

Report of the Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning

Council – 23 November 2017

Children & Young People's Rights Scheme Annual Progress Report 2017

Purpose:	To present the report on the progress of the implementation of the Children & Young People's Rights scheme in Swansea.
Policy Framework:	The Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011 Children & Families Measure (Wales) Measure 2010 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) (UNCRC)
Consultation:	Legal, Finance and Access to Services, Corporate Management Team
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) Council notes the Annual Progress Report on the Children and Young People's Rights Scheme.
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 In September 2013 Council agreed to create a due regard duty and embed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) 1989 within the Authority's Policy Framework, and to mainstream positive approaches to the rights of children and young people within the policy and functions of the City and County of Swansea. The Children & Young People's Rights Scheme implements this decision and was formally adopted on the 21st October 2014

- 1.2 The Children and Young People's Rights Scheme sets out the arrangements the City and County of Swansea will put in place to ensure compliance with its duty to have due regard to the UNCRC. It provides transparency about the processes that will be followed to comply with the duty, and outlines monitoring procedures and expected outcomes.
- 1.3 As outlined in the Children & Young People's Rights Scheme a report will be compiled annually to assess the work undertaken and the way the scheme is being implemented across the Council and its impact on children and young people.

2. Main Body of Report

- 2.1 The full report on the annual progress of the implementation of the Children & Young People's Rights Scheme in Swansea can be found under Appendix 1 and a summary of the report under Appendix 2.
- 2.2 The report covers;
 - An overview of how the Children & Young People's Rights Scheme was developed and is being implemented
 - Details of how we have promoted knowledge and understanding of the UNCRC through training and awareness raising sessions
 - How we have taken a whole Council approach to embedding Child Rights
 - The participation of Children & Young People in decisions that affect them (Article 12)
 - Accountability and compliance
 - Next steps looking ahead

3. General Issues

None

4. Equality and Engagement Implications

- 4.1 The Children & Young People's Rights Scheme highlights the intrinsic links between the protected characteristics outlined in the Equality Act and the rights of children and young people.
- 4.2 The due regard duty placed upon the Local Authority seeks to ensure that when decisions are made that affect children and young people, children's rights must be considered. The inclusion of the UNCRC within the EIA process is contained within the report (Appendix 1).

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 Whilst there are no immediate financial implications arising from this report, it should be assumed that any resultant future spending needs will need be contained within existing budget provision and have full and due regard to the budget principles set out in 'Sustainable

Swansea – Fit for the Future’, the medium term financial plan and the likely levels of future budgets

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 There are lots of legal issues underpinning UNCRC and children’s rights but the report itself doesn’t create a legal issue.

Background Papers:

Children & Young People’s Rights Scheme

<http://www.swansea.gov.uk/childrensrightsscheme>

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Children & Young People’s Rights Scheme Annual Progress Report 2017

Appendix 2 – Summary of Children & Young People’s Rights Scheme Annual Progress Report 2017