

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION STRATEGY 2008 - 2013

1. Why has this report come to the committee?

- (i) To present the draft of Children and Young People's Participation Strategy.
- (ii) To give feedback from the consultation process on the Participation Strategy
- (iii) To receive any comments from the Area Committee on the Strategy

2. Background

The Change for Children Strategy says that by 2009 we will:

- Fully implement the Children and Young People's Democratic Engagement Strategy
- Feedback to children and young people the impact of their involvement in the review of CYPP
- Use existing events in the children's services calendar to consult with children, young people and their parents/carers
- Embed 'Hear By Rights' standards or their equivalents across all services for children and young people
- Establish a mechanism by which all services doing participation work with children and young people feed key messages into central, strategic planning forums
- Actively engage children and young people who may experience inequality or social exclusion and their families in consultation and participation activity, and ensure participation activity is made accessible for them
- Act upon what children and young people are telling us and work with them to achieve this

The strategy pulls together existing good practice in the city, particularly within the Youth Development Group and seeks to:

- Ensure all children and young people are given the opportunity, skills and support to actively participate in the decision making processes and shape the services they need
- Provide a co-ordinated approach across the Children's Trust to developing a culture and practice of participation.
- Provide a framework for developing the safe, effective and genuine participation of children and young people across the Children's Trust.

- Embed children and young people's participation into all aspects of the Children's Trust aiming for the highest level of children and young people's engagement.

3. CONSULTATION FRAMEWORK

Consultation period: April – June 08

Final Strategy sign off: July 08

Group consulted	Method	Timescales
Consultation on draft 1		
Children's Fund Children's Champion Group	Draft Strategy Consultation questions	1 st April
Sunderland Voluntary Sector Youth Forum	Draft Strategy E-Mail Consultation questions	1 st April
Children's Services Extended Leadership Team	Draft strategy E-Mail Consultation questions	1 st April
Involving Children and Young People Network	Draft Strategy E Mail Consultation questions	1 st April
Children's services Review Committee	Report Draft strategy	17 th April
Children's Trust Strategic Partnership	Report Draft Strategy	24 th April
Area committees	Presentation Draft strategy Consultation exercise	Area Committee South 2 June 08 Area Committee Coalfield 5 June 08 Area Committee North 5 June 08 Area Committee Washington 2 July 08 Area Committee East 3 July 08 Area Committee West 3 July 08
School governors	Governors agenda booklet	Summer term
Sign off of final draft		
Children's Service Leadership Team	Report Final Strategy	25 th June
Children's Trust	Report Final Strategy	8 th July
Children's services Review Committee	Report Final Strategy	July meeting

A group of children and young people will be commissioned to make the strategy accessible to all children and young people. This will then be disseminated to all children and young people in the city.

4. RECOMMENDATION

Members are asked to:

- (i) receive this first draft and offer any initial comments