



Children, Young People & Family Support Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee 21st July 2014

Report of: Children, Young People & Family Support Scrutiny & policy Development Committee, Cllr Gill Furniss, Chair

Subject: Annual Meeting with Young People & Young Carers – Report & Recommendations

Author of Report: Diane Owens, 0114 27 35065,
diane.owens@sheffield.gov.uk

Summary:

In April 2014 the Children, Young People & Family Support Scrutiny & policy Development Committee held its annual meeting with young people and young carers. The Chair of the Committee, Cllr Gill Furniss would like to present this report which outlines some of the key points raised by young people during the meeting and makes recommendations in terms of next steps.

Type of item: The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	
Other: Scrutiny Committee- draft Report and recommendations	X

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

- 1 Sign off the report and recommendations

Background Papers: n/a

Category of Report: OPEN

Most reports to Scrutiny Committees should be openly available to the public. If a report is deemed to be 'closed', please add: **'Not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph xx of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).'**

Annual Meeting with Young People & Young Carers Report & Recommendations

1. Introduction/Context

1.1 In April 2014 the Children, Young People & Family Support Scrutiny & policy Development Committee held its annual meeting with young people and young carers.

1.2 The session was organised with Emma Hinchliffe, Young People's Involvement Worker, Sheffield Futures.

1.3 The format for the session was a series of short informal workshops. The session was attended by 8 members of the Scrutiny Committee and approximately 15 young people who were accompanied by 3 Youth Workers. Sam Martin (Acting Assistant Director – Youth) and lead officer for the Children Young People and Families Portfolio on the Scrutiny Committee also attended the session.

1.4 The young people who attended represented the following groups: the Sheffield UK Youth Parliament, Sheffield Youth Cabinet, VOYCE PG (Young Carers Participation group) and STAMP (Young people's mental health action group).

1.5 In advance of the session the young people were asked to select the topics they would like to focus on, these were:

1. Education – to include mental health education, bullying and young carers
2. Work experience and careers advice
3. Youth Services

2. Matters for consideration

2.1 This report identifies some of the key points raised by young people during the session and makes recommendations in terms of next steps.

2.2 Some of the key points raised by the young people were as follows:

1. Education – to include mental health education, bullying and young carers
 - Young carers want to be treated “sympathetically not differently”, to do this Schools need to be able to identify and record who young carers are, this needs to be handled carefully as young people don't want to be singled out – the young people felt that some Schools effectively identify young carers but this was not consistent across all Schools.

- The Young Carers Schools Standards launched by the Children's Society have a Kite mark for Schools (bronze / silver / gold) – should all Schools in Sheffield be encouraged to put in for the Kite mark?
- Young people's mental health – in some schools the young people feel it isn't clear where they should go for help / support.

2. Work experience and careers advice

- Recent policy changes mean that Schools no longer have to provide work experience placements for young people, this concerned the young people as they felt work experience was a valuable way to gain insight into different career options and the world of work and that some schools may now stop offering placements – the young people wanted to ask if there was anything the Council could do to help ensure Schools continue to offer work experience placements?

3 What does this mean for the people of Sheffield?

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Committee welcomed the opportunity to hear the views of a group of young people in Sheffield, a number of who are also young carers. Many of the young people are actively involved in voice and influence work and advocate the views of young people in Sheffield.

4. Recommendations

4.1 That the Committee approve this report; and

4.2 That the report is shared with the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families Cllr Jackie Drayton, the Executive Director for Children, Young People & Families Jayne Ludlam and the Citywide Learning Body who would be asked to consider the points raised by the young people and feedback their response to the Scrutiny Committee within 3 months of receiving the report, and

4.3 That the Chair of this Committee liaises with the Chair of the Healthier Communities & Adult Social Care Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee who have undertaken a review into CAMHS (Child Adolescent Mental Health Services) to feedback the concerns of the young people and young carers around mental health support.

This page is intentionally left blank