

Council – 30 October 2019

Report Title

Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge Scrutiny Review: Young Carers

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

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Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report outlines the findings and recommendations following a spotlight review undertaken by Rotherham Youth Cabinet, together with Rotherham Young Carers Council, regarding improving access to leisure opportunities for young carers in Rotherham.

The report is presented for information to share the review findings with the wider membership of the Council. Following this meeting, the Cabinet will be required to respond formally to the recommendations and indicate agreement or otherwise and what action will be taken to implement the recommendations, together with details of timescales and accountabilities. External partners will also be involved in developing the response.

Recommendations

1. That the report and recommendations in respect of the review of Young Carers be noted.
2. That the response of Cabinet be reported back to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and Rotherham Youth Cabinet.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Report - Children's Commissioner Takeover Challenge Scrutiny Review: Young Carers

Background Papers

Notes from Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge – 2 April 2019

Rotherham Youth Cabinet Manifesto 2019

Others referred to in Appendix 1

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 11 September 2019

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Children's Commissioner Takeover Challenge Scrutiny Review: Young Carers

1. Background

- 1.1 The Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge (CCTOC) is a national initiative where children and young people take over an organisation or meeting and assume management/leadership roles. As part of RMBC's commitment to the CCTOC, each year the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) supports Rotherham Youth Cabinet (RYC) in undertaking a focused piece of work on a topic chosen by the young people.
- 1.2 RYC chose young carers as the theme for this year's takeover challenge, as it is one of the key priorities in their manifesto for 2019, and worked closely with Rotherham Young Carers Council on this review.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 Many young people provide a significant number of hours of care each week, which may impinge on both their school and social lives. Given the value of respite from caring for all carers, it is vital that young people are able to have access to leisure activities and to have fun.
- 2.2 Financial considerations need to be taken into account as many families with young carers are on low incomes. As such, access to discounted or free activities is important, either through developing a new offer or building on what is already in place. Concessionary travel to go to activities is another aspect to consider.
- 2.3 Cabinet Members, officers and partners were keen to develop an improved offer for young carers and committed to take back a number of points for discussion, as shown in section 5 of the review report.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 In light of their findings, RYC developed the recommendations contained in pages 8 and 9 of the review report. In summary these focus on:
 - an improved offer of discounted access to leisure activities for young carers
 - clear eligibility criteria
 - support to travel to activities
 - good promotion and publicity
 - identification of young carers and support

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 Recommendation 1 is that RMBC and partners engage with young carers during 2019 to develop a priority list of activities.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 It is anticipated that the formal response to the recommendations will be reported back in January 2020.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 None arising directly from this report, although RMBC and partners will take account of any such implications in developing their response, particularly in relation to discounts and concessions..

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 None arising directly from this report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 None arising directly from this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 The intention of the review was to impact positively on young people who are carers, through enhancing opportunities for access to leisure activities.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 The recommendations aim to address some of the issues young carers may experience in accessing leisure activities compared with other young people who do not have caring responsibilities.

11. Implications for Partners

- 11.1 A collective approach from the Council and other partners will be necessary to enhance what is available for young carers to access and to determine eligibility criteria.

12. Risks and Mitigation

- 12.1 None at this stage.

13. Accountable Officer

James McLaughlin, Head of Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Officer

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