

## **Appendix 1: Key workstreams – summary narrative.**

### **Core Programme**

Purpose – seeks to build the developmental competences of individual Youth Forum members through their participation in an induction programme that includes attendance at residentials, addresses the core skills associated with Committees, clarifies Council objectives and expectations, and identifies personal development needs.

3 working groups are formed to examine issues prioritised and chosen by the young people themselves and subsequent programmes of work, visits and reports scheduled. Working groups also undertake planning (under supervision) of major events for young people including Party in the Park.

Internal and external consultation exercises and participative focus groups also form part of the core programme.

### **Structured dialogue**

Purpose – promote a process of structured engagement with individual young people, groups and communities across the city on issues of importance to young people.

To date, showcase events held in Council Chamber have highlighted issues of concern to young people and provided the platform for debate with the youth champions and other elected Members. It is now felt opportune to extend that process of engagement beyond the confines of City Hall to community level via a series of “democracy roadshows” to be held in a range of appropriate venues, such as community centres and schools.

It is envisaged that the process will assist in strengthening existing relationships and networks with youth organisations and youth fora at neighbourhood level, enabling Councillors to utilise their collective political influence on a range of issues pertaining to the lives of young people.

### **Politics in Action.**

Purpose - seeks to make systematic the process of engagement and political discourse with the Youth Champions within each of the Party groups.

Youth Forum members are given a range of opportunities to see Council and Councillors at work. Previous examples have included shadowing the Lord Mayor, political “speed dating”, contributing to social media and attending Council meetings. It has been suggested that reporting mechanisms to the sponsoring Committee should also be considered.

## **Appendix 2: Summary of achievements 2010 – 2012**

A summary of activities and achievements are set out below under the three themes of democracy, participation and representation. The summary is prefaced by several examples of the work of the Youth Forum with an expanded narrative to give a fuller flavour of the processes and outcomes emanating from such interventions.

- **Democracy: external consultation.**

The Youth Forum became aware of the seriousness of the homeless situation in our city when members participated in a consultation led by the Council for Homeless NI and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation around the **Charter for Change in Housing Northern Ireland**. Following on from this the Youth Forum established a Homelessness sub-group which involved a six month programme looking at the causes and effects of Homelessness and its affect on young people in Belfast. We consulted with the NI Housing Executive, Simon Charity, Council for Homeless NI and the Welcome Organisation. The final piece of pro-active work around raising awareness and support for homelessness was the organisation of a big winter clothes drive supporting the Welcome Organisation. The Charity featured the Youth Forum in their newsletter, on their website and wrote a letter of thanks for the Youth Forum's contribution to making a difference in people's lives.

- **Democracy: internal consultation.**

The Youth Forum environment sub-group on behalf of BCC Culture & Arts Unit conducted cross community focus groups with youth groups from across Belfast regarding the **RISE** public art work. The focus groups provided honest and open feedback for the Council officers working on RISE. As a result of one focus group the Youth Forum were able to bring together a group of young people from the west of the city and a group from the south. Ordinarily these two groups would not have met as they shared a troubled interface that did not always encourage relationship building. The two groups continue to meet and are currently working on a joint project. The success of this Youth Forum work is underpinned by the continued working across the interface between two courageous groups and their youth workers.

- **Democracy: external consultation.**

**Department of Environment Road Service** has recently completed its third consultation with Youth Forum members. The most recent engagement involved meeting Alec Attwood MLA about NI wide proposals to change L and R driver restrictions. The Road service have praised the valuable, realistic and very helpful responses they continue to receive by consulting with the Youth Forum and have made us their first point of contact for all their youth engagements.

- **Democracy: Structured dialogue:**

The Youth Forum organised two **'How We See It'** thematic events in the Council Chamber, City Hall. These events highlight topical issues facing young people. The themes were young Travellers and Hate Crime. These interactive question and answer events involve a panel of Councillors meeting and engaging with young people. The Traveller event was chaired by the BBC broadcaster William Crawley and the Hate crime event was chaired by the BBC's political correspondent Mark Carruthers. Each event was attended by eighty young people and youth workers. The extremely positive feedback from these events has been exciting and encouraging resulting in a boost for the profile of the Youth Forum as they continue to find innovative ways to engage young people on behalf of the Council in local government.

- **Democracy: Politics in action.**

**Political Speed Dating** events organised by Youth Forum in City Hall as part of NILGA'S annual Local Democracy Week Campaign, continue to be met with support from the youth champions as this modern and popular form of engagement with young people has proved to be fun, effective and challenging for all the participants. The Youth Forum works hard to keep this type of engagement relevant and helpful to Council as they draw all the questions used in political speed dating from the wider youth population.

- **Top Issues for Young People**

The top issues facing young people in Belfast as discussed and agreed at the Belfast City Council Full Forum meeting on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2012.

Issue
1. Different education standards in teaching between Secondary and Grammar Schools. The members felt this gap will widen due to decreased opportunities as financial restraints tighten and limit training and job availability, making the fewer places 'out of reach' for young people with low educational attainment.
2. Youth Unemployment.
3. Alcohol and Substance use/abuse/binging by young people.
4. Discrimination from the PSNI against young people.
5. Mental Health issues and support for young people.
6. Negative stereotypes of young people held by shops in Belfast (Hoodies).
7. Hate Crime

8. Inadequate and poorly taught Sex Education in Schools.
9. Lack of things to do and places to go for young people in local communities

### **Democracy**

- Sept 2010 - Members participate in consultation with Council for Homeless and Joseph Rowntree Foundation around the **Charter for Change in Housing Northern Ireland**.
- Oct 2010 - Members participate in **Right Treatment Right Place** consultation with Belfast Trust.
- Oct 2010 Members complete and actively promote in their schools and youth groups **BCC My City My Neighbourhood** survey.
- Sept10 – Dec10 Members participate in **PEACE III, I-Citizen Citizenship** programme delivered by Scoutlink.
- Nov 2010- Youth Forum annual **'How We See It'** event in City Hall. This event highlights the issues facing young Travellers. A panel of Councillors and professionals take questions from young Travellers and William Crawley from **BBC** is Chairperson.
- Nov 2010 – **George Best Airport Runway expansion consult** with Youth Forum environment sub-group on proposed changes at the local airport
- Jan 2011– 3 Youth Forum members attend Stormont to make a speech and participate in the debate on the proposals for the formation of an **NI Youth Assembly**.
- Mar 2011 – **Arts Council NI** consult with members of Youth Forum on proposals for changes to the NI Art Strategy.
- April 2011– Youth Forum environment sub-group on behalf of **BCC Culture & Art** unit begin a series of facilitating focus groups with cross community youth groups in Belfast regarding **RISE** public art work
- April 2011 - members attend workshops regarding young people's rights hosted by **Children's Law Centre**.
- May 2011 – **COOL FM Media** consult with Youth Forum about the negative image of young people in the media.

- May 2011 – **Crimestoppers UK** consult with Youth Forum about the launch of a new website FEARLESS.ORG.
- Sept 2010 – Jan11 – **DOE NI** consult with Youth Forum about a new TV advertisement campaign and members attend DOE NI Moment Launch to show their support for the TV advertising campaign ‘don’t text and drive’.
- June 2011- Members participate in the **Belfast Strategic Partnership Conference** in Belfast Castle because of their previous work with the **Belfast Trust**.
- June 2011- Members of the forum from East Belfast meet with **District Policing Partnership Board** representatives to look at a young people friendly process of engagement.
- July 2011 – **District Policing Partnership Board** work with the Youth Forum to design a young people friendly questionnaire which is piloted to 650 young people at Party in the Park.
- June – Sept 2011 All forum meetings leave City Hall and are carried out in other youth venues in the four areas of the city, this practice continues to connect the forum to other young people and hear about the work plans in their neighbourhoods.
- July 2011- **Department of Environment Road Service** – consult with members about NI wide proposals to change L and R driver restrictions.
- Aug 2011 - **PLACE- Somewhere To Organise** consults with members on their work across the city in relation to the 2012 Olympics
- September 2011 -Youth Forum member from the Inter-Generational sub-group addresses the conference and sits on the question panel at the 2011 annual **Senior’s Convention** in City Hall.
- September 2011- Members ‘go out & about’ in the City Centre to survey young people about their understanding of how the Council works for **NILGA Local Democracy Week**.
- September 2011-**NILGA** Political Speed Dating event organised by Youth Forum in City Hall
- Oct 2011- members attend **Youth Action ‘Let’s Talk Community Safety’ event** in the Rainbow Factory Theatre. 150 young people give their views to a professional panel on anti-social behaviour.

- Nov 2011- members of the Youth Forum continue to make a wider representation through their membership of **NICCY** and **Northern Ireland Youth Forums**
- Nov 2011 – Begin work with Council members around the topic ‘Including Young People in Local Government and Public Decision Making’.
- April 2012 – Organised ‘Belfast How We See It Event’ around the theme of Hate Crime in City Hall. This event was attended by over 80 local young people who had the opportunity to raise their concerns and thoughts about Hate Crime to local Councillors.
- April 2012 - Consultation with Policy and planning team around the investment programme and creating a young people friendly version for public dissemination.

### **Participation**

- Sept 2010 - Members participate in Aware Defeat Depression ‘Mood Matters’ workshops which highlight the issue of depression amongst young people.
- Sept 2010 – Facebook litter game consultation with BCC Environmental Services.
- Oct 2010 –Jan11- Members begin six session Peer Education project with SOLVE team in Benview Community Centre, North Belfast.
- Oct 2010 – Jan11- Queen’s Sociology department engage Youth Forum members to assist in an international City Places project.
- Oct 2010 - Members host four citywide youth groups in final stage of Museum Arts Centre project Our Shared City.
- Oct 2010– Alcohol focus group meets with BCC Safer City representative to plan an awareness and risk programme around the dangers of alcohol targeted at young people.
- Nov 2010- Teambuilding and planning week-end residential at Greenhill YMCA that will plot the work of the forum for the next six months.
- Jan 2011- - All Youth Forum members complete the ‘Mind your Mate’ Suicide awareness training facilitated by Public Initiative for the Prevention of Suicide and Self Harm (PIPS) Programmes.

- Jan 2011- Youth Forum members sit on the BCC Community Safety Awards assessment area panels as part of the process to decide the winners of the Thomas Devlin and Youth Forum Awards for Community Safety 2011.
- Feb 2011 - Youth Forum Intergenerational sub – group begin a twelve month Health & Well-being project with Linking Generations NI, Beth Johnson Foundation, Belfast Health & Development Unit and Brookvale Fold in North Belfast.
- Feb 2011- July Youth Forum Homeless awareness sub-group begin a six month programme looking at the causes and effects of Homelessness and young people in Belfast. Working with Simon charity, Council for Homeless NI and Welcome Organisation.
- Feb 2011- All Youth Forum members undertake 4 week Conflict Management training with Workers Educational Association.
- Mar 2011- Four members of the Youth Forum complete OCN level 2 in Suicide Awareness & Prevention as part of Peer Education programme in Benview community Centre, North Belfast.
- July 2011- Youth Forum members volunteer at all the Children & Young People Unit summer events
- July 2011- Party in the Park event in Sir Thomas & Lady Dixon Park, 650 young people attend from all across the city. This year's theme was Community Safety.
- Sept 2011- Members participate in Volunteer Now organisation good governance training pilot
- September 2011- 2 day residential in Share centre, Enniskillen
- September 2011- members volunteer at BCC Titanic Summer Scheme Art project celebration event in City Hall
- Oct 2011 - Youth Workers from 'The Grand' Youth Forum, Gravesham Council, Kent visit with Youth Forum regarding hosting a visit in March 2011. The theme will be 'shared space and young people'.
- October 2011 - Welcome Organisation and the Youth Forum launch their clothes drive for the homeless this winter.
- Nov 2011- Youth Forum members become involved in Youth Achievement Awards, Youth Action.

- Nov 2011 – Involvement in the Titanic Project ‘A City of Quarters’ working with youth groups across the City to create art work that will be displayed around Titanic Belfast.
- Feb 2011 – Provisional plans for Youth Forum to host visiting group from ‘The Grand’ Youth Forum, Gravesham Council, Kent.
- Jan 2012 – Youth Forum working group established to plan ‘Party in the Park’ 2012 in Sir Thomas & Lady Dixon Park. This annual evening event attracts over 700 young people from youth groups across the City.
- Jan – May 2012 Members undertake an extensive training programme that includes; ASD Awareness Training (BELB) OCN Level 2 Preventing Suicides and Young People (PIPS), Committee Skills training (NIYF) and OCN Level 2 Drugs & Alcohol Awareness (FASA).
- Mar 2012 – Participation in BCC Community Safety Young Peoples Awards and sponsorship of the BCC Youth Forum Award. This award recognises the work of youth groups who have made an outstanding contribution to community safety in their neighbourhoods.

### **Representation**

- Sept 2010 – June12- Members write a column highlighting issues in the city affecting young people for the BCC City Matters publication.
- Oct 2010 - Members represented the Youth Forum at launch of NI Anti-Bullying week which incorporated the launch of Tar Isteach youth club anti-bullying booklet.
- Oct 2010 - Members represented the Youth Forum at BCC Opportunity Europe event in St. George’s market
- Nov 2010 – members represent Youth Forum at the Urban Sports conference in T13 Titanic Quarter
- Dec 2010 – May Teen Parent sub-group begins six month programme to highlight the issues facing Teen Parents in Belfast. The Youth Forum will be supported by Shankill Women’s Centre, Falls Women’s Centre, BELB School Aged Mums (SAMS) project and Youth Action, ‘Lads to Dads’ project. The sub-group members will also complete and experience the award winning ‘Baby Think It Over’ training which is the same training offered to young parents under the age of 18.

- Mar 2011 - Ocean Youth Trust consult with Youth Forum members on their proposals for training programmes to be delivered across Ireland. 2 Youth Forum members attend conference in Dublin regarding the adoption of a new strategy for the organisation.
- June 2011 – members of the environment sub-group meet with Lower Oldpark Community Association to discuss working alongside local youth groups on environmental issues (vertical allotments) around interfaces in North Belfast.
- July 2011 -Members attend the launch of Bridges Urban Sports Park.
- September 2011- Members meet with Belfast Resilience Team to look at the emergency planning measures for Belfast in case of large scale disaster.
- Nov 2011 - Homeless Awareness sub-group Organise ‘Clothes Drive’ for the Cities Homeless. The clothes drive will support the Welcome Organisation in their programme with Homeless people this winter.
- Nov 2011 – Members attend motivational workshop ‘The power OF One’ facilitated by local Youth Worker & Youth Speaker Neil Symmington.
- Nov 2011 – Project Team established to support the organisation & planning of BCC Community Safety Young Peoples Awards 2012.
- Dec 2011 – Members meet with Children’s Law Centre Youth Forum to develop a partnership programme that will raise awareness of young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The project will look at ways to raise awareness of their needs within Council and beyond.....
- Feb 2012 – Youth Forum members undertake a 3 week OCN programme on Drug & Alcohol substance abuse with FASA.
- Feb 2012 – Youth Forum Volunteers visit the Parish of Rostrevor to speak to a collection of youth clubs in the area about establishing a Youth Forum.
- March 2012 Youth Forum members undertake a 2 week ASD awareness programme facilitated by BELB training team.
- April 2012 – Four members of the Youth Forum will attend the ‘Is it Fair’ conference in City Hall. This intergenerational conference will bring together young people and seniors from across Belfast.
- May 2012 Consultation with Building Control around licensing, teenage discos and promotions.