



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Children and Young People Service Update
<b>Date:</b>	21 May 2013
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Cate Taggart, Community Development Manager, ext 3525

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	<p>The purpose of the paper is to provide an update on recent activity and changes relating to the Council's agreed priority of children and young people (CYP). The children and young people unit continues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- To deliver the Council's Play Development service which provides 1102 places annually; an established summer scheme programme with over 700 sessions and a growing play outreach service accessed by other departments and the community sector;</li><li>- In May 2012 Members agreed continued support for Youth Forum development and 36 young people participate at present and are engaged through meetings, projects and representing the council throughout the year.</li><li>- Manage the council's child protection system including all training and support internally with 565 hours recorded last year;</li><li>- Provide 1400 organised play sessions through after schools, outreach and summer play;</li><li>- Provide outreach support to the community sector through training and events including the administration of the Ur city 2 grant stream.</li><li>- Lead the strategic support to finalise a children and young people corporate outcomes framework and programme of work to integrate service development and delivery for children and young people across Council.</li></ul>
1.2	<p>A range of children and young people services continue to be delivered by other departments across Council e.g. Growing Respect, Youth Engagement project etc. In February 2013 the People Communities and Neighbourhood Board (PCN) board agreed an outline corporate CYP outcomes framework aligned to the wider regional Children and Young People Strategic Partnership led by</p>

1.3	<p>OFMDFM. This will help shape a co-ordinated programme of work integrating all Council's provision for the children and young people priority</p> <p>In late March 2013 the seconded manager position was filled and is based in the Community Services section.</p>
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<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	<p><u>Strategic development</u></p>
	<p>In the next few months a programme of work to embed the corporate CYP outcomes framework will be prepared and presented to the Chief Officers. It will confirm the current position, partners and provision for children and young people across the age spectrum and will summarise the relevant priority outcomes locally, citywide and internationally which shape the services provided in the years ahead. Other work streams will focus on research and development of new opportunities and on monitoring and evaluating the impact of service provision for children and young people.</p>
2.2	<p>Permission is sought to meet with Youth Champions to ensure the corporate framework and programme of work captures the political intent of the Council. This will be followed by a joint meeting between Youth Champions and the emerging youth forum working group to scope the shared priority outcomes for children and young people across the age spectrum.</p>
2.3	<p><u>Operational business update</u></p>
	<p>The CYP Unit is preparing for the summer season which includes a range of events to develop how children and young people play including the annual summer schemes. The Youth Forum chairperson is involved in the promotion of the Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) Youth Awards and Forum members are involved as part of the launch of the City Masterplan in May.</p>
2.4	<p><u>Changes to the children and young people service</u></p>
	<p>The main changes of late to service delivery are summarised below for consideration and approval by Members:</p>
	<p>Access NI introduced a revised process for checks on staff and volunteers to be administered under the Disclosure and Barring scheme. It does not affect the Council as an employer although has a moderate change on Community Services, mainly to the community organisations that engage with the Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The change actively reduces the number of organisations that can be 'registered bodies' and directly apply for checks to Access NI;</li> <li>- It inevitably increases the demand on Council to process applications for community organisations that are no longer eligible to be a registered body;</li> <li>- An outline analysis concluded the Council should retain registered body status to apply directly for staff and direct volunteer placement checks and to arrange a reserve fund to cover the costs of an Umbrella body to administer eligible applications from community organisations.</li> </ul>
2.5	<p>It is estimated that a limited fund up to £2000.00 would cover the cost for the eligible demand in the most cost effective way and is more suitable in managing the risks and liability from handling applications and related sensitive information.</p>

2.6	<p>It is recommended this is established with Volunteer Now, the regional infrastructure organisation, that operate as an Umbrella body open to all community organisations. They will process all future eligible applications based on the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The applicant is not eligible through any other registered or umbrella body;</li> <li>- The applying organisation is a community organisation only operating in the Belfast City Council jurisdiction;</li> <li>- The organisation is not eligible to be a registered body in its own right;</li> <li>- The organisation can demonstrate that they have no access to alternative resources to support the vetting of volunteers through Umbrella organisations or funding;</li> <li>- Applications are for Volunteer roles only;</li> </ul>
2.7	<p>Members are requested to consider and approve the recommended approach to managing the change to existing service.</p>
2.8	<p><u>Northern Ireland Play and Leisure plan (OFMDFM):</u> Officers continue to engage in this area of work aligning it to the needs of the regional Children and Young People strategic partnership through the Belfast Outcomes group as well as the Active Belfast agenda. In support of this the Play Development Officer is seeking Member approval to serve on the proposed regional play forum.</p>
2.9	<p><u>Safeguarding children guidelines for external contractors and event organisers:</u> As part of the ongoing development of the Council's Child protection system an identified need is being met with the development of a signposting service for officers. It aims to raise awareness and affirm the standards of working required when involving or providing for children or young people at events or with external contractors for consideration by the Corporate Management Team.</p>
2.10	<p>Additional information is available directly on request from the CYP unit on any of these items or the general CYP provision.</p>

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	<p>Up to £2,000 to support the Access NI community checks fund. This budget is available within 2013/14 service estimates. All other referenced activity is incorporated into the annual CYP unit budget.</p>

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Implications</b>
4.1	<p>There are no relevant equality and good relations implications attached to this report.</p>

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	<p>Members are requested to note the contents of the report and approve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Further engagement with Youth Champions to discuss the corporate outcomes framework and programme of work;</li> <li>2. Agree the recommended approach to managing the change to existing service for Access NI checks;</li> <li>3. Support participation of the Play Development Officer on the proposed regional play forum.</li> </ol>

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

<b>7</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
<p>CYP - Children and Young People  PCN - People Communities and Neighbourhood Board  PCSP - Policing and Community Safety Partnership</p>	