



Subject:	Belfast Youth Forum special Committee meeting
Date:	26 th January 2021
Reporting Officer:	Cate Taggart, Neighbourhood Service Manager, East Belfast
Contact Officer:	Grainne O'Hare, Community Development Officer,

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide an agenda for the meeting between the Belfast Youth Forum (BYF) and P&C Committee which takes place on 26 th January 2021.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	There are no recommendations contained within this report. Members are asked to note the agenda items prior to the meeting.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Meeting Agenda</u>

3.1

Youth Forum Campaigns

BYF members are currently working on the following campaigns:

- **Relationship & sexual health education** (Any Use? Campaign);
- **Racism and diversity** project;
- **Mental Health** (Elephant in the Room campaign);
- **Poverty** (Poverty: it's not a choice campaign);

3.2

Item 1: Introductions and purpose of meeting

-To discuss the following reports and their recommendations with Elected Members and representatives from PHA and Department of Education

- Relationship & sexual health education (Any Use? Campaign);
- Mental Health (Elephant in the Room campaign) – including an overview of the 'Heads Up' Mental Health Advocacy Toolkit.

-To provide an update on the current limited BYF recruitment drive which took place from November 2020 – January 2021 to fill the 10 vacant membership places.

Item 2: 'Any Use' Relationship & Sexuality Education (RSE) campaign

BYF will discuss the report findings and recommendations with Members and invited representatives with a view to establishing how Elected Members and invited representatives can support and help BYF to use these recommendations to bring about change. BYF will also discuss the potential replication of the research in other parts on Northern Ireland and provide an overview of their informal presentation to Education Committee in Stormont on 12th January 2021.

Item 3: 'Elephant in the Room' (EITR) mental health campaign

EITR group members, made up of representatives from Belfast Youth Forum (BYF) and Northern Ireland Youth Forum (NIYF), will update Members and invited representatives on the most recent progress of this campaign to date with a view to establishing how Elected Members and invited representatives can support and help the EITR group to use the recommendations within the EITR report to bring about change.

An overview will also be provided on the creation and imminent launch of the 'Heads Up' mental health advocacy toolkit designed in partnership between BYF, NIYF and Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY). This toolkit has been designed to help and support young people to take action and campaign on local mental health issues

Item 4: BYF Recruitment

Members are asked to note that in January 2020 at the joint Youth Forum / People and Communities meeting, Members agreed to amend the BYF recruitment process to begin in September and end in October in line with the academic year. The previous timeframe was during April and May which conflicted with the exam season for BYF members.

	<p>Members are also asked to note that at the People and Communities meeting in August 2020, members agreed to extend the current cohort of members' term for 1 year. This was due to the impact of Covid-19 and the limitations the environment presented for positive active engagement with young people, schools and service providers during this time.</p> <p>In response to Member's recommendations at People and Communities Committee in August 2020, it was agreed that any current vacant places within the BYF will be filled with the intention of using targeted recruitment to address any gaps in relation to communities which are currently underrepresented in the Forum.</p> <p>Following this, a limited recruitment drive has taken place throughout December 2020 and January 2021 to fill the 10 vacant places within the Youth Forum. Applications were open to everyone, however the recruitment drive was promoted in specific areas of Belfast and with specific groups which were under represented through various means such as social media, engagement with some elected members, engagement with EA Youth Service, promotion through existing area BCC Area Support staff and engagement with existing community contacts.</p> <p>A verbal update will be provided on the updated geographical breakdown of BYF membership.</p> <p>Item 5: NCB Mental health charter for children and young people National Children's Bureau have been working on the development of a children and young person's mental health charter. Belfast City Council have been involved in this as part of a project stakeholder group and Belfast Youth Forum have been referenced within it alongside NI Youth Forum, in relation to the Elephant in the Room report. This charter is due to be launched on 4th February. Further updates on the charter will presented to the Committee after publication.</p> <p>Item 6: Any Other Business</p>
3.3	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no financial or resource implications.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no equality or good relations implications. No rural needs assessment is needed.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices</p>
4.1	<p>N/A</p>