

Joint Scrutiny review - Engagement with young people and the Youth Councils

Report by the Director for Digital and Resources

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report provides a briefing to assist the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) in undertaking its review which is looking at the Councils engagement with young people and the Youth Councils.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 As part of its Work Programme for 2016/17, JOSC has agreed to undertake an indepth review/themed meeting to examine how the Councils engage with young people, Youth Clubs/Organisations and the Youth Councils and also to review general engagement with young people across Adur and Worthing. The Committee has assessed the suitability of this item for review in accordance with the 'PAPER' assessment criteria. The Committee has a role of gathering information and asking questions on behalf of the public to find some answers to the issues of youth engagement.

3.0 Overview of Youth Service provision in Adur and Worthing and consideration by the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 3.1 The work of the Adur and Worthing Youth Councils is currently facilitated by Shirley Robinson-Viney, the Youth Council Co-Ordinator, however, the Co-Ordinator is due to step down from her role by Christmas 2016 and work is currently underway to recruit her replacement. The Youth Councils meet at Worthing Town Hall every 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. The aims of Adur and Worthing Youth Council are:-

- To operate as an apolitical body for the good of all the young people of Adur and Worthing;
- To provide the youth of Adur and Worthing with a voice and a conduit to the adult Councillors;
- To be a consultative body for the adult Council;
- To address the negative stereotypical image of young people;
- To highlight issues which apply to the young people of Adur and Worthing;

- To be inclusive and approachable to all young people;
- To take part in projects that involve those issues as felt appropriate.

3.2 The Councils do not have statutory responsibility for providing youth services. In recent years youth service provision by West Sussex County Council has changed and reduced, focusing on prevention and more targeted support. For Adur and Worthing Councils, work with young people continues to be a priority and includes a range of programmes around activities, engagement and work to divert individuals from crime and anti social behaviour. Part of the latest work the Councils are involved in includes engagement with young people around resilience factors for 16-19 year olds, which has just begun and involves a number of statutory and voluntary sector partners.

3.3 Improved engagement with young people can help empower young people by making sure that they can be at the heart of the debate in society. This review can help foster greater civic engagement with young people. Improved engagement with young people can help strengthen local democracy by engaging with the future electorate. There is also the potential for this review to scrutinise wider engagement with young people and link this with work which the Councils are undertaking.

3.4 Representatives from a number of Youth organisations including the Youth Council, local youth clubs and other local stakeholders connected with working with young people are being invited to attend this JOSC meeting to discuss the issues in a public meeting to find out their views and how youth engagement can be improved.

3.5 JOSC has the ability to review public services and make recommendations only with a view to influencing outcomes. As part of its fact finding/investigative role, JOSC does have the opportunity to put questions to those attending.

4.0 Legal

4.1 Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 empowers the Council to do anything an individual can do apart from that which is specifically prohibited by pre-existing legislation.

4.2 In accordance with the Council's Constitutions JOSC has the ability to review issues which affect Adur and Worthing residents and the services that they receive and where appropriate can make recommendations for improving those services.

5.0 Financial implications

5.1 There are no known financial implications for the Councils arising from this report although there may be financial implications from any recommendations which the Committee proposes.

6.0 Recommendation

6.1 That the Committee considers the questions raised and the facts presented during the meeting and agrees a priority list of suggestions for improving

Youth engagement by the Councils and in general, working with other stakeholders.

**Local Government Act 1972
Background Papers:**

None

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Schedule of Other Matters

1.0 Council Priority

1.1 Matter considered and issues related to Council Priorities identified.

2.0 Specific Action Plans

2.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

3.0 Sustainability Issues

3.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

4.0 Equality Issues

4.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

5.0 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

5.1 Matter considered and no direct issues identified.

6.0 Human Rights Issues

6.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

7.0 Reputation

7.1 Matter considered and no issues identified for the Councils.

8.0 Consultations

8.1 Matter considered and no direct consultations have been undertaken as part of this report, however, the Committee will have the opportunity to consult with local Youth Clubs/Organisations and the Youth Councils as part of the Committee meeting.

9.0 Risk Assessment

9.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

10.0 Health & Safety Issues

10.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

11.0 Procurement Strategy

11.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

12.0 Partnership Working

12.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.