



Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Children and Young People Service Update
Date:	18 February 2014
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1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	This paper includes a CYP update on the main activities completed by the Council's dedicated Children and Young people (CYP) unit and specific updates for note on strategic priorities within the CYP service.
1.2	Over the Winter months the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Play service delivered an estimated 570 after schools sessions since September 2013, 57 Come and play sessions and 95 morning play clubs and 247 outreach sessions. New play projects are up and running in the Chinese Welfare Association, Sailortown, Lower Oldpark and An Munia Tober. – Development of young people activities through the Youth Forum has included a planning residential which led to the Youth Forum agreeing its priority projects of celebrating the voice of young people and campaigning for their rights within the city. The Youth Forum members participated in the annual council Eurvoice event in October, facilitated a workshop at the Social Affairs forum, supported the PCSP schools conference, hosted the IBM representatives and also completed the Intergenerational project piloted with Belfast Senior Citizen's forum. – The Mayor hosted the Keeping Children Safe celebration with the Belfast and South Eastern Trusts in the City Hall in February 14 on behalf of the council who is a key partner in the training scheme. – Play staff managed the impact of the arson at Avoniel play centre with parental, community and member support with no interruption to services.
1.3	<u>Strategic update</u> The CYP unit is embedding an outcomes approach to the development of its CYP services refining implementation for transition through local government reform (LGR) and transformation corporately towards community planning in 2017. Further communication on the CYP outcomes framework will be available in the next months.
1.4	The Council remains represented on the Children and Young People Strategic

	<p>Partnership (CYPSP) through the Belfast Outcomes group, on the Play and Leisure Forum and Belfast Safeguarding Panel. Recent developments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The formation of locality planning groups and determination to establish 7 family support hubs (Belfast Outcomes group, CYPSP); – Late last year £1.2 million was announced by OFMDFM for play and leisure for children. Officers continue to represent council’s needs in the pending implementation of these resources. – The council’s first ever safeguarding children self audit was completed in December 13 and submitted to Safeguarding Board NI.
1.5	During discussions last year with the majority of the youth champions it was agreed it was appropriate to broaden the champion role to incorporate the full remit of children and young people.
1.6	Áine Hargey came into the post of Young People Co-ordinator in December 2013: a role which supports the Youth Forum whilst also co-ordinating most of the opportunities and engagement of young people in projects, initiatives and activities supported by the Council.
1.7	Ongoing work strands are leading the current corporate consultation response to the Delivering Social Change for Children and Young People which incorporates child poverty; the pledge (10 year strategy) to CYP and the UN convention on the rights of the child. There is ad hoc officer involvement with internal TBUC working groups and externally with the United Youth programme.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The key activity areas until summer 2014 are:
2.2	<p><u>Future City & Young People</u></p> <p>At the Future City conference in 2013 a public commitment was made to garner and reflect a young person’s perspective on the shape of any future city. Since then the Youth Forum have identified the engagement path for an effective, appealing and interactive way to engage their peers in partnership across the city via schools, young people organisations and young people themselves to celebrate the voice of young people in the city; a place they choose to be. Two events are being finalised for the end of March 14 and all Members are welcome to attend and will receive notice in due course.</p>
2.3	<p><u>Recruitment of the youth forum (2014-16)</u></p> <p>The recruitment of the next Youth Forum begins shortly for appointment in June 2014. The Youth Forum members serve for a 2 year period and are recruited from each district electoral area (DEA). This practice remains sound and no revisions are suggested. It is for note however that the next term covers the period when the shadow council and new district comes into place, therefore the new DEAs will be applied as part of the Youth Forum recruitment exercise.</p>
2.4	Over the lifespan of the Youth Forum it is increasingly recognised there is prestige in this voluntary position: it naturally follows the value of the opportunity will be promoted to full effect with up to 40 places being advertised where Forum members are the city’s young ambassadors. As in previous years the recruitment will be open to young people from 13-18 years of age.
2.5	The recruitment exercise is part of the Youth Forum’s project to celebrate and

	campaign as the voice of young people and they will be actively engaged in innovative promotion and awareness raising with their peers. Youth Champions will be invited to be involved in the promotion of the recruitment period.
2.6	Two areas of growth for the Youth Forum in the next term are to create greater understanding by Forum members of the Council's democratic legitimacy in particular to ensure the rights of the child and young person and alignment to the Council's evolving governance and structures. The second area of development is for the Youth Forum to reach out to the Youth sector and use their position as ambassadors to co-ordinate the Council's city wide engagement with young people.
2.7	Traditionally when Forum members are no longer eligible to reapply they volunteer with the next forum. There is growing recognition of the value of calling upon the skills and knowledge of former members to both develop the forum and support the services of the council and city for young people. As volunteering good practice would suggest, a progression route will be clearly defined and an alumni developed to maintain contact with the rich reserve of young talent that served on the Youth Forum past and present.
2.8	Members are asked to note the direction of travel with the next recruitment exercise.
2.9	<u>Summer programme</u> A full central events programme to support summer schemes is being developed at present and will include 3 play events and the annual Party in the Park. Play staff will support the Children's festival in March 14.
2.10	<u>Ur City 2 grant aid</u> As approved in September by Members, Ur City 2 grant aid was distributed to the Neighbourhood Renewal areas and all of the 10 areas that applied out of 12 eligible areas were funded with £59,554 committed for expenditure in this financial year. Further work is being developed to bring together the successful groups and all the NR areas to consider shared learning from UR city 2 projects.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	There are no resource implications to report. The costs for the Future city events are incorporated into an existing budget to cover venue, suppliers, hospitality etc.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no relevant equality and good relations implications

5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are requested to note the contents of the report and in particular the direction of travel for the recruitment of the next Youth Forum.

6	Decision Tracking
The CYP manager will implement the agreed actions.	

7	Key to Abbreviations
CYP	Children and Young People
LGR	Local Government Reform
CYPSP	Children and Young People Strategic Partnership
TBUC	Together Building a United Community
BOG	Belfast Outcomes group
DEA	District Electoral area