

YOUTH REGENERATION & DEVELOPMENT

**LEAD OSC MEMBER
(CHAIR)**

LEAD OFFICER: Julie Betteridge

REPORT AUTHOR: Sarah Mitchell

Why has this report come to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee? (e.g. Committee request, update report)

Committee request for an update report.

SUMMARY:

The Council has worked for the last four years with partners to help engage young people into local democracy, encouraging them to participate in community decision making; highlight their priorities and support them in addressing issues that affect their future.

The current project expands on earlier work by supporting young people to engage in the growth agenda and participate in major local democratic agendas, such as the mayoral elections and parishing for Whitehaven.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That OSC notes positive progress and maintains Member and Council support for the project.

1 BACKGROUND

The Council has prioritised young people as part of their service delivery since 2010 when they first appointed a Youth Engagement officer. This post laid the foundations for the current delivery by helping to develop the supporting infrastructure – including the Copeland Youth Council and Youth Forums – as well as improving local provision through initiatives such as the Friday Night Project.

2 OVERVIEW

- 2.1 The current project is building on the base of previous work, both by supporting greater inclusion of young people and by providing them with a framework to get involved in some of the main issues affecting the area, such as growth, welfare reform, work & skills and local democracy. The project is funded through Copeland Community Fund (75%) with the remaining funds from Copeland Borough Council.
- 2.2 Since April 2013, when the project started it has:
- Increased local skills and learning about democracy, drawing new young volunteers into local youth forums;
 - Developed the footprint of Youth Forums to ensure full Copeland borough coverage;
 - Enabled young people to help deliver local regeneration, particularly around the Copeland coast;
 - Created a platform for young people to be heard, for example at the Copeland Growth Conference, and
 - Supported work and skills initiatives – including the Dream Placement.
- 2.3 First year outputs and outcomes:
- 56 new young volunteers enrolled onto youth forums and local projects;
 - 60 young people supported with skills development;
 - Involvement in 3 Copeland Youth Councils, and facilitation of 14 Youth Forums across the six localities (Howgate/Distington, Whitehaven, NE, West, Mid and South Copeland);
 - Delivery of 13 democracy/ active citizen workshops;
 - Involvement of young people in environmental and coastal regeneration projects, engaging them into sustainable project delivery.

3 CURRENT PROGRAMME

- 3.1 This years work programme continues to encourage young people to take a more active part in the wider democratic process, especially the parish councils and developing the six Youth Forum Action Plans through the use of digital media.
- 3.2 Key priorities include:
- Exploring key issues around welfare reform through developing an intergenerational project;
 - Involving young people directly in the planning of interventions, including healthy weight programmes;

- Improving skills through kick-starting a work experience project, including delivery of the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Day in CBC, and
- Engaging young people into the Mayoral debate.

3.3 The project can bring back further reports on the delivery and outcomes from the key priorities outlined above on an annual basis.

4 CONCLUSION

4.1 The project provides an important vehicle to ensure that our growth programme is deliverable; takes account of the needs of young people and is sustainable long term, with the aim that young people will begin to learn the skills required to participate in the wider political field.

4.2 It also ensures that the breadth of involvement from our communities spans the age ranges and can address key priorities in a way that is most effective.

5 STATUTORY OFFICER COMMENTS (IF APPLICABLE)

5.1 Monitoring Officer Comments

5.2 Section 151 Officer Comments

5.3 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Comments

6 OTHER CONSULTEE COMMENTS

Consultees:

Background Paper and Appendices: