

Youth Services Advisory Committee – Replacement by Edinburgh Youth Issues Forum

The City of Edinburgh Council

24 June 2010

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report proposes that the Council replaces the Youth Services Advisory Committee with an Edinburgh Youth Issues Forum.

2 Main Report

- 2.1 The Council originally established the Youth Services Advisory Committee (YSAC) in May 2002, as an advisory committee in terms of Standing Order 37(3), with a remit to conduct a review of the administration of services provided across the board to children and young people and to report on a 10 year strategy to improve youth services in the city. Following the report, the Council subsequently agreed, in 2004, to continue the Advisory Committee to assist the Council in the delivery of the Youth Services Strategy.
- 2.2 Over the past year, the Advisory Committee has been reviewing its role in light of the views expressed by young people's representatives that the current procedures were complex and bureaucratic and did not allow sufficient scope for young people to influence policy. A consultation paper was issued on the subject and the responses received were considered at meetings of the Advisory Committee in March and April of this year.
- 2.3 The Advisory Committee is of the view that YSAC should be replaced with a new 'Youth Issues Forum' intended to give more opportunity for the young people to set the agenda and look at matters of topical interest to young people in the city. At the same time it wishes to retain the links with the formal structures of the Council and the partner agencies, to influence service priorities.
- 2.4 If approved, it is the intention that there will be three formal meetings of the new Forum in a year. In addition there would be three other planned young people's events to encourage a much wider audience of young people, and drawing from the Local Youth Forums, the Scottish Youth Parliament, Edinburgh Young Scot, student councils and other young people's participation groups. The young people's events would be 'themed', with speakers or partner authorities invited as appropriate. Outcomes from the events would be considered at the next Forum.

- 2.5 The Forum should have the same status as an advisory committee and retain the ability to report to the Council, through its formal meetings. The Forum's young people's events however would considerably widen the scope for young people to attend and comment on Council policy or service delivery. As with the current arrangements for YSAC, officer support and funding would be provided through Youngedinburgh, Children and Families Department.
- 2.6 A working group of officers and representatives of the young people has been working to consider the detail arrangements to be put in place and including agenda planning procedures for the Forum. It is the intention that the first of the young people's events will be held in July 2010. It is also suggested that the arrangements be reviewed after 18 months of operation.
- 2.7 A proposed remit and membership for the formal Edinburgh Youth Issues Forum is attached (Appendix 1). If approved, the Council is also asked to appoint 6 members (3 Administration and 3 Opposition) and to nominate a Convener.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Council –
- (i) approves the replacement of the Youth Services Advisory Committee with an Edinburgh Youth Issues Forum, constituted as an advisory committee, on the basis of the remit contained in Appendix 1;
 - (ii) appoints 6 members to the Forum, and also appoints a member as a Convener, to serve on the Edinburgh Youth Issues Forum, and
 - (iii) agrees that the working of the Edinburgh Youth Issues Forum be reviewed in 18 months time.



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Appendices	Appendix 1: Proposed remit for Edinburgh Youth Issues Forum
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Wards affected

All

Single Outcome Agreement

Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens

Background Papers

'Final Report on consultation on involving young people in decision-making in Edinburgh' by Director of Children and Families. Youth Services Advisory Committee 23 March 2010

**EDINBURGH YOUTH ISSUES FORUM -
Remit, Membership and Procedures**

- 1 The Edinburgh Youth Issues Forum is to be established by the Council as an advisory committee in terms of Standing Order 37(3).
- 2 The remit of the Edinburgh Youth Issues Forum is to –
 - a. Consider any issues and concerns of young people which are related to city-wide policy development and service delivery, as identified by the agenda planning group.
 - b. Improve services for young people aged 11-21.
 - c. Contribute to the development of the Children and Families Service Plan and the Children and Young People's Integrated Service Plan.
 - d. Consider other areas of policy development or Council papers which may have an impact on young people and the services they use, as identified by the agenda planning group.
 - e. Use creative and innovative methods of community engagement and consultation to get beyond traditional meetings and formal structures.
 - f. Use digital media and emerging technologies to maintain strong two-way communication with young people in Edinburgh.
 - g. Ensure that there is a diverse range of young people participating in the work of the Forum.
 - h. Ensure that a continuum of representation, communication and support exists at all levels-- from local youth forums and student councils up to the Scottish Youth Parliament.
 - i. Ensure that decision makers in Edinburgh are accountable to young people and that issues raised by young people go to the appropriate forums for decisions, are considered, and are responded to.
 - j. Monitor the outcomes of the Forum and effectively communicate achievements to young people.
- 3 The Edinburgh Youth Issues Forum will meet in formal session on at least 3 occasions each year. These meetings will be considered as meetings held in public and otherwise will operate as committee meetings of the Council under the Standing Orders of the City of Edinburgh Council. A quorum for a meeting will be one third of the membership and always provided that at least two of the membership groups are represented.

In addition, the Edinburgh Youth Issues Forum will arrange young people's events on at least 3 occasions in the year in order to consider themed issues. The agenda and issues to be considered will be led by young people. The Forum may invite such bodies or persons to attend as they consider appropriate. The attendance at such meetings will not be restricted and no quorum will apply. The outcome of such meetings will otherwise be recorded by officers and any conclusions reported to formal meetings of the Forum or otherwise reported to the Council or other partners as appropriate.

- 4 The membership structure of the Forum will be as follows:-

The City of Edinburgh Council – 6 elected members.
Lothian Health Service – 1 representative
Lothian and Borders Police – 1 representative
Edinburgh Leisure – 1 representative
Consortium for Youth Work in Edinburgh – 1 representative
Young Scot – 1 representative
Edinburgh Voluntary Network of Organisations for Children, Young People,
and Families (The Network) – 1 representative
10 young people's places – these places will be taken up by young people
from the agenda planning group or by young people nominated at a young
people's event. (Further representatives of young people may attend
meetings in a non-voting capacity.)

(Substitute members may be appointed by the members of the Forum.)

(The Forum may invite additional representatives of other bodies to
participate for specific issues or meetings.)

- 5 The Convener of the Forum will be appointed by the Council. The young person Convener will be appointed by the members of the Forum.
- 6 The Edinburgh Youth Issues Forum will aim for consensus but where this is not possible then the matter will be determined by a simple majority of the members who are present. The Forum is an advisory committee and any decisions taken in the Forum must take the form of advice only to either service managers of the Council or to members of the Council. Where required, a service manager will report a recommendation to the appropriate service committee or to the full Council for final determination.
- 7 Officer support for the Edinburgh Youth Issues Forum will be provided through the Director, Children and Families. Secretarial support for formal meetings of the Forum will be provided by the Head of Legal and Administrative Services.