



Report of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services–Young People

Council – 20 December 2018

Children & Young People's Rights Scheme Annual Progress Report 2018

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) The Annual Progress Report on the Children and Young People's Rights Scheme be endorsed
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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.
- 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 Council is subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty (Wales) and must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
 - Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Our Equality Impact Assessment process ensures that we have paid due regard to the above.

- 4.2 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.

When thinking about children's rights, there are equality implications in regard to age, and sometimes in relation to the other protected characteristics.

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 and acted upon if it is deemed that decisions being made have adverse effects on children and their equality rights. The inclusion of the UNCRC within the EIA process is contained within the report (Appendix 1).

There are no equality implications for the Children and Young People's Rights Scheme Annual Report (Appendix 1).

- 4.3 No EIA screening report is required for the development of Appendix 1.
- 4.4 No Full EIA report is required for the development of Appendix 1. A full EIA for Swansea's Children and Young People's rights scheme was produced at the time of its development.
- 4.5 The UNCRC embraces children's right to be able to express themselves, and receive information in a language of their choice, including Welsh. The report outlines opportunities for participation where children and young people have been able to engage through the medium of Welsh.

Once Appendix 1 is approved and signed off, it will be published and promoted to children, young people, their families and other relevant stakeholders. Copies will be available in English and Welsh, as well as other languages if required.

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 2018