



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Children and Young People (CYP) Service Update
<b>Date:</b>	21 October 2014
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
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<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	This paper provides an update on Council's children and young people (CYP) activity from both an internal service delivery and a development support perspective. It also notes developments in the complex CYP external environment.
1.2	Since the last Committee update in February the CYP unit has delivered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Youth Forum's Future cities events '#Live louder' and '#Digi dragons';</li><li>• Recruited 40 young people from 100 applicants onto the new Youth Forum 2014-16 as our city's young ambassadors;</li><li>• Over 4000 children enjoyed a range of events and activities including Play Summer schemes (301 children); Summer Support (1088 children) engaged in junk art, messy play, etc; Ardnalvalley event (878 children from 47 groups) and the central events programme (1867 children from 68 groups);</li><li>• Hosted the annual Party in the Park involving 550 young people from 56 groups.</li><li>• Organised 12 Come &amp; Play Sessions in our parks, 6 Park days and Rose week with special events at Embrace Ballysillan, Ardoyne Fleadh, Avoniel LC Health day and Women's Health Event in Darfur Community.</li><li>• During October the Lord Mayor welcomed our new Youth Forum members and launched the Intergenerational toolkit which was co-designed by the Youth Forum.</li></ul>
1.3	Some upcoming events include the EurVoice event on 16 <sup>th</sup> October 12:30-4:30pm in City Hall and the PCSP youth awards, in which the Youth Forum is sponsoring the children's rights award on at 6:30pm on 7 <sup>th</sup> November in City Hall.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	<p><b>Service development</b></p> <p>Alongside existing service delivery, the CYP unit is testing the development of an outcomes focused approach to the design of services which are relevant to both the age and need of the child or young person. An internal touchstone group of senior managers from across council has been established in order to inform and influence this approach which we are developing within the context of any agreed Corporate outcomes framework.</p> <p>Over the next 3 years, services will measure and evaluate the difference made to children and young people's lives, enabling children and young people to be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. aspiring, assertive, empowered, enterprising and active citizens, and;</li> <li>ii. believe Belfast is where they are equal, safe and prosperous and enjoy it as a place to play, study, work, live and visit: 'a place to be'.</li> </ol> <p>The CYP unit is developing a number of tools to support staff across council to embed this outcomes approach to service delivery and these include a CYP engagement plan, CYP statistics profile, service assessment guide and awareness programme. This will continue to be refined with the learning we have experienced from embedding the approach in the Play Service and Youth Forum. For example, the Youth Forum has now been recruited with an outcomes focus and over the next 2 years we will map the progress of the individual young person throughout their membership and also capture the changes they have campaigned for generally for young people in the city.</p>
2.2	<p><b>CYP Engagement</b></p> <p>It is standard practice in the unit to actively engage CYP in the development or delivery of direct CYP services. This was tested for the Future Cities events in March 2014. The Youth Forum designed and delivered engagement events that successfully appealed to their peers and secured over two hundred 13-18 year olds at the 2 events. The events celebrated the talents of young people through music and digital solutions to the priorities which they identified: mental health and the environment. The winning band from #Live louder will form part of this year's programme of activity and the winning digital apps and games will be launched when completed.</p> <p>The Youth Forum shaped an e survey which they rolled out at the events and this found that the audiences were mainly 15-18 years old and most of these young people were in school, felt happy and felt that council should make Belfast a safe, clean, fun place to hang out. The full summary is attached at Appendix 1.</p> <p>The Play Service recently supported children's voices to be heard in the development of the new stadia services at Olympia. We are continuing to work to develop engagement around Leisure transformation via the Eurvoice event.</p>
2.3	<p><b>UR City 2 Funding</b></p> <p>In August, we hosted a shared learning event for the Ur City 2 funding programme which is delivered with Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships. All NRP areas in the city had secured financial support to help deliver CYP activities in their neighbourhoods. Feedback from the partnerships included positive comments on the additional activity supported via this fund and the simplicity of the approach however they suggested some improvements to the application process e.g. when it opens, when returns are submitted and the permissible delivery period for activities. We are currently working to align the Ur City 2</p>

	<p>funding to the CYP outcomes and to operationally realign the opening of the Ur City 2 programme for the start of the next financial year. NRPs indicated they would welcome more shared learning events and we are currently exploring appropriate opportunities.</p>
2.4	<p><b>Political CYP champions (formerly known as Youth champions)</b>  In recent months Cllr Julie-Ann Corr has become the PUP political CYP champion replacing Cllr Kyle. All political parties have the opportunity to appoint a CYP champion and we are hopeful this will continue for the new council. We have plans to pilot an ezine to support the CYP champions which will summarise key events/ activities or research that may be of interest.</p>
2.5	<p><b>Safeguarding Children</b>  We continue to ensure council meets its safeguarding responsibilities through the delivery of a formal training and awareness raising programme to all relevant officers. Our Designated Child Protection Officers also support staff across council to deal with any issues in order to ensure compliant practice. A policy refresh is underway. Officers represent Council on Belfast's safeguarding panel and the Lord Mayor is supporting the launch of the Child Sexual Exploitation community campaign on 17<sup>th</sup> November in Belfast City Mission.</p>
2.6	<p><b>External environment</b>  The external environment continues to be both complex and fluid and this is best illustrated in diagram 1 (Appendix 2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. In summary, CYP is managed regionally via DHSSPS and the Children and Young People Strategic Partnership (CYPSP). Council is a member of its Belfast Outcomes Group (BOG) which is also the early intervention sub-group of the Belfast Strategic Partnership (BSP).</li> <li>ii. BOG is seen as a decision making body for locality planning groups, family support hubs and most recently the commissioning of CYP services worth up to £1.8million over 3 years. (A meeting took place in September with council staff to influence how we might shape this commissioning process). Members should note that 5 family support hubs are currently in place in Belfast.</li> <li>iii. Since March 2014, the Delivering Social Change for CYP structure has rolled out centrally and has been a regional driver for the Family Support Hubs. This includes the Early Intervention Transformation Programme (EITP) worth £30million regionally. This includes a new seventh signature programme on play and leisure (£1.6million).</li> <li>iv. Members may recall commenting on the DSC for CYP consultation earlier this year. It appears from a NI Executive committee in September, the proposed approach may revert back to being a separate Child poverty strategy (to be in draft for Oct 14) and also an over arching CYP regional framework strategy to be co-designed with the CYP sector in the next year.</li> <li>v. Over the past few months, Belfast Healthy Cities have led discussions on behalf of BSP on a child friendly Belfast. There are a number of upcoming opportunities which officers are exploring to align with this work, for example, transfer of planning, future cities ambitions, North campus development etc. and also with existing services.</li> <li>vi. The CYP unit is supporting the Family Friendly initiative as part of BSP</li> </ul>

2.8	<p>which seeks to connect neighbourhoods to the city centre via dedicated activities. This links positively to the ambition for CYP in the Lord Mayor's programme.</p> <p>vii. In September the Greater Shankill community convention launched the designation of the area as a CYP action zone securing cross-departmental support at Ministerial level in the NI Executive. This neighbourhood led approach focuses on education which is one of the key CYP outcomes.</p> <p>viii. The United Youth Programme (TBUC) has transferred from OFMDFM to DEL and has sought concept submissions in September and the successful pilot applicants will be selected in December to commence in Jan 15.</p> <p>The CYP manager can provide more information on any of these items on request.</p>
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<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	There are no budget implications to this paper.

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Implications</b>
	There are no relevant equality and good relations implications.

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	Members are requested to note the contents of the report.

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	The CYP manager will implement all agreed actions.

<b>7</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	<p>CYP(SP) Children and Young People (strategic partnership)  BOG Belfast Outcomes group  PCSP Policing and Community Safety Partnership  UNCRC United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child  NRP Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership  TBUC Together Building a United Community  DHSSPS Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety  DSC CYP Delivering Social Change for Children and Young People  OFMDFM Office of First Minister and Deputy First Minister  EITP Early Intervention Transformation Programme  DEL Department for Employment and Learning</p>

<b>8</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1: Council's Youth Forum Future cities event: Young People's opinions summary
	Appendix 2: External CYP environment diagram