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**Report of:** *Children, Young People & Family Support Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee*

**Report to:** *Cabinet*

**Date of Decision:** *Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020*

**Subject:** *Voice and Involvement of Young People in Scrutiny*

Is this a Key Decision? If Yes, reason Key Decision:-

Yes ☐ No ☒

- Expenditure and/or savings over £500,000
- Affects 2 or more Wards

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Which Cabinet Member Portfolio does this relate to?

- Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Governance

Which Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee does this relate to?

Children, Young People & Family Support Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee

Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given? *(Insert reference number)*

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?

Yes ☐ No ☒

**Purpose of Report:**

Children, Young People & Family Support Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee 2019/20 set up a task group to look at how to increase the voice and involvement of young people in scrutiny.

The Scrutiny Task and Finish group has now produced its final report, endorsed by Children, Young People & Family Support Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020.

Drawing on the task group findings their report groups nine recommendations under three headings:

- Forthcoming year practical actions for scrutiny
- Forthcoming year practical actions for the Council
- Future years going forward

This Cabinet report presents the Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee's report to Cabinet (Appendix 1).

**Recommendations:**

Cabinet is asked to:

1. Thank the Children, Young People & Family Support Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee for its work in relation to voice and involvement of Young People in Scrutiny.
2. Note the Voice and Involvement of Young People in Scrutiny Task Group 2019/20 Report that is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
3. Agree that a Cabinet response to scrutiny recommendations be provided to the Children, Young People & Family Support Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee in July 2020.

**Background Papers:**

Appendix 1: Voice and Involvement of Young People in Scrutiny Task Group 2019/20 Report

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Lead Officer to complete:-		
1	I have consulted the relevant departments in respect of any relevant implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist, and comments have been incorporated / additional forms completed / EIA completed, where required.	<b>Finance:</b> Anna Sanderson – Finance Manager Resources & Policy, Performance & Communications
		<b>Legal:</b> Andrea Simpson, Solicitor
		<b>Equalities:</b> Diane Owens, Senior Equalities and Engagement Officer
	<i>Legal, financial/commercial and equalities implications must be included within the report and the name of the officer consulted must be included above.</i>	
2	<b>EMT member who approved submission:</b>	<i>n/a (scrutiny report)</i>
3	<b>Cabinet Member consulted:</b>	<i>n/a (scrutiny report)</i>
4	I confirm that all necessary approval has been obtained in respect of the implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist and that the report has been approved for submission to the Decision Maker by the EMT member indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1.	
	<b>Lead Officer Name:</b> <i>Alice Nicholson</i>	<b>Job Title:</b> <i>Policy &amp; Improvement Officer</i>
	<b>Date:</b> 05/03/2020	

## **1. PROPOSAL**

- 1.1 Children, Young People & Family Support Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee 2019/20 set up a task group to look at how to increase the voice and involvement of young people in scrutiny. Recognising that as a Committee with responsibility for scrutinising issues that impact children and young people it was incumbent to ensure a scrutiny voice for children and young people.
- 1.2 The Committee wanted to work with young people for them to input to the scrutiny work programme and agenda items; for young people to decide and shape how they are involved and what they are interested in; and to consider how to reach out to more young people.
- 1.3 The task group approach was through a mix of the whole Committee hearing from young people, such as the special meeting held to hear Make Your Mark results, and smaller group working for other activity, over a period of 5 months (October 2019-February 2020). The Task Group's full report is attached to this report as Appendix 1.
- 1.4 Recommendation 5 encapsulates findings around the issue of political education, non-party, in schools and suggests scrutiny pick this up.

### **Voice and Involvement of Young People in Scrutiny Task Group 2019/20**

The task group recommendations are drawn from the findings. Whilst the purpose was to look at voice and involvement of young people in scrutiny, there are some points they heard that reach beyond remit of scrutiny and are related to wider governance arrangements of executive too. The task group has crafted the recommendations as practical actions specific to the scrutiny committees or for the Council in the forthcoming year and a final recommendation of a young people targeted governance principle for future years:

### **FORTHCOMING YEAR PRACTICAL ACTIONS FOR SCRUTINY**

1. Sheffield City Council to share its Scrutiny Work Programme on a regular basis with Youth Cabinet so that they can engage in issues of interest.
2. Youth Cabinet to be invited to scrutiny meetings on a regular basis.
3. Establish regular two way communication of issues, particularly alternate attendance at Scrutiny and Youth Cabinet meetings.
4. Consider conducting a review with Youth Cabinet of single use plastics.
5. Scrutiny to encourage the Council to raise the issue of politics on the curriculum with schools and how it could be put into practice with School Councils.

### **FORTHCOMING YEAR PRACTICAL ACTIONS FOR THE COUNCIL**

6. Sheffield City Council to share list of citizen space consultations with Youth Cabinet on a regular basis, to allow them to be consulted on an issue by issue basis.
7. Sheffield governance arrangements work in partnership with Sheffield

youth governance arrangements, as a start Sheffield City Council Cabinet be invited to Youth Cabinet meetings on a regular basis, and develop other ways to link.

8. As an organisation look at our style of communications, use connections that work for young people. Youth Cabinet to be invited to scrutiny meetings on a regular basis.

## **FUTURE YEARS GOING FORWARD**

9. Establish principle of youth cabinet and young people involvement in decision/policy/scrutiny meetings in Sheffield City Council governance structure, and ensure this is embedded in our governance principles.

## **2. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE?**

- 2.1 The work and approach of Scrutiny and its task groups connect to the commitment within the priority theme of “*An In Touch Organisation*” to “*make sure we listen, understand and respond to what people are telling us, treating them with respect at all times*”. The task group was set up after Children, Young People & Family Support Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee recognised that as a Committee with responsibility for scrutinising issues that impact children and young people it was incumbent to ensure a scrutiny voice for children and young people in Sheffield.
- 2.2 The recommendations are appropriate for our city council governance arrangements, now and going forward.

## **3. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?**

- 3.1 The Working Group gathered evidence through a variety of activities, as detailed in its report, which informed the findings and recommendations.

## **4. RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION**

### **4.1 Equality of Opportunity Implications**

- 4.1.1 As a Public Authority, we have legal requirements under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. These are often collectively referred to as the ‘general duties to promote equality’. To help us meet the general equality duties, we also have specific duties. We have considered our obligations under this Duty in this report and found that there are no direct equality of opportunity implications arising as a result of this report. However, any specific changes to service delivery or policy arising in response to scrutiny recommendations will need to include the consideration of equality implications, to continue to ensure the Council fulfil our statutory obligations.

## 4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications

- 4.2.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The implementation of any of the recommendations from the Committee's report may be subject to further decision making in accordance with the Leader's Scheme of Delegation. This would include any financial and commercial implications.

## 4.3 Legal Implications

- 4.3.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. The implementation of any of the recommendations from the Committee's report may be subject to further decision making in accordance with the Leader's Scheme of Delegation, and the legal implications of any proposal would be fully considered at that time.
- 4.3.2 Scrutiny committees have an explicit power to make reports or recommendations to the Executive under section 9F(2) of the Local Government Act 2000.

## 5. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 An alternative option in relation to the recommendations would be to do nothing with the Task Group Report. However, given the time and effort spent by the Task Group, and contributions to the work and recommendations from Young People and advocates across the city this is not deemed a viable option.
- 5.2 An alternative option in relation to the recommendations would be to respond to the Committee's report over a much longer timescale. The Scrutiny Committee would like to maintain momentum on this issue, and ensure it is considered as part of governance, involvement arrangements 2020/21 and going forward.

## 6. **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 To maintain momentum the Scrutiny Committee request a response to their recommendations for July 2020, especially the practical actions for the Council in forthcoming year and going forward (recommendations 6 through 9).
- 6.2 The Committee recognise the practical actions for scrutiny (recommendations 1 through 5) are within the governance arrangements for scrutiny and to support the implementation of these recommendations they will be shared with Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.