

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 24th SEPTEMBER 2015

Children & Young People's Participation Strategy 2015-18, Action Plan and Children's Rights Promise

To consider and comment on the following issues:

- That the Committee provides observations on the Strategy, Action Plan and Promise for consideration by Executive Board Members on 12th October 2015 before final adoption by County Council on 11th November 2015.

Reasons:

- To formulate views for submission to the Executive Board / Council for consideration, to ensure that the County Council delivers on its statutory and moral obligations for ensuring children and young people have their say on decisions that affect them, in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and to formalise the Council's commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child through the Children's Rights Promise.

To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: YES

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Gareth Jones (Education & Children)

Directorate: Education & Children	Designations:	Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 24th SEPTEMBER 2015

Children & Young People's Participation Strategy 2015-18, Action Plan and Children's Rights Promise

Involvement in decisions that affect their lives is a fundamental right for all children and young people (Article 12, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child). To deliver this commitment effectively a culture of engaging children and young people needs to be embedded across the County Council.

The Children & Young People's Participation Strategy 2015-18 (attachment 1) succinctly brings together the key drivers, identifies the benefits, and sets out 10 clear priorities to take this commitment forward. The Action Plan (attachment 2) sets out the key things we need to do to deliver on our 10 priorities. It will be a living document, reviewed formally every 12 months in line with our business planning cycle.

One of the actions in the plan is to develop a Children's Rights Promise, which is all about the County Council setting out a clear commitment to children's rights as set out in the UNCRC. The Promise will be a visible symbol of the Council's commitment to the whole of the UNCRC that children and young people can use to hold us to account.

Children & Young People from across the county have worked together to develop the Promise (attachment 3) which they feel will give them the commitment required from the local authority to ensure their rights are upheld and are seen as active citizens in their own lives.

The hope is that this Promise will help to create a clearer understanding of children's rights and how we can work together to ensure they are delivered.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	YES 1. Children & Young People's Participation Strategy 2015-18 2. Action Plan 2015-18 3. Children's Rights Promise
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IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Signed: David Astins Strategic Development Manager

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	YES	NONE	YES	YES	YES	NONE

2. Legal

Section 12 of the Children & Families (Wales) Measure 2010 states that:

Participation of children in local authority decision making

(1) A local authority must make such arrangements as it considers suitable to promote and facilitate participation by children in decisions of the authority which might affect them.

(2) A local authority must –

(a) publish information about its arrangements under subsection (1), and

(b) keep the information published up to date.

This was covered in the Welsh Government Shared Purpose, Shared Delivery guidance on partnerships and plans. This strategy and action plan are the means to deliver this.

4. ICT

Properly engaging with children and young people will rely on use of modern technology such as social media and electronic survey tools.

5. Risk Management Issues

The Departmental Risk Register identifies failing to properly engage children and young people in decisions that affect them as a key risk.

6. Staffing Implications

We will be recruiting a Modern Apprentice through the Work Ready Programme to help us deliver the Action Plan over the next 18 months.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

Signed: David Astins Strategic Development Manager

1. Local Member(s) – N/A

2. Community / Town Council – N/A

3. Relevant Partners – An early draft of the strategy was discussed by the Children & Young People's Partnership.

4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – N/A

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW:

Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Children & Families Wales Measure 2010	http://www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2010/1/pdfs/mwa_20100001_en.pdf
UNCRC	http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/children-and-young-people/rights/uncrc/?lang=en