

Voice, Influence and Participation – November 2017

The Voice Influence and Participation (VIP) team capture the voice of children and young people to influence change and to improve services. They seek to involve children and young people at all stages of planning, delivery and evaluation.

- The Voice, Influence and Participation team (VIP) directly facilitate opportunities for looked after children and care leavers (Young People's Council), and young adults with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (Flying High) to meet to allow them to share their views and thoughts on services.
- The VIP team also work indirectly with a number of other groups within North Yorkshire to seek their views on issues affecting them, ensuring these are collated and shared with the appropriate services and managers. Examples of those other groups we currently work with are:
 - Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust - Young Peoples Panel
 - Harrogate Youth Council
 - LGBT+
 - Military Kids Club
 - Police and Crime Commissioner - Young Peoples Panel
 - Young Advisors
 - Young Carers
 - School Councils

The VIP team are also developing both area and county wide meetings for young people which will take place throughout the year, these meetings allow young people to work together to address local issues and issues specific to them, at the same time involving local managers and decision makers. Groups have already been established in Harrogate, Northallerton, Selby and Scarborough; further groups will be in place in Malton, Richmond and Skipton from January 2018.

North Yorkshire Youth Executive – In 2016, the Children's Trust Board recognised the need for the creation of a North Yorkshire Youth Executive. The first meeting of the group took place in February 2017, since then the Young People involved have met to agree a set of priorities and in October 2017 they held a further meeting with senior managers and decision makers to present an update on their work to date. The North Yorkshire Youth Executive is made up of representatives of young people from those groups mentioned in this note and they will continue to meet over the coming year.

During the meeting In October 2017 – young people raised the following questions:

- How can we ensure senior managers and decision makers in North Yorkshire actively involve young people?
- How do we ensure senior managers and decision makers provide feedback on actions they have undertaken and that we monitor progress?

Involving the Children's Trust Board

As shown at the last meeting the North Yorkshire Youth Executive are seeking greater engagement from senior managers and decision makers to ensure the voice and views of young people in North Yorkshire are heard.

With this in mind we would ask the Children's Trust Board to consider the following questions:

1. How does the board currently engage with young people in North Yorkshire, and what does that engagement look like?
2. Does there need to be more meaningful engagement with young people and what should this look like?
3. Is there a strategy in place to actively engage with young people in North Yorkshire, if not should there be?
4. Should young people in North Yorkshire be invited to be part of the board?

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