

	<p align="center">London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham</p> <p align="center">CHILDREN AND EDUCATION POLICY AND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE</p> <p align="center">20 APRIL 2015</p>
<p>YOUTH VOICE AND THE YOUTH COUNCIL MANIFESTO 2015-16</p>	
<p>Report of the Director of Family Services</p>	
<p>Open Report</p>	
<p>Classification - For Review & Comment</p>	
<p>Key Decision: No</p>	
<p>Wards Affected: All</p>	
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report provides a brief summary of current and proposed arrangements for 'youth voice' (consultation and engagement of young people) in Hammersmith and Fulham.
- 1.2. The report will also introduce the Youth Council manifesto for 2015-16 and proposals for working with the Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. The Committee is asked to review and comment on the Youth Council Manifesto and their proposals for working with the Committee.

3. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 3.1. The Youth Voice Coordinator, based in the Family Support Localities Service, coordinates a range of opportunities for young people to have a say in decisions that affect them and to participate in creating, building and improving services. These are explained in section 4 of the report and a visual summary will be presented at the CEPAC meeting.

- 3.2. At the centre of youth voice, is the Youth Council (HFYC), which has elected representatives from most of the schools and youth projects in the borough. The Youth Council have been working alongside Councillor Caroline Needham, Councillor Sue Fennimore and Councillor Sue Macmillan to develop their understanding of LBHF decision making structures, to produce their manifesto and to consider how best they can work with the Children and Education Policy and Accountability Committee (CEPAC) and scrutinise services, in a way that is fun and meaningful to them.

4. YOUTH VOICE IN HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

4.1. Current universal provision

4.1.1. H&F Youth Council (HFVC)

The Youth Council are a 'voice' for young people¹. There are 18 regular members who give their opinion on policies, activities and services and develop a range of methods to get the views of other young people and present them to decision makers.

The Youth Council have recently been involved in consultation on Early Help Youth Services and the Draft Local Plan and have developed their manifesto for 2015-2016, which is focused on the top issues identified by local young people (*in the Make Your Mark Campaign*). Their manifesto has been produced into a film and will be presented at the CEPAC meeting (please see appendix 2 for the manifesto). They are planning an outreach programme to present their manifesto to young people and decision makers throughout the borough and to get their views and suggestions, and have formed task groups to work alongside key partners to take the issues forward.

They have also developed an application form for those wishing to consult with them, to support them to think through the practicalities of the consultation and to help the Youth Council consider whether or not they want to be involved. (Please see appendix 1 for a copy of the application form.)

4.1.2. UK Youth Parliament

Every year, members of the Youth Council decide whether to stand as a candidate in borough wide UK Youth Parliament elections. The elected Member of Youth Parliament and Deputy, lead the Youth Council and represent the youth of H&F at a regional and national level².

¹ The Youth Council is comprised of young people, aged 13-19, who live, go to school in or are looked after by LBHF. They meet fortnightly at Hammersmith Town Hall on alternate Tuesday evenings at 5pm-7pm.

² On March 25th 2015 Rahima Begum (17 from White City) was re-elected as the Member and Darnell Christie (16) from East Acton was voted as the Deputy Member of Youth Parliament. 4254 votes were cast by young people aged 11-18 in the 2015 UKYP elections.

4.1.3. Make Your Mark

The elected Member and Deputy also lead the annual 'Make Your Mark' consultation to identify the top issues for young people in the borough. The top 5 issues identified locally, become the focus for the Youth Council and the top 5 issues identified nationally, are debated in the House of Commons by all MYPs from across the UK.

3015 questionnaires were completed by young people in LBHF in October 2014. The top 5 issues were:

- 1) Living wage at work (516 votes)
- 2) Giving young people a voice in improving communities (436)
- 3) Mental health (408)
- 4) Work experience (357)
- 5) Votes at 16 (349)

4.1.4. Youth Interview Panel

Members of the Youth Council, service users and LBHF apprentices have completed a training package in recruitment and selection, enabling them to participate in recruitment processes with Family Services staff as required and appropriate. The young people use job descriptions to develop questions or scenarios for the candidates to work through and have designed a scoring system, the results of which they feedback to the professional panel at the end of the interviews. Young people are consistently involved in Family Support Localities Service interviews and HR approved standards and good practice guidance have been produced to enable colleagues throughout the department to effectively involve young people in interviews.

4.1.5. H&F Youth Involved Facebook Page

The Youth Council set up the H&F Youth Involved facebook page to be used as an additional tool for youth engagement, to promote opportunities to young people and to engage them in discussion on, for example what activities or services they would like, what they think the priorities should be for a particular service or plan and their thoughts or experiences on particular issues. Young people can also contact us using the page and it provides an online space for the forums to keep in touch and update other young people on their involvement.

4.1.6. H&F Council Youth Take Over Day

In November each year we host 'Take Over Day' as part of the national event hosted by the Children's Commissioner. Shadowing, work experience and challenges are identified for young people throughout the Council. Roles in 2014 included the Director of Family Services, the Head of the Family Support Localities Service, Environmental Health Officers, Uniformed Enforcement Teams and Apprenticeship Development Officers. Challenges included planning and hosting the Take Over Day celebration event, writing a press release on the day, mystery shopping for age restricted goods with the Trading Standards Team and planning for services including the newly established Family Assist Service. Feedback from participants and outcomes of the day are developed into a report and

shared with decision makers. It is recommended that the Take Over Day will continue to be an annual event at the Council.

4.2. Proposed Universal Provision

4.2.1. Young Mayor Scheme

The Councillors pledged to establish a Young Mayor scheme in their 2014-17 manifesto and the Youth Council are really keen to support the process. The Youth Voice Coordinator has done some initial research and outlined some consideration and required resources (please see appendix 3). It has been agreed to work towards election for a Young Mayor Programme to coincide with UKYP elections in March 2016.

4.2.2. Developing the LBHF website young people's section

The LBHF website is in the process of being redesigned and the new site will allow us more flexibility of layout within the structure of the LBHF framework, with additional functionality and integration with social media. The Youth Council will be helping to develop the content of the new pages.

It is proposed that there will be a dedicated section of the website for young people, which could have activities and services, opportunities, links to consultations etc., vox pops, blogs and videos from young people and a Youth Council and Member of Youth Parliament blog or newsletter.

4.3. Targeted initiatives

4.3.1 Targeted and issue based consultations

Targeted and issue based consultations are undertaken with specific groups of young people or on specific issues to inform policy and service development and implementation. A current example is consultation on violence against young women.

4.3.2. Service user feedback- Family Services

The Youth Voice Coordinator leads on service user and partner feedback mechanisms for the Family Support Localities Service, feedback from which informs the development of the service.

The Coordinator also leads on the Family Services Customer Care Survey, the first of which was also carried out in December 2014. Options are currently being considered for a Family Services Customer Care month in June 2015.

5. YOUTH COUNCIL'S PROPOSALS FOR WORKING WITH CEPAC

- 5.1 Councillor Caroline Needham, Councillor Sue Macmillan and Councillor Sue Fennimore have been working with the Youth Council to explain LBHF decision making structures and to consider options for them to be involved in scrutinising and improving the services they receive.

- 5.2 The Youth Council made the following points:
- Committee meetings tend to be quite long, late in the evening, and can be quite intimidating for young people to attend and from experience of the young people attending in the past, they felt there was often little opportunity for them to be directly involved in meetings.
 - They suggested that young people be involved in other ways:
 - 1) The Youth Council to share their manifesto with CEPAC and for CEPAC to consider how they can support them.
 - 2) The Youth Council to have access to agendas and annual plans of the Committees so they can flag up where they think young people have a particular interest and make proposals and/or submit reports and evidence.
 - 3) Committees can have '*Questions for Young People*' as an agenda item, which are then passed to the Youth Council. Answers and updates on other key projects to be regularly fed back to the committees through reports and where possible other methods including film clips of young people's views.
 - 4) The Youth Council can suggest issues/areas for consideration to the Policy and Accountability Committees (PACs), based on the findings of their consultations with other young people.
- 5.3 Councillor Needham has offered to be the link between Youth Council and PACs and can attend Youth Council meetings as and when required. Councillor Needham also raised the point that in addition to the above, young people should have the opportunity to contribute to scrutinising decisions and help develop policies that are considered by the PACs and can submit questions to the Leader or Cabinet Members on particular areas of interest or concern.

6. PROPOSAL AND ISSUES

- 6.1. The Committee is asked to review and comment on the Youth Council Manifesto and their proposals for working with the Committee. The Committee is also asked to look at how it can support the Youth Council with taking forward the pledges in their manifesto.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT

No.	Description of Background Papers	Name/Ext of holder of file/copy	Department/ Location
1.	None		

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Application to consult with LBHF Youth Council

Appendix 2 – Youth Council Manifesto

Appendix 3 - Research Paper on Young Mayor Scheme