

Lead organisation: Children's Services

Lead Officer: Judith Hay, Head of Positive Contribution and Economic Well Being

Purpose: To consider possible options to encourage, support and celebrate the positive contributions young people make to communities and neighbourhoods in the Sunderland East Area.

Action 1:

Invite Young people from Youth groups and Schools Councils to attend a future Area committee to showcase positive attitudes and projects.

Action 2:

To launch and promote an annual Young Persons Award ceremony for young people in the area who make positive contributions to their neighbourhoods.

Background and link to current projects and practice:

The Youth Development Group (YDG) have recently led on a Local Councillor Shadowing Project about to be launched - 13 young people will be matched with an Elected member for 25 hours over a 6 week project.

Of the 13 Councillors who have volunteered 4 are from the Sunderland East Area.
(Cllrs P Dixon, P Wood, D Errington, M Mordey)

The YDG is leading on a proposal to develop elected area Youth Councillors to enhance youth participation link to Area Committees and Sunderland Youth Parliament. Youth councillors would be a non party political and would focus on issues that are important to young people in their communities.

At present YDG are exploring the feasibility of this proposal with young people, councillors, services and professionals with a view of reporting back of whether this is an appropriate and achievable proposal

Children's Services hold an annual City wide Young Achiever's Event held at the Stadium of Light and is very high profile and includes young people, projects and schools from the Sunderland East area.

The categories are for 11 to 14 year olds and 15 to 20 year olds, both individual and group include: Service to the Community; Music and Performing Arts; Personal Achievement; Academic Achievement; Sport; Young Carer and Volunteer.

This event also links to a Youth Arts exhibition. The award has been launched and nomination forms are currently being circulated for a special presentation Night on Thursday 11 March 2010.

The Youth Matters Team is a project that consists of Young Advocates and young volunteers who make grant making decisions for the Youth led Youth Opportunity Fund and Youth Capital Fund – many projects from the East Area have and are benefitting from this government grant that ends in 2011.

Options for consideration:

Option 1

- The Sunderland East Area Chair to invite young people on behalf of the Committee to an event that celebrates and showcases young person led initiatives and projects from the area.

This could also include:

- Young people who have been nominated from the East for a Young Achiever's award. (Not all those who are nominated get through to the final round)
- Young people from East SIB funded projects now completed
- Young people from East YOF funded projects
- School Councils in the East area, etc

At the above event a competition could be held for the winning project and or individual who have contributed the best in terms of results/ outcomes/impact on their community.

Option 2

- The Sunderland East Area Committee to allocate a small % of the SIB funding to set up an area Youth Matters Team (linked to the City Wide Team) with a grant managed by young people ring fenced to support young person led projects and ideas in the East area.
- Elected members would meet with young people to devise the criteria for the grant and themes/ direction, etc
- Young people could attend the first part of Area Committees to present their projects and report back twice a year and take part in an annual event

Option 3

- Link in to the Youth Councillor proposal and consider recommendations from the feasibility study.
- Develop joint East Youth Councillors and Elected Members 'Road Shows' in the East area using the mobile buses to hold joint surgeries. (completion date 2011)

The above options are some ideas and possibilities for the Sunderland East Area Committee to consider that may best help to achieve the actions identified in the Safe Theme.

Kath Butchert
Youth Development Group Manager

Proposal

Note the actions outlined in the Safe (Annex 1) report and determine the appropriate option(s) set out in the report.