

Agenda Item: 5.

One Nottingham Board

Title of Paper: Young People Engagement

Date: 12th May 2017

1. Purpose

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 1.1 | Review of engagement work undertaken with children and young people in 2016-17 Supported by One Nottingham. This report focuses on three areas of work undertaken: |
| 1.2 | Primary Parliament, Youth Council and the Festival of Science and Curiosity, and references some of the associated work conducted with vulnerable children and young people through the engagement programme. The theme of Aspiration is highlighted as an area of consistent learning and enquiry for partners. |

2. Recommendations

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 2.1 | The ON Board are asked to consider how existing and further engagement with children and young people might support their decision making processes; what specific areas of enquiry they have going forward that would benefit from focused engagement work; and the potential to support future activities with young people. |
|-----|--|

3. Background

3.1	<p>In 2016-17 the One Nottingham Board provided support to the Participation in Governance programme run by the city council Engagement and Participation Lead. The Participation in Governance programme provides a calendar of events and activities that enable children and young people to have their say through group work. The engagement programme supports the Council Plan commitment for the local authority to ‘Consult young people on important decisions and involve them in the Council’s decision making process’.</p>
-----	--

The purpose of the ON support was to enhance the existing programme of activities and underpin the delivery of one of the leading public engagement activities aimed at children, young people and families, the Festival of Science and Curiosity Festival. A total of £7,000 funding from ON supported the Council’s core CYP Engagement and Participation programme and enabled the following:

- An expansion of the existing Primary Parliament programme from 3 to 6 events per year
- Enhanced delivery of Youth Council events
- The curation of the 2017 Festival of Science and Curiosity, the city’s primary street level family science engagement event

An underlying theme of the engagement work with Primary Parliament and Youth Council is

to enable and empower aspiration and achievement across three thematic areas: Learning and Earning; Safe Lives, Positive Communities, SMART Cities; and Healthy, Creative You. NB These themes correspond to the Children's Integrated Services' key strategic themes.

For the ON supported work no specific data was captured around individual aspirations of CYP; however the exercises and workshops undertaken throughout have resulted in a body of work from which some overarching conclusions can be drawn. In addition, the feedback from the FOSAC17 provides strong evidence of the impact and benefit of STEM engagement in helping CYP and their families participate in science learning activities. The following is a brief survey of the work undertaken and some of the outcomes of the work.

Sharing the Future

3.2

Primary Parliament and Youth Council events are among those planned using our Sharing the Future model. Planning and delivery follows wherever possible a process of Sharing Ideas and Information; Sharing Views and Experiences; Sharing Decision Making; and Sharing Leadership.

Primary Parliament

3.3

Primary Parliament events are available to year 5 and 6 children from Nottingham City primary Schools. They are held every term and provide an opportunity for primary children to come together to explore, discuss and create child-led solutions to challenges they identify. ON's funding support enabled the doubling of capacity in 2016-17, from 60 to 120 schools, resulting in approximately 200 additional children attending sessions.

Children's aspiration was most apparent in work around the creation and launch of the Looking After Each Other programme. Through Primary Parliament sessions the children worked up and then launched their A-Z of Kind Words, which features as the first of 25 suggested actions for people to follow in the LAEO guide. The development of the A-Z clearly demonstrated the desire amongst primary-age students to live in communities free from the detrimental effects of vulgar, insulting, aggressive and negative language and instead promote communication that is kind, respectful and empowering. This work has been adopted by the Council's Communications and Marketing team as part of their style guide.

Other areas of Primary Parliament activity have focused on themes such as digital learning (in work with the Libraries local history archive), the development of the Cultural Education Framework, supporting primary school engagement with Opportunity Notts, and children's understanding, views and expectations of Nottingham as a SMART City. In Primary Parliament workshops with around 130 children looking at the potential impacts of SMART technology, the children emphasised the importance to them living in a clean city and reducing pollution and environmental damage, and the hope technology would make us safer. Many demonstrated a high level of personal ambition towards knowledge economy careers and the desire to do more in and out of school to support their learning and development, e.g. through code clubs and after school technology projects, but also through social and outdoors events such as community picnics.

With all Primary Parliament activities there is an opportunity for schools to develop further work around the theme when they return to school. For example as a result of the SMART City workshops William Booth Primary School are developing a relationship with the REMOURBAN project. This helps federate learning and leads to the gradual growth of participation opportunities in primary settings

Youth Council

3.4

Another key forum which has a focus on building aspiration through enabling and empowering young voices is Youth Council. Meetings are held termly and are organised by young people with support of locality-based play and youth workers from the Council's Early Help service and the Engagement & Participation Lead. In three most recent Youth Council events, approximately 100 young people using Play and Youth services have engaged and participated in activities planned and co-delivered by young people themselves. Youth Councils are helping Children's Integrated Services develop opportunities for young people using both targeted and specialist as well as universal services the chance to develop leadership skills, socialise with a mixed group of young people from across the city and grow in confidence and character.

The session on Learning and Earning held at The Ridge Centre at Top Valley on 16th July explored what young people needed to successfully transit to adulthood and develop the idea of the 'Life Skills Backpack'. This identified the skills and characteristics needed for employability and independent living and the places to go to acquire these. Key to supporting independent living were opportunities to learn household budgeting and personal financial management skills, and help with key domestic skills such as cooking and food shopping.

The session held at Oliver Hind YC on 17th February focused on building safe, positive and SMART communities. Through role-play, modelling and fun quiz workshops, young people identified priorities and ideas for action around the future city. There was a focus on improving access to transport for young people by making buses cheaper and creating more opportunities for young people to travel and do things in other parts of Nottingham (to break down barriers between areas and generations). With regard to the SMART City agenda the idea of 'gamifying' the city to enable better cultural interaction through technology such as mobile apps. This corresponds with both ideas in the SMART City engagement strategy and the emerging Cultural Education Framework.

FOSAC17

3.5

The 2017 Festival of Science and Curiosity, a.k.a. FOSAC17, was the third annual festival delivered by the Stemcity science engagement partnership. The festival is about inviting the people of Nottingham to share what they know, to ask questions and take an active role in finding out the answers. It has fast become one of Nottingham's key science communication and public engagement events and gives an opportunity for all the different institutions in Nottingham promoting STEM learning to engage creatively with the public.

ON's financial support secured the services of a dedicated programme curator for FOSAC17 resulting in the strongest festival programme yet. Held over seven days in February and straddling the half term school holiday FOSAC featured two days of school-focused work, a weekend of city centre based activities and three days of STEM engagement in community settings. Partners include the Council and its Library and Museum services, UoN, NTU, City schools and colleges, Futures, Broadway/Near Now, Ignite!, Game City/NVA, Intu Broadmarsh, Industrial Cadets, STEM Learning and DEBP STEM Ambassadors, Think!/Kiosk and Opportunity Notts.

The FOSAC17 programme featured over 40 separate street-level science engagement activities and more than 2500 members of the public took part directly in them. In addition, the festival received significant local media coverage and social media presence. Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, with 100% of those asked stating that they agreed or strongly agreed with the statements 'I've enjoyed the event' and 'I would like to see more events like this'. Next year's festival will take place on the 14th – 21st February 2018.

Additional engagement work of note

3.6

SEND engagement

A programme of engagement for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities was conducted for the Information, Advice and Support Services strategic commissioning review took place between January and March 2017. 51 SEND young people aged between 11 and 19 participated in a series of workshops to identify information and needs based on the Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) model. The PfA model has four strands – Living Independently, Work and Training, Health and Well-being and Community Life - and provides a useful model for assessing and discussing the level of young people's disability

The results of the engagement, with regards to PfA, demonstrated a strong sense of aspiration towards study and work and being able to enjoy a rich and varied life in the community. However with regard to Living Independently there was relatively little aspiration among SEND young people to live independently and away from family members. Exceptional to this were higher functioning physical and learning disabled young people who saw independent living as a corollary to independent earning. However most young people engaged both expected and wanted to live with the support of their families.

Children in Care

The Children in Care Council is a standing group for children and young people in care which also includes provision for Care Leavers.

Work with Children in Care Council has focused on building understanding between Children in Care (CiC) and Care Leavers and services about what support is needed to help CiC prepare for leaving care and the wide range of support on offer to them. Activities with the Leaving Care Team and Futures have focused on helping young people build resilient networks of supportive individuals and organisations to help them with transition to adulthood and independent living. The annual Have Your Say survey for CiC and Care Leavers once again

3.7	<p>showed strong aspiration towards successful transition while also revealing the need to support Care Leavers with skills for employability and successful management of tenancies and household budgets.</p> <p><u>Youth Cabinet</u></p> <p>Youth Cabinet is the youth leadership group for the city, made up of young people aged 16 to 21 who participate in dialogue and decision making with Councillors, senior Council officers, Children’s Partnership colleagues and other local authority partners.</p> <p>The group has advised and been consulted with on a range of topics including the Council budget, the development of the Cultural Education Framework, the Future in Mind mental health project, drug and alcohol services, environmental issues. In addition the group participated in the planning and delivery of the CYP Participation in Governance programme (including volunteering at Youth Council and Primary parliament and the Stemcity action plan); while Youth Cabinet members represented the city at Nottingham in Parliament Day and successfully led a stall at the morning workshop on engaging young people in science and technology careers, demonstrating science busking techniques to MPs and VIP visitors.</p> <p>Next steps</p> <p>One Nottingham’s generous support for engagement and participation work in FY 2016-17 has enabled a number of very positive outcomes for the children and young people who benefited from the additional resources, and for the Stemcity partners who were able to contribute to FOSAC17 as a result of ON’s backing. It is hoped that the learning from these activities will enable the ON Board to feel more familiar with the issues and challenges facing children and young people, and also the opportunities they see for developing happy, healthy and prosperous future. Further support for work of this kind would be very welcome and we would like the opportunity to continue the partnership.</p>
-----	---

4. Contact Details	
Name: Jon Rea, Engagement and Participation Lead, Nottingham City Council jon.rea@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	