

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**YOUTH COUNCIL AND YOUNG VOICE 2021/22**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide the Cabinet with an update and overview of Young Voice and North Lincolnshire Youth Council (NLYC) roles, activities, participation and engagement over the last year and further planned progress into next year.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The NLYC is a constituted group of young people who come together to be the vehicle for Young Voice in North Lincolnshire. The NLYC aims to:
- communicate and promote the views of young people
  - raise the profile of young people in a positive way
  - encourage young people to be good citizens, so they act with understanding and communicate between themselves and their communities
  - highlight issues affecting young people
  - shape and influence priority setting, service planning and delivery and ensure the views of young people are taken into account by North Lincolnshire Council and its partners.
- 2.2 Since the inception of the NLYC in 2011, it has evolved its membership and young voice influence on strategic priorities, service delivery, commissioning and the voice of young people is firmly at the centre of improving outcomes for young people in North Lincolnshire.
- 2.3 The Council is committed to engaging with children, young people and their families at an individual, service and strategic level. The Council continues to invest in and support the NLYC to ensure that the views

and experiences of children and young people are integral to priority setting, strategy, service delivery and commissioning.

- 2.4 At the NLYC Annual General Meeting in September 2021, there was an opportunity for young people to showcase their work to supporters, elected members and council senior officers as well as other partners across the Children and Young People's Partnership.
- 2.5 Over the past year, the NLYC has adapted to the restrictions brought about by Covid 19, maintained membership and meetings, debated on and influenced a number of initiatives and issues, for example:
- Emotional health and wellbeing including the CYPP Transformation Plan, Life Central 'app' and website review.
  - Consultation with Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner regarding crime reporting processes and development of young people's panel.
  - Revision of Education Transitions Leaflet.
  - SENDIASS film and resources development.
  - Consultation as part of the Integrated Transport Strategy.
  - Review of Virtual Learning during Covid Restrictions and co - designing best practice guide.
  - Young people's use of local green spaces and parks.
  - Environmental and Climate Crisis awareness and change.
  - Promoting the value of young voice to parish/town councils.
  - Young people represented at civic occasions, Remembrance and Holocaust Memorial Services.
- 2.7 Notable NLYC achievements and wider young voice headlines are:
- **Young Mayor's Environment Award** - A project that encouraged children and young people to participate in making North Lincolnshire a cleaner and greener place to be. Young people were nominated to be recognised for their efforts in litter picking, wildlife friendly planting and recycling.
  - **Tough Mudder Challenge**- A team worked together to complete the challenge and raise significant funds for the local Forge Project.
  - **Un-Filtered** - six youth councillors were given the opportunity and platform to voice their views on issues that mattered to them on BBC Radio Humberside.
  - **Regional Youth Climate Assembly (RYCA)** - As part of our wider young voice offer NLYC has supported young people from across the Yorkshire and Humber region in an active group to bring together and strengthen youth voice around climate change and make sure young people are integrated at every level of climate decision making. Six young people from RYCA are attending COP26 Glasgow to facilitate a workshop on their

experience of creating their film 'The Ripple Effect' in partnership with peers from South Africa and Northern Ireland.

- **Positive Steps** - Emotional Health and Wellbeing Group have continued to work with CCG commissioners to improve mental health services available to young people. They have promoted the Kooth online service to young people and discussed ways to build resilience. Positive Steps members were the consultation group for MIND Scunthorpe in the design and successful bid application of a new local drop-in service. The service will offer 14 to 18-year-olds the opportunity to seek low level mental health support without the need for referral. MIND is currently recruiting project support officers and is due to open in the near future.
- NLYC maintained virtual meetings throughout the pandemic and restrictions. Regular communication and welfare checks with members was made by supporting officers and when restriction guidelines allowed outdoor covid safe activities e.g. litter picks and walk and talks were arranged.
- NLYC offered members the opportunity to develop life skills and provided training for 12 young people to participate in an accredited First Aid Course.
- Representation – NLYC is a member of the Children and Young People's Partnership to challenge and support local decision makers, ensuring they are aware of, responsive and informed by issues that affect young people in the area.

## 2.8 Young Voice Plan 2021/22 for

- **Youth Elections** - The elections are due to take place Feb 2022 and expressions of interest from prospective **Member of Youth Parliament** and **Young Mayor** candidates has been opened. Young people will be supported safely through the process and schools/colleges invited to take part in the election. Participation in elections offers young people the opportunity to take part in a democratic process and understand the importance of voting.
- Democratic Services Officers and NLYC to continue **recruitment of new members** via schools/colleges/media and to encourage participation of young people from a wider demographic, in particular more rural wards.
- **Make Your Mark**- British Youth Council have made the decision to hold the annual national youth ballot 'Make Your Mark' at the same time as youth elections.
- The Member of Parliament for Scunthorpe has extended an invitation for NLYC members to **visit Westminster** for an educational tour of House of Commons and Parliament.
- **Little Libraries Project** being led by Young Mayor and NLYC with a local college helping with the design and construction. The project will make books available to children and young people through community settings and hope to encourage reading and literacy.

- **Environmental Voice**-Formation of local young people's working group to promote, encourage and bring about change on environmental issues. This group will feed into the wider Regional Youth Climate Assembly.

### 3. **OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 That Cabinet notes the engagement with children and young voice at an individual, service and strategic level and acknowledges the impact and outcomes achieved.
- 3.2 That Cabinet continues to support the North Lincolnshire Youth Council, young voice and associated development of youth engagement, participation and democracy.

### 4. **ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

- 4.1 Although this report is for information it highlights and supports the priorities and ambitions of the Council Plan and its ongoing commitment to engaging with and involving young people in influencing and shaping local, regional and national policy, service delivery and associated activities affecting young people, improving life-long opportunities and their futures.

### 5. **FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)**

- 5.1 Activities of the Youth Council are supported through the Legal and Democracy Service and its budget.
- 5.2 There are no direct resource implications associated with this report.

### 6. **OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)**

- 6.1 There are no other relevant implications associated with this report

### 7. **OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

- 7.1 Not applicable. The focus of this report is about engagement activity and serves to highlight the impact and outcomes achieved by engaging with children, young people and families at an individual, service and strategic level.

## **8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

8.1 The Youth Council and young voice continue to consult actively with local schools, colleges, education partners and representative groups to raise awareness of its role, functions, inclusive offer of representation and to encourage participation and engagement with all young people across North Lincolnshire.

8.2 There are no known conflicts of interest.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 Cabinet is requested to receive and note this report, and

9.2 Cabinet is requested to continue supporting the role, activities, participation and engagement of local young people in the NLYC and Young Voice.

**DIRECTOR: GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS**

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**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report – Nil**