

Report Title: Progress report on Youth Democracy

Forward Plan reference number (if applicable):

Report of: **Sharon Shoesmith, Director, The Children and Young People's Service,**

Wards(s) affected: **All**

Report for: **Non Key Decision**

**1. Purpose**

1.1 This report outlines the actions taken in response to the Members' Scrutiny Report on Youth Democracy (March 2005).

**2. Introduction by Executive Member**

2.1 I regard embedding youth democracy and enhancing services for youth in Haringey as a key priority.

2.2 This report details the significant progress made on the scrutiny report recommendations. The developments will continue to be monitored by the Members Youth Working Group. This includes backbench representation and I would like an opposition member to join the Group. One task for the Working Group is to consider how Members can support and encourage youth democracy.

**3. Recommendations**

3.1 That Members note the progress outlined within the report.

Report Authorised by:

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#### **4. Executive Summary**

- 4.1 In March 2005 a review was conducted into Youth Democracy in Haringey resulting in 13 recommendations. A report was prepared for the Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2006 highlighting key actions taken against the recommendations.
- 4.2 A report outlining the progress made to date on each of the 13 recommendations is attached as Appendix 1.

#### **5. Reasons for any change in policy or for new policy development (if applicable)**

- 5.1 In 2006/07 Haringey was allocated funding through the Youth Opportunity Fund and Youth Capital Fund (£345,598). There is a stipulation that young people must take the lead in decision making on the allocation of this funding. The Youth Council has been pivotal in leading on this new area of youth policy.

#### **6. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

Not applicable

#### **7. Recommendations**

7.1 That Members note:

- i) the progress made to date in youth democracy across the range of services provided through the Children and Young People's Service;
- ii) acknowledge the continued work of the Children and Young People's Service to ensure that young people's views influence the decision making processes in the Council, particularly about service which are provided for young people; and

7.2 That Members decide whether a further progress report is required in February/March 2007.

#### **8. Comments of the Director of Finance**

- 8.1 The conditions relating to the use of the two new grants in 2006/07 (Youth Opportunity Fund - £185,315, Youth Capital Fund - £160,283) are set out in Local Authority Circular LAC(SC06\_2) issued by the department for education and skills. These conditions include (inter alia):
- \* providing for young people to be instrumental in deciding how the funds are used;
  - \* providing a report twice a year including evidence of outcomes and expenditure information;
  - \* using a maximum of £15,000 (across the two grants combined) to facilitate, train and support young people's involvement in the distribution of the funds; and

\* the youth capital fund can be used for capital expenditure only.

8.2 It is anticipated that similar grants (amounts and associated conditions) will be available in 2007/08 and thereafter are likely to become mainstreamed.

## **9. Comments of the Head of Legal Services**

9.1 The Head of Legal Services has been consulted on the content of this report and has no specific comment to make.

## **10. Equalities Implications**

10.1 Regard has been given to equal opportunities when seeking representatives for the Youth Council and ensuring that young people from all community groups and schools, including special schools are represented at student voice events and activities. Equal opportunities has also been included as an important aspect of the training that young people have received on managing the Youth Opportunity Fund and when seeking comments from young people through student voice and activities promoting participation in schools and through the Youth Service.

**SCRUTINY UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2006**  
**Scrutiny Review on Youth Democracy March 2005**

Scrutiny Recommendation and Executive Decision	Target Implementation Date	Responsibilities (who and what)	Implemented? Yes/No*	Service or Service or Performance Improvement Measurable outcomes <i>This must be completed</i>
<p><b>Recommendation One</b></p> <p>Officer's report to an early future meeting of the Executive on implementation of the proposals set out below and the resources required, including the appointment of an Officer solely responsible for young people's democracy.</p>	<p>April 2005</p>	<p>Deputy Director for Community Services and Resources, from April 2006 Deputy Director, School Standards and Inclusion.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The report has been received and accepted by Executive.</p> <p>A Senior Manager has been appointed within the Youth Service to lead on Participation and Democracy and this postholder is supported by a Participation Worker (to be appointed 31.8.06) who will provide practical support across all agencies.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation Two</b></p> <p>The Council carries out an audit of citizenship at post 16.</p>	<p>Dec 2005</p>	<p>Head of Youth Service, Connexions Local Manager and School Improvement Officer (SIO) for PSHE</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>A Young People's conference took place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2006 targeting young people who are of school age.</p> <p>The Participation and Inclusion Manager supported this event to ensure that it was planned and facilitated by young people for young people. The conference was</p>

				<p>very successful and has led to further events by and for young people.</p> <p>A voluntary sector conference is planned for October 2006 which will focus on young people's involvement and democracy in the voluntary sector. This will enable us to capture the wider view of youth participation.</p>
<b>Recommendation Three</b>				
The Council to review the way in which the citizenship curriculum is delivered in Haringey schools to see whether this can be improved and consider the appointment of an advisor with specific responsibility for the citizenship curriculum.	Dec 2005	SIO for PSHE and Citizenship	Yes	This has been achieved (April 2006).
<b>Recommendation Four</b>				
Officers encourage schools to adopt best practice in forming School Councils, appoint pupils as associate school governors and involve them in the running of schools.	April 2005	Deputy Director for Community Services and Resources, from April 2006 Deputy Director, School Standards and Inclusion.	Yes	All Local Authority maintained schools have an operational Youth Council and Grieg City Academy will have one in place from September 2006.
	July 2006	SIO (PSHE)		A schools conference was held in July 2006 focussing on the work of the Student Voice and young people contributing examples of good practice.
	December 2005			A comprehensive audit has been conducted of 'student voice' and 'participation in schools' and the

				outcomes have been shared with all schools and relevant officers.
<b>Recommendation Five</b>				
The Council encourages community projects such as those facilitated by the Citizenship Foundation.	Ongoing	SIO (PSHE) Head of Youth Service	Yes	Community involvement projects continue to be promoted through schools and the youth service and have resulted in productive working relationships with the NDC Youth Forum and Broadwater Farm Community Association.
<b>Recommendation Six</b>				
To commission a survey to identify voluntary youth clubs in the Borough and discuss with them the advantages of being affiliated to the Council's Youth Service.	Ongoing	Head of Youth Service	Yes	The voluntary sector conference (October 2006) will identify voluntary organisations not currently affiliated and promote the benefits of affiliation.
The Youth Service will offer spaces on its training programme to youth workers within the voluntary sector.	Ongoing		Yes	A training programme will be in place from October 2006.
Resources and facilities will be shared with the voluntary Youth Sector.	Ongoing		Yes	£10,000 has been allocated to supporting voluntary sector activity in 2006. A set of protocols is to be introduced with regards to working with the voluntary sector to include sharing of resources and facilities.
Joint activity programmes will be negotiated particularly across school holiday periods.	Ongoing		Yes	The Youth Service has delivered a successful holiday scheme over the Summer 2006 in partnership with Connexions, SPURS, the Police and

<p>The new Duke of Edinburgh's Award Centre will promote the scheme within the voluntary sector, share training and offer coordination of the scheme's activities.</p>	<p>From April 2006</p>		<p>Remains on target</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Wardens. This programme will be reviewed and evaluated.</p> <p>The Duke Of Edinburgh's Award Centre was officially opened in May 2006 by the Duke of Edinburgh. Plans are in hand to promote the Award from September 2006.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation Seven</b></p>				
<p>Establish a new Haringey Youth Forum and consult young people on its structure and constitution</p> <p>The young people's conference will launch the Youth Forum and seek to provide a co-ordinating structure for consultation with Haringey's Young People.</p>	<p>June 2005</p>	<p>SIO (PSHE) Head of Youth Service</p>		<p>The Youth Council (previously known as the Youth Forum). Was launched in June 2006 and has a membership of over 60 young people from across Haringey. Whereas the Council meets formally six times a year members meet additionally in 'theme groups' on issues that are important to them.</p> <p>Members of the Youth Council have been trained over the summer period to become members of the Youth Fund Panel, which will oversee the allocation and monitoring of the Youth Opportunities Fund and the Youth Capital Fund.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation Eight</b></p>				
<p>That Haringey young people are given an opportunity to elect a member to the UK Youth Parliament.</p>	<p>Sept/ October 05</p>	<p>Head of Youth Service</p>	<p>Partially met</p>	<p>Borough wide elections will take place in January 2007 to officially elect Youth MPs. This will involve all secondary schools in the Borough.</p>

<b>Recommendation Nine</b>				
That the Council aspires to the "Hear by Right" advanced standards and commission the National Youth Agency to give appropriate training.	April 06	Head of Youth Service	Yes	The Children and Young People's Participation strategy and action plan are informed by the Hear by Right advanced standards.
<b>Recommendation Ten</b>				
That the Youth Service be resourced to provide advice and assistance on all consultation exercises involving young people which must adhere to the guidelines.	April 06	Head of Youth Service	Ongoing	Young people are regularly and routinely involved in recruitment and selection at all levels of the Youth Service (for example, young people were involved in the appointment of the Head of Youth Service). Plans are in place from September 2006 to give young people a greater say in the management and Quality Assurance of youth programmes.
<b>Recommendation Eleven</b>				
That there be regular meetings between the Consultant who advises on consultation exercises, Exposure, appropriate officers and the Council's Youth Service to discuss the way in which consultation should be undertaken.	On going	Head of Youth Service	Yes	The Participation Task Group, which informs the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership has taken on the role of co-ordinating consultations with young people.
<b>Recommendation Twelve</b>				
That the Council: a) sets up a young people's consultation panel and consider agreeing a Youth Charter with young people;		Head of Youth Service	Yes	See Recommendation 11 The Youth Council is leading on the development of the Youth Charter supported by relevant officers.

b) appoints one Executive Member as a Youth Champion and invites the proposed new Haringey Youth Forum to elect any backbench Councillor as a second Youth Champion;		Deputy Director Community Services and Resources, from April 2006 Deputy Director, School Standards and Inclusion.	Delayed	Councillors Santry and Jones (as Executive Member and Deputy Executive Member for Children and Young People) also advocate on behalf of youth issues.
c) establishes a dedicated web site and e-mail facilities to answer young people's queries;		Head of Youth Service	Yes	A web site for young people is being developed and will be launched in January 2007. A web site design for young people has taken place over the summer period and the final design will be selected on 5.9.06.
d) buys into Connexions kite marking project;		Head of Youth Service / Connexions Local Manager Head of Youth Service	Yes	Achieved.
e) participates fully in events such as Local Democracy Week;		Head of Youth Service SIO for PSHE and Citizenship	Yes	Events are being organised for Local Democracy Week in October 2006.
f) encourages community projects involving young people;		Head of Youth Service	Yes	The newly established detached team are working in communities where the Youth Service has not traditionally had a presence.
g) sets up a data base of community institutions and groups who would welcome help from young people.		Head of Youth Service / Connexions Local Manager	Yes but requires expanding	Achieved and will be updated through the young people's web site.

<b>Recommendation Thirteen</b>				
<p>That the Officers report to the February/March 2006 meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee on progress in implementing our recommendations so that consideration may be given as to whether further scrutiny is required.</p>		<p>Deputy Director Community Services and Resources, from April 2006 Deputy Director, School Standards and Inclusion.</p>		<p>Decision to be taken by Scrutiny Committee as to whether a further progress report is required in February/March 2007.</p>