

Report of Director of Adult Social Services

Report to Executive Board

Date: 7th September 2011

Subject: Deputation to Council

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. A deputation to full Council was made by Tenfold (the Leeds Voluntary Sector Learning Disabilities Forum) and Mencap on 13th July 2011 to both inform and thank full Council for their support in the 'Council Takeover Day'. In January 2011 Mencap and Tenfold, together with Adult Social Care, held an event for people with learning disabilities in the Council Chamber to support people to understand more about local democracy.

Recommendations

Executive Board is recommended to:

- (a) note the positive impact this day had for people with learning disabilities in Leeds.
- (b) agree to support a similar event to be held in the autumn of 2011 and thereafter on an annual basis

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide information in relation to the 'Council takeover Day' held last autumn in response to the deputation received by the Council at the 13th July 2011 meeting.

2 Background information

- 2.1 On the 14th January 2011 a Council takeover event was held for people with learning disabilities to get the chance to find out more about local democracy. The day was organised to run in a similar way to a full council meeting and Councillors talked about what their roles involved. 100 people attended the day, 44 of whom had a learning disability. The meeting was co-chaired by Susan Hanley and Derek Thomas who co-chair the Leeds Learning Disability Partnership Board.
- 2.2 The day was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended. This spurred on 12 people with a learning disability to visit the Houses of Parliament during Learning Disability Awareness Week, where they were met by the 6 Leeds MPs. The MPs were asked if they would participate in an event in Leeds in the Autumn and said they would do so.
- 2.3 The takeover event was organised, in partnership with Leeds City Council, by Tenfold and Mencap. Tenfold is a member organisation for organisations that work with people with learning disabilities, in some way, in Leeds. Mencap is the biggest learning disabilities charity working nationally.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 A deputation was received on 13th July 2011 to thank the Council for its support and the financial contribution of a number of members and to update on events following the day. The deputation also asked for agreement to hold a similar event in the Autumn.
- 3.2 Last year's takeover event was funded by contributions by members MICE money. The request from the deputation was to run a similar event in the Civic Hall in a 'Question Time' format and invite members and MPs along.
- 3.3 Events like these are important because it is thought that less than 36% of people with a learning disability vote in general elections. Part of the vision of the Leeds Learning Disability Strategy states that people with learning disabilities should be supported to live, learn and participate as equal members of the community. Work like this contributes to this vision.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 There is a strong tradition in Leeds of good consultation and engagement with people with a Learning Disability and this event demonstrates the strength of the relationship.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 The event included people in the democratic life of the city who have had a history of exclusion in the past and furthered the equality and integration aspirations of people with a learning disability and the wider community.

4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

4.3.1 The event contributes to the outcome in the Strategic Plan to “improve quality of life through maximising the potential of vulnerable people by promoting independence, dignity and respect”.

4.4 Resources and Value for Money

4.4.1 The event received national recognition and good publicity for Leeds. It provided a positive experience for people with learning disabilities, and it is therefore felt it will be of value to provide further events of this nature on an annual basis. The cost will be approximately £750 and will be sourced from within the Learning Disability Service.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 As a report to the Executive Board this report is subject to call in.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 None

5 Conclusions

5.1 The continued engagement of people with a learning disability in the decision making and democratic life of Leeds is welcomed and encouraged.

6 Recommendations

6.1 Executive Board is recommended to:

- (a) note the positive impact this day had for people with learning disabilities in Leeds.
- (b) agree to support a similar event to be held in the autumn of 2011 and thereafter on an annual basis.

7 Background documents

7.1 Leeds Strategic Plan 2008 to 2011