of what the Multi-Agency Teams do, but know the youth workers are part of them
- Message need to be put out more so young people know where they can go for support – not all young people are aware there are so many different places they can go for support
- Messages about these services need to be short and snappy and memorable

3. What would you like to see being delivered in relation to safeguarding?

- More on social networking
- Posters
- Talks to ALL year groups – need to make sure they are age appropriate
- Safeguarding training – for young people and workers
- Other drama performances
- More content in school lessons
- More things like Chelsea's Choice but to a wider age group ... not just year 8 ... needs to be something visual
- Peer mentors so young people can talk to someone their own age – peer mentors would need careful selection and training

4. How can we better communicate messages from the play to make sure young people are safe?

- Assemblies in schools to all years
- Posters
- Short film to give people information as to dangers and how to report
- More information on YOUTHINC
- Older young people being trained to help younger students
- Plenary from Chelsea's Choice was useful – could this information go into a film?

Rachel thanked members for the flowers and cards and reminded members about their priorities over the next 12 months

- To fulfil campaigns from the manifesto
- To achieve in Make Your Mark and take into schools
- To support Big Vote and the new incoming youth council
- To continue being brilliant!! ☺

The meeting closed at 4pm. Next conference is Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July at DCAS, Chesterfield.