

30th JANUARY 2012

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN SERVICES

COMMUNITY ACTION: REVIEWING PROGRESS AND AGREEING NEXT STEPS

MEET YOUR COUNCILLOR EVENTS

1.0 Why has it come to Committee?

- 1.1 The report provides an update of progress against agreed actions in the current year's (2011/12) Work Plan, see annex 1. The action is outlined in the Committee work plan priority 'Youth and Teenagers', issue one.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 A pilot involving six East Area Councillors and members of Sunderland Youth Parliament (SYP) was delivered throughout February and March 2011. The pilot involved both parties attending surgeries located at either local youth clubs or secondary schools within the elected members ward. Councillors and SYP members provided introductions with an explanation of their roles and responsibilities. Young people were then asked to provide their thoughts on their neighbourhoods or futures.
- 2.2 In September 2011, Area Committee received an evaluation report on the pilot. It was agreed that future events should be organised as a partnership between Councillors and Sunderland Youth Parliament members and agreed protocols on handling issues and feedback should be agreed.
- 2.3 In October 2011, a feedback session was held with children and young people who participated in the road shows.

3.0 Current Position

- 3.1 It is proposed to establish a rolling programme across each of the five wards with an 'event' happening twice a year. It is proposed to host events during June/July (after elections, providing an opportunity for any new Councillors to participate) and November/ December (before Christmas holidays), each year.
- 3.2 Committee are asked to identify which of the fifteen elected members are interested in being involved in the 'Meet your Councillor' events, which will involve attending planning meetings and events, following up issues raised and feeding back to young people. Further information is provided in **Annex 2**.

4.0 Next Steps

- 4.1 Children Services will organise planning meetings with interested Councillors and members of SYP, to discuss suitable dates, times and venues, for example, a local school or youth club, if the ward has no suitable venue, the youth bus can be accessed.

4.2 Children Services will then negotiate with the relevant school or youth group to organise the session, confirming the date and time of the event and promoting the event to young people in the ward.

5.0 Recommendations

Committee is requested to:

- i) Identify Councillors who wish to participate in the 'Meet Your Councillor Events' Programme.
- ii) Provide comments on Annex 2.

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Annex 1: Sunderland East Area Committee: Work Plan 2011-2012

Annex 2: Meet Your Councillor Event Process and Issue Log