

REPORT OF SCRUTINY AND MEMBERS' SUPPORT COORDINATOR

CONSULTATION WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE CHANGE COUNCIL

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To consider feedback from a meeting with representatives from the Change Council.

2. Background

- 2.1 At its meeting in October 2021, the Committee heard from young people from range of participation and engagement groups on the key issues facing young people in the city.
- 2.2 At that meeting, it was agreed that a working group be established in order to meet with and discuss issues with young people in a more informal setting.

3. Current Position

- 3.1 On 19 January 2022, a meeting was held with young people belonging to the Change Council. The Change Council is a group of young people who are cared for or care experienced. The meeting was held at the Sandhill Centre and hosted by Nikki Donaldson.
- 3.2 Members in attendance included Councillors Pat Smith, Josh McKeith, Margaret Crosby and Alex Samuels. The young people present were Ian, Caitlin, Chantelle, Elishia, Ellie, Olivia, Gabby and Andrew.
- 3.3 The meeting involved an open discussion between members and the Change Council representatives. The issues raised included:-
- More opportunities for apprenticeships with the Council and other employers. More information made available regarding apprenticeships and job opportunities generally;
 - Improve the general perception of young people who are living in care. Concern that they can be discriminated against when applying for jobs and that this can affect career opportunities;
 - More day trips and activities for young people living in care;
 - Improved public transport offer for young people. Bus travel can be expensive and services are reducing. For example, Go North East operate a fare of £1.20 per journey for young people but journeys often require a change of bus and therefore costs can mount. More flexibility in public transport travel passes would be of benefit;
 - The possibility of a discount scheme in shops for young people in care.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to consider and comment on the feedback from young people belonging to the Change Council.