

Children & Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

12 March 2019

Children and Young People's Presentation on Participation

Recommendations

1. That the Committee comments on the contribution of children and young people and how this aligns with the Participation and Engagement Strategy 2019-2023.
2. That the Committee promotes the contributions of children and young people as models of good practice to ensure that the Strategy is embedded, monitored and reviewed by Warwickshire County Council departments and key stakeholders.
3. That children and young people are invited to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on an annual basis to report back on how they view progress against the themes listed in the Participation and Engagement Strategy 2019-2023 and that Full Council be recommended to receive a similar update annually also.
4. That the Committee requires clear milestones to be identified from the Participation and Engagement Strategy 2019-2023 and reported back on a 6 monthly basis

1.0 Purpose

That the Committee has the opportunity to understand the breadth and scope of children and young people's participation, to listen to examples of good practice and future areas for development from children and young people directly.

2.0 Key Issues

- 2.1 There are a number of children and young people who are supported by Warwickshire County Council employees to get together and talk about issues that are important to them. Examples of youth groups are,

- Members of Youth Parliament
- Children in Care Council

- Warwickshire Youth Council
- Care Leavers Forum

- 2.2 These groups have a long history of working alongside Warwickshire County Council, some as early as 2005 and 2008, others have formed as recently as 2018. The groups meet monthly at Shire Hall and attendance can vary from 35-45 young people. The current membership is diverse and represents a wide cross section of children and young people (age, gender, disability and backgrounds).
- 2.3 At these meetings children and young people have the opportunity to meet with different officers of the Council and provide feedback on young people's experience of services. They also have the opportunity to set out their priorities and advocate for change that they believe would be of benefit to children and young people across Warwickshire.
- 2.4 As well as taking part in the above groups children and young people get involved in a diverse range of Council activities. For example this includes, recruitment of staff, training of staff, commissioning activities, quality assurance, attendance at national and regional events, contributions to the design and delivery of services, consultation events, conferences and so on.
- 2.5 It is important to recognise that there are children and young people outside of these formal groups that make a contribution that are less visible. Some children and young people are less comfortable in a formal setting but are willing to engage in specific activities that are of interest and personal appeal to them. We ensure we are inclusive in our practices and children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities are encouraged to participate, with all reasonable adjustments made to facilitate this.
- 2.6 It is equally important to acknowledge that children and young people volunteer their time to participate with Council business.
- 2.7 Children and young people from Warwickshire Youth Council, Members of Youth Parliament, Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum have had a key role in helping to shape the Participation & Engagement Strategy 2019-2023. This Strategy was presented to the Committee on 15th January 2019. Principally, these youth groups helped to articulate children and young people's priorities which are clearly set out within the document.

The priorities fall under 5 key outcomes. These are as follows.

- Keep healthy
- Be safe
- Have fun and do well
- Take part
- Think about your future

Under each outcome there are more detailed themes against which children and young people have identified areas for change, improvement and progress.

- 2.8 Representatives from the youth groups listed above have prepared a presentation for the Committee aligned with the themes identified within the recent Participation and Engagement Strategy 2019-2023.
- 2.9 The presentation focuses on work that children and young people have undertaken over the last 12 months (2018-19). This will allow Committee members to take stock of current contributions and views of children and young people, and also offer a starting point by which to gauge how young people’s contributions and views are impacted in the future.

Background papers

Children and Young People’s Participation and Engagement Strategy 2019-2023, Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 15th January 2019

	Name	Contact Information
Report Author	Shinderpaul Bhangal Cheryl Jones	shinderpaulbhangal@warwickshire.gov.uk Tel: 07771 513742 cheryljones@warwickshire.gov.uk Tel: 07824 867134
Head of Service	John Coleman	johncoleman@warwickshire.gov.uk
Strategic Director	Nigel Minns	nigelminns@warwickshire.gov.uk
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Jeff Morgan	jeffmorgan@warwickshire.gov.uk

The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s): N/A

Cabinet Portfolio Holder : Councillor Jeff Morgan

Committee Chair and Group Spokespersons: Councillors Yousef Dahmash, Jonathan Chilvers, Corinne Davies, Jerry Roodhouse and Chris Williams.