



Glasgow City Council

Education, Skills and Early Years City Policy Committee

Report by Executive Director of Education Services

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Glasgow Schools Young People's Forum

Purpose of Report:
The purpose of the report is to outline the structure of the Glasgow Schools Young People's Forum and its role in the delivery of Education Services in Glasgow.

Recommendations:
It is recommended that the Committee consider the content of this paper.

Ward No(s): Citywide: ✓
Local member(s) advised: Yes No consulted: Yes No

1. Background

1.1 All current legislation, curriculum and improvement documentation states that learners should be actively engaged in decision making.

1.2 The United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) sets out the rights of every child, irrespective of where they live, their faith or make-up of their society. This includes rights relating to health and education, fair and equal treatment and the right to be heard. After the publication of a consultation and review, a Bill to incorporate UNCRC into law, is planned by the Scottish Government this year.

1.3 Article 12 of the UNCRC states:

“Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.”

1.4 Children’s rights are at the heart of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE). They supports the development of those skills, capabilities and attributes which underpin the four capacities (successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens, effective contributors).

1.5. Scotland’s self-evaluation frameworks also embed these rights, eg in How Good Is Our School 4, 2015, Education Scotland, the introduction states:

“A passionate commitment to ensuring children’s rights, learning for sustainability and equality are important prerequisites for all who deliver Scottish education.”

1.6. The How Good is Our School, 2018, Education Scotland highlights the need for the engagement of young people to be active and meaningful and supports learners in self-evaluation and school improvement in ways that are meaningful:

“Effective learner participation requires a culture which supports the view that children and young people have a right to express their well-informed opinions what is working well and what could be better.....Genuine respect for our children and young people must be at the heart of developing that culture.”

1.7. The document, Learner Participation in Educational Settings, 3-18, Education Scotland, May 2018, supports our establishments to reflect on and develop opportunities for our learners to influence and be involved in strategic direction within different services.

- 1.8. Specific areas of Participation which are being targeted by the development of Glasgow Schools Young People's Forum are:
- Participation Arena 3: Decision Making
 - Participation Arena 4: Wider Community

2. Purpose of the Glasgow Schools Young People's Forum

- 2.1 The Glasgow Schools Young People's Forum will provide the opportunity for all our young people to be involved in decision making processes across the city.
- 2.2 This forum will develop skills and attitudes in our young people that will support them throughout their lives and enable them to participate as citizens of Glasgow and further afield.
- 2.3 It will enable our young people to collaborate with the wider pupil forum engaging in dialogue and consultation, to support on-going improvement of learning experiences and engagement in Council strategic plans.
- 2.4 The Glasgow Schools Young People's Forum will offer regular opportunities for every primary and secondary establishment to share their thoughts and opinions. Primary and secondary young people will meet together to ensure the views of all are equally valued.
- 2.5 Young people will meet in geographical Area Forums, North West, North East and South. These meetings will be held in the City Chambers. The young people have identified this location as a key part of their cultural identity and historic legacy as citizens of Glasgow.
- 2.6 This Forum will enable us to contribute to meeting the Glasgow City Council Strategic Plan 2017-2022, Outcome:
- 'Equality and Diversity is recognized and supported and human rights is promoted' in the theme 'Excellent and Inclusive Education'
- 2.7 This Forum will also enable young people to voice their views and opinions on local and national Policies. The Climate Emergency has already been identified through consultation with the young people as a key area where they want to influence policy and direction. This aligns with the Council ambition to be a net zero council by 2030. They see COP26 as key to their being able to drive this agenda forward in Glasgow.
- 2.8 In response to COP26, a sub group of the Forum has been developed. This flexibility of sub groups will enable responsive planning. Future sub group work, for example, may include involvement with broader aspects of council wide participatory budgeting work, providing opportunities for young people to directly the influence policy into practice within neighbourhoods.

3. Current Practice & Priorities

- 3.1 Practitioners currently employ a variety of approaches within the individual context of each establishment, in developing learner participation. There is effective and emerging practice. The Forum will build on this practice.
- 3.2 Currently Glasgow Youth Council provides a good platform for young people aged 12 to 25 <https://www.glasgowyc.org/> . Some young people also progress onto the national Youth Parliament. The new Forum will be part of this participation continuum enabling younger people to engage in the decision-making process citywide.
- 3.3 An initial Forum summit was held in January 2020, with the purpose of enabling young people to influence the Integrated Childrens' Services Plan. This first step of the Forum has been evaluated and is impacting on the future direction of travel.

4. Next Steps and Sustainability

- 4.1 To embed sustainability of the Forum, a steering group of practitioners and young people will be established in each geographical area, with the responsibility for: developing the Forum Action Plan; administering the Forum; and assuring quality and impact.
- 4.2 The Forum will be area based to allow the young people to meet in mixed groups which share local concerns. Secondary schools will be asked for four delegates each, two from S1 and two from S2. Additional Support for Learning standalone secondary schools are smaller establishments and therefore, will identify two delegates. All Primary schools will be asked to send two delegates each, one from P6 and one from P7.
- 4.3 A meeting of the Forum will take place termly, on three separate days for each geographical locality. The young people will meet in City Chambers and the agenda will be sent in advance in order to allow delegates to consult with their peers and school community members. Senior pupils from schools across the city will help facilitate these meetings providing additional leadership opportunities for them.
- 4.4 Forum Action Plans will evolve from this process. Updates will be provided annually.
- 4.5 Four Forum members from each geographical area will be identified by the young people. These representatives will form a City Learner Participation Group (CLPG) which will meet twice a year with the Executive Director of Education.
- 4.6 In line with the Glasgow Citizens Charter, a constitution for the Forum will be developed by the CLPG and the steering group, identifying the roles and contributions of the Council, Education services and the Forum.

5. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

<i>Financial:</i>	Within existing resources.
<i>Legal:</i>	In line with relevant legislation.
<i>Personnel:</i>	This will be led by quality improvement officers as part of the Education Improvement Service
<i>Procurement:</i>	Not applicable.

Council Strategic Plan: Excellent and Inclusive Education 22, 33

Equality Impacts:

<i>Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2017-21</i>	Yes Equality Outcome 7. Glasgow's Improvement Challenge (Literacy and Numeracy) has resulted in improved attainment.
<i>What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?</i>	Young people should have improved resilience.
<i>Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio economic disadvantage.</i>	The involvement of young people in decision-making does not directly impact on socio economic disadvantage. However, this will be one of the topics that young people debate.

Sustainability Impacts:

<i>Environmental:</i>	N/A
<i>Social, including opportunities under Article 20 of the European Public Procurement Directive:</i>	If our young people achieve positive outcomes in their lives this will have a positive impact on the longer term social and community life of Glasgow.
<i>Economic:</i>	Young people who are better educated and

resilient are able to contribute more positively to the growing economy of the city.

**Privacy and Data
Protection impacts:**

There are no significant impacts.

6 Recommendations

6.1 It is recommended that the Committee consider the content of this paper.