

Sheffield Youth Cabinet - Scrutiny Preparation Paper

Background

The impact of Covid-19 on children and young people has continued to be a concern of the Youth Cabinet throughout. Over April to June Sheffield Youth Cabinet inputted the views of young people from Sheffield into a Yorkshire and Humber Youth Voice views on education report that was fed into MP's, key government departments and other relevant areas.

In preparation for the scheduled meeting with the Scrutiny Committee on the 19th November a discussion was held with the Youth Cabinet around their experiences throughout the last 9 months, the impact that Covid-19 has had on them and other young people and the support they feel young people need moving forward. This brief report outlines the key areas they feel are of most importance and areas for recommendations.

The key areas they feel are important are:

- 1) Mental Health – the support needs and requirements of young people as well as recognising the difference community-based provision such as youth work and sporting clubs make and widening the access
- 2) Careers – This area includes, careers guidance, education around different industries and education and work opportunities, the impact of covid-19 on work experience and volunteering opportunities in different industries which may be impacting on future course choices,
- 3) Exams – the impact of missed education on college/ university choices and how previously attainable options such as medicine young people are not seeing as not an option due to missed education and the impact this may have on final grades and thoughts on exams 2021 and whether they could be assessed in a different way
- 4) Education – The impact of covid-19 has meant that some schools are not able to do practical work at the moment and there are concerns about the young people who learn in a practical way and whether this could cause them to disengage or what impact this might have on young people picking their GCSE options this year. There are also concerns from some who aren't bubbled in academic sets that this may have an impact on education. A further concern was raised around school uniform policies, cost and the impact of covid 19 safety measures.

Areas for recommendations from the young people:

- 1) Schools across the city need to be more consistent in their approach to communications
- 2) All round careers guidance education around different industries and progression routes
- 3) More access to youth provision, sports and other opportunities to greater support young people.
- 4) Consider how young people can gain work experience, especially in the current climate to help them make choices in key years such as Y9, Y11 and Y13.
- 5) Consider impact on exams and how else we can moderate young people

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