



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)

Date: 6 December 2007

Subject: Young People's Scrutiny Forum

Electoral Wards Affected:

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This report updates Members on progress with young people's participation in the scrutiny process.

2.0 Young People's Scrutiny Forum

2.1 At the beginning of the municipal year, Members agreed to invite Leeds Youth Council to nominate a topic for scrutiny by the Young People's Scrutiny Forum. This will be the third year that young people have carried out a scrutiny inquiry.

2.2 It was agreed to wait until the Youth Council elections had taken place before a topic was chosen. Elections took place in October and the Youth Council will be meeting on Saturday 15th December, when they will consider a topic for scrutiny. A member of the Scrutiny Board is invited to attend this meeting to discuss potential scrutiny topics with the young people.

2.3 Once a topic has been chosen, volunteers to sit on the Young People's Scrutiny Forum will be sought from both the Youth Council and through ROAR (Reach Out and Reconnect). This is a similar process to last year, and gives a wider spread of young people the opportunity to become directly involved.

2.4 The Young People's Scrutiny Forum will draft terms of reference for the chosen inquiry, with support from youth work staff and the Scrutiny Support Unit. The terms of reference will be brought to the Scrutiny Board for endorsement, as commissioner of the inquiry. The final inquiry report will then be presented to the Board once completed. This is likely to be in the new municipal year.

3.0 Catching the Bus

- 3.1 Members will recall that, following the publication of last year's report by young people – Catching the Bus – the Board agreed to set up a joint working group of young people, Scrutiny Board members and officers from the Council and Metro to monitor and progress the recommendations of the inquiry.
- 3.2 As with the new inquiry, it was decided to await the outcome of the Youth Council elections before setting up the first meeting of the working group.
- 3.3 The young people who want to be a part of this working group have now met to discuss the original report and the formal response that was presented to the Scrutiny Board in July. The first meeting of the joint working group will take place early in the new year.

4.0 Other involvement in scrutiny

- 4.1 Whilst the Young People's Scrutiny Forum is the main established vehicle for young people's participation in scrutiny, there are other opportunities for young people to be involved.
- 4.2 Where possible, this Scrutiny Board seeks to incorporate opportunities to hear the views of young people as part of its main inquiry work, especially through any visits which form part of major inquiries.
- 4.3 At the November meeting of the Scrutiny Board (Health and Adult Social Care) the Board agreed to invite young people to take part in their forthcoming work on teenage conception. Other Boards have consulted directly with young people as part of their work, for example in relation to previous inquiries on Anti-Social Behaviour and Preventing Alcohol Misuse, and will continue to do so as appropriate.

5.0 Recommendation

- 5.1 The board is requested to note progress with young people's participation in the scrutiny process.