

## **YOUTH ENGAGEMENT COMMISSION**

Glasgow, 28th April 2016.

**Present:** Martin McElroy (Chair), Stephen Curran, John Letford, Glasgow City Council; Amber Morris, LGBT; Denny Ford and Ray MacLean, Who Cares Scotland; and Martin Gallacher, Calum Macleod and Kieran O'Neill, Scottish Youth Parliament.

**Apology:** Elizabeth Cameron, Greg Hepburn and Yvonne Kucuk, Glasgow City Council; and Sean Mclaughlin, STUC Youth Committee.

**Attending:** Carol Jack, Clerk; Jacqui Jacobsen and Louise Mackenzie, Corporate Policy; Alex Byers, Gary Maguire and Rosemary O'Hare, Glasgow Life; and Samir Sharma, Education Services.

### **Welcome and Introductions.**

**1** Councillor McElroy welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Youth Engagement Commission and introductions were made round the table.

### **Overview of Policy Commission noted.**

**2** The members noted an overview of the Commission provided by Councillor McElroy, advising

- (1) that the aim of the Commission was to identify actions that could improve opportunities and outcomes for young people and that final recommendations would be produced for the Council and for other organisations in the city by January 2017 as agreed at the Council's Executive Committee on 4th February 2016;
- (2) that the Commission would bring together city councillors, young people and representatives of young people to
  - (a) examine the barriers that young people face in engaging with the council, other public agencies and in participating in the life of our city;
  - (b) identify the priority issues for young people in Glasgow, that they would wish to engage on; and
  - (c) consider approaches to help improve youth engagement with a particular focus on hearing evidence from young people and their representatives.

## **Literature Review noted.**

**3** The members noted a presentation by Rosemary O'Hare, Glasgow Life, outlining surveys and research undertaken in the city detailing statistics and recommendations.

## **Facilitated Session.**

**4** The members took part in a facilitated session led by Gary Maguire, Glasgow Life, to discuss in more detail and in smaller groups, the topics provided.

The facilitated groups discussed the Commission questions in turn, and highlighted a number of issues, some of which are summarised below under the questions

- **Examine the barriers that young people face in engaging with the City Council, other public agencies and in participating in the life of our city.**

The cost of engagement

Use of jargon and formal language

IT used by public agencies is dated

Perception that young people's opinions aren't valued

There is a lot of bureaucracy involved in engaging

Having the self-confidence to be able to engage and participate

- **Identify the priority issues for young people in Glasgow, that they would wish to engage on.**

Employability and underemployment

Transition from school

Bullying

The use of social media

Access/support in education

Housing

- **Consider approaches to help improve youth engagement with a particular focus on hearing evidence from young people and their representatives.**

Accreditation

More effective use of social media, use platforms that young people use

Peer-to-peer approaches

Adopt inclusive approaches and develop ownership of issues

Consider incentives

**Any other business.**

**5** The members noted that the Commission would have a dedicated area on the Council's website.

**Future arrangements noted.**

**6** The members agreed that the next meeting would take place in the Emirates Arena at on 14<sup>th</sup> June at 1700 hours.

The next meeting would consider the feedback from the workshops and discuss next steps including wider engagement and gathering of evidence.