

# Youth Provision Carlisle and District

Cllr Niall McNulty  
COSP 13 Oct 2016



# Presentation on...

- What activities are available now for children and young people?
- How is this spread across Carlisle and District?
- How are young people involved in the City Council?
- What next?

# Youth Provision

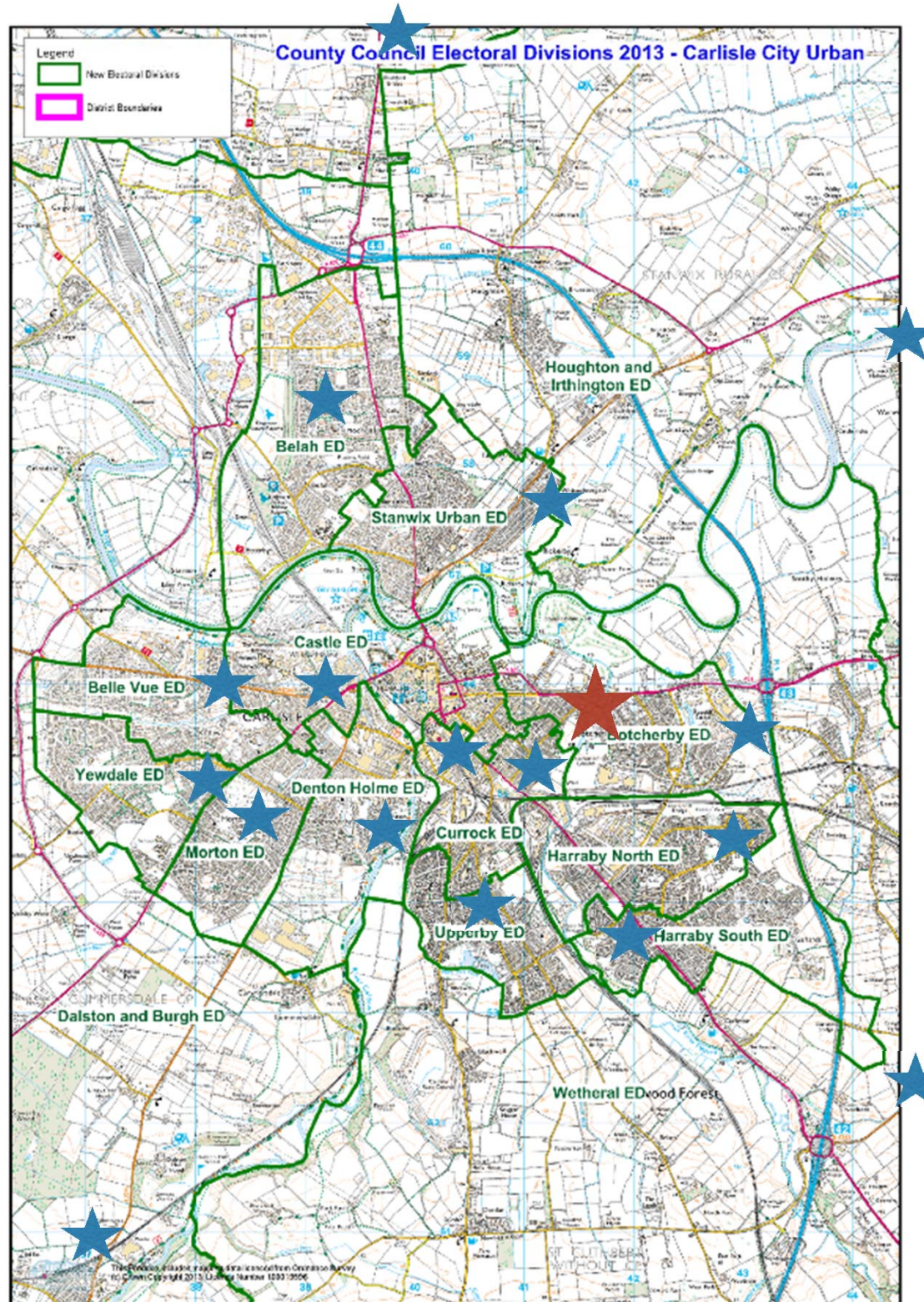
For this presentation Youth Provision comprises a range of activities that children and young people can access

- Youth Clubs
- Sports Clubs
- Activities for and with children and young people
- Projects for and with children and young people

What activities are available now for children and young people?



**Not  
forgetting  
...Scouts,  
Cubs,  
Guides,  
Brownies,  
Sea Cadets,  
Leaders  
Cadets,  
Church  
groups,  
sports clubs**



## Youth Clubs

CYZ

Harraby Com Ctr

Petteril Bank YP

Stanwix Youth Club  
Community Reach  
St Barnabus Church  
Brampton Youth Club  
Longtown YC

Yewdale Com Ctr  
YMCA  
Denton Holme Com Ctr  
Greystone Com Ctr  
Morton Com Ctr  
The Rock YP  
Botcherby Com Ctr  
Dalston St Bees YC  
Wetheral YC



Area/Club	Age range	Opening Times					
		Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
<b>Harraby</b>							
Harraby Community centre youth project	U12	Outreach work to take place by Petteril Bank youth project with					
Harraby Community centre youth project	11+	a view to running a weekly provision part funded by CLC					
1st Carlisle St Elizabeths (Baden Powell Scouts)							
Harraby Guides							
<b>Upperby/Currock</b>							
The Rock Youth Project	11+	5-7pm		6-8pm		7-9pm	
The Rock Youth Project	U12	3-5pm				5-7pm	
Greystone Community centre Youth Project	11+				6-8pm		
Greystone Community centre Youth Project	U12	6-8pm					
Upperby Beavers/Cubs/Scouts (Upperby Parish Hall)							
Brownies/Rainbows/Guides (Greystone Com Ctr)	U12		6-7.30pm				
Cubs/Scouts (Greystone Com Ctr)					6.30-8pm	7.30-9pm	
Petteril bank Youth Project	U12				5-7pm		
Petteril bank Youth Project	11+		7-9pm		7.30-9.30pm		
<b>Botcherby</b>							
Botcherby Com Ctr Youth Club	11+	Outreach work to take place by Petteril Bank youth project with					
Botcherby Com Ctr Youth Club	U12	a view to running a weekly provision part funded by CLC					
Carlisle Youth Zone	11+		6.30-9pm	4-9pm		6.30-10pm	6.30-10pm (15+)
Carlisle Youth Zone	U12	6.30-8.30pm			6.30-8.30pm		1.30-3.30pm
Junior Leaders Cadets							

# How are young people involved in the City Council?

# Carlisle City Council and Young People

- Consultations with young people when developing play parks
- Consultations with young people when developing Carlisle Plan priorities
- Green Spaces engaging with Carlisle Skatepark group
- Carlisle Partnership working with Carlisle Youth Council
- Town twinning Youth Exchange

*This is not an exhaustive list but some examples we are aware of*



- This has involved some young people in decision making that effects them, particularly around parks and green spaces
- It has offered the opportunity for some young people to voice their concerns about the Skatepark
- And has given some young people the chance to develop new international friendships and experience different cultures through the youth exchange

What more **do** we do?

What more **could** we do?

# Why involve young people?

- The importance of hearing views of children and young people is to involve them in their future
- Young people inherit the decisions made today
- Overview & Scrutiny Panels can play a vital role in ensuring these views influence difficult decisions about future funding of services

# What next?

With reducing resources and increasing pressures on Councils the challenge still remains on how best to serve the whole community

What next for Children and Young People and Carlisle City Council?

Should young people be involved in the development of policy or scrutiny?

Is there a role for Councillors to play?

# **YOUTH PROVISION PRESENTATION**

## **1. SUMMARY**

This report provides a brief mapping of youth provision available across Carlisle and District and highlights some of the recent work Carlisle City Council staff have done with young people. It goes on to look at why involving young people is of benefit and what might happen next.

## **2. WHAT YOUTH PROVISION IS AVAILABLE NOW**

The table and map in Appendix A is not an exhaustive list of youth provision but shows an overview of what is available across Carlisle and District. For the purposes of this presentation “Youth Provision” is seen as positive activities that are accessible to children and young people, which includes; youth clubs; sports clubs; activities or projects working with and for children and young people such as Youth Councils or Children in Care Councils.

The youth provisions listed in the table are a mixture of voluntary or self-funded groups. Some receive small amounts of funding from Cumbria County Council but are still largely reliant on additional grant funding support or volunteers.

There is no statutory requirement for youth provision but there is a great deal of willingness to provide youth clubs and activities, particularly from church based groups and uniformed organisations like the Cadets, Scouts and Guides.

Although Appendix A indicates a range of provision across the city it is liable to change as clubs face increasing challenges for funding and volunteers. The cost of promoting and raising awareness of provision is also high and most organisations get new members through word of mouth and good reputation.

## **3. CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

There is no statutory responsibility on local authorities to provide youth provision but there is a willingness from Carlisle City Council Officers to involve young people, where possible, when developing provision that benefits children and young people in the area.

This good practice can be seen in consultation work with children and young people by Green Spaces when developing play parks. Local people are consulted about what they would like to see at the park forming a development plan that gives the community some ownership and responsibility.

The involvement of Carlisle Youth Council as part of the Carlisle Partnership development provides a voice for young people and the annual youth exchange brings together 10 young people to experience new cultures and make new international friendships.

These are a few examples that we are aware of and there may be more work that the City Council does with young people to be identified.

## **4. INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE**

Carlisle City Council has a good history of involving and working with children and young people across the city. There is a willingness from current officers to continue



this good practice and an understanding how this can benefit the work and development of Carlisle City Council.

The benefits of involving young people in local government are highlighted in documents such as Tomorrows People (Appendix C) which looks at best practice for involving young people in Overview and Scrutiny. This includes being able to include and represent the views of children and young people when developing policy which has implications to them and their future. It also introduces them to the process and workings of local government.

With reducing resources and increasing pressures on Councils the challenge still remains on how best we serve the whole community. The involvement of adults or over 18s in local Government can be seen through community action groups, protest groups or through voting on election day. The involvement of children and young people may often be through youth councils, youth clubs or families and advocates. However the role of locally elected members is also a way that all groups can be represented and heard by Council.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

There are some positive developments across Carlisle and District for children and young people to access, which includes some best practice work being delivered by City Council officers. There is some work to be done to look at how to understand the current work going on and to develop this further to involve the views of Children and Young People in scrutiny and possible policy development.

**Questions for discussion** at the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel could include:

How else does Carlisle City Council involve Children and Young People?

What next for Children and Young People and Carlisle City Council?

Is there a role for Councillors to play?

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## **APPENDICES**

- Appendix A** - ***Map of Youth Provision***
- Appendix B** - ***Table of Youth Provision***
- Appendix C** - ***Tomorrows People Documents***



# County Council Electoral Divisions 2013 - Carlisle City Urban

- Legend**
- New Electoral Divisions
  - District Boundaries

- Existing clubs
- Developing clubs
- Identified gaps
- Voluntary clubs

Carlisle North  
Gaps in provision identified in Belah, work to be done on additional needs.

Carlisle South (west) Partnership  
2 existing providers currently working together and willing to look at how to develop a partnership approach as additional developing clubs come on board

Carlisle South (east) Partnership  
Operational plan in action (funded through Locality Our Place project) and those groups involved in the partnership are now working with Cumbria Youth Alliance on joint funding to large organisation to provide long term sustainable youth provision across the area every week day.



Area/Club	Age range	Opening Times					
		Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
<b>Harraby South</b>							
Petteril bank Youth Project	U12				5-7pm		
Petteril bank Youth Project	11+		7-9pm		7.30-9.30pm		
Summer play scheme (Petteril Bank)		Running over 2 weeks in the summer (tbc for 2016)					
<b>Harraby North</b>							
Harraby Community centre youth project	U12	Outreach work to take place by Petteril Bank youth project with					
Harraby Community centre youth project	11+	a view to running a weekly provision part funded by CLC					
1st Carlisle St Elizabeths (Baden Powell Scouts)							
Harraby Guides							
<b>Upperby/Currock</b>							
The Rock Youth Project	11+	5-7pm		6-8pm		7-9pm	
The Rock Youth Project	U12	3-5pm				5-7pm	
Greystone Community centre Youth Project	11+				6-8pm		
Greystone Community centre Youth Project	U12	6-8pm					
Upperby Beavers/Cubs/Scouts (Upperby Parish Hall)							
Brownies/Rainbows/Guides (Greystone Com Ctr)	U12		6-7.30pm				
Cubs/Scouts (Greystone Com Ctr)					6.30-8pm	7.30-9pm	
Summer play scheme (Greystone Com Ctr)		Running over 2 weeks in the summer (tbc for 2016)					
Holiday Play Scheme (Currock Com Ctr)							
<b>Botcherby</b>							
Botcherby Com Ctr Youth Club	11+	Outreach work to take place by Petteril Bank youth project with					
Botcherby Com Ctr Youth Club	U12	a view to running a weekly provision part funded by CLC					
Carlisle Youth Zone	11+		6.30-9pm	4-9pm		6.30-10pm	6.30-10pm (15+)
Carlisle Youth Zone	U12	6.30-8.30pm			6.30-8.30pm		1.30-3.30pm
Summer Holiday Club (Botcherby Com Ctr)		Running over 2 weeks in the summer (tbc for 2016)					
HITZ (CYZ holiday club)		Running all week and all day through most school holidays					
Junior Leaders Cadets							
<b>Denton Holme</b>							
St James Church Youth project							
Summer Play Scheme (Denton Holme Com Ctr)	U12	Running over 2 weeks in the summer (tbc for 2016)					
Denton Holme Community Center		Outreach work to take place by YMCA youth project with a view to running a weekly provision part funded by					
<b>Brampton</b>							
Brampton Youth Project	11+		3-6pm		6-8pm		
Brampton Youth Project after school club					3.30-5.30pm		
Brampton Youth Project	U12		7-9pm				
Brampton Youth Project (Gilsland)		6.30-8.30 pm					
1st Brampton Scouts and Cubs							
<b>Castle</b>							
YMCA youth club (Trinity Church)					6-9pm		

Trinity Church Scouts and Cubs				7-9pm			
Trinity Church Girls Gorup					6-7pm		
Skaters Of Carlisle (SoC)				after school		1-3pm and ad hoc	
Belle Vue							
Community Reach/St Barnabas church	11+		5-6.30pm				
Community Reach/St Barnabas church	U12		6.30-9pm				
Community Reach (RRMA delivery)				after school			
James Rennie Youth Club						after school	
Morton							
Morton Community Centre		Outreach work to take place by YMCA youth project with a view to running a weekly provision part funded by					
Longtown							
Longtown Youth Club							
Summer Playscheme (Longtown)							
Summer Playscheme (Bewcastle PC & Rockcliffe PC)	U12	Running over 2 weeks in the summer (tbc for 2016)					
Houghton & Irthington							
Summer PLayer scheme (Walton, Scaleby & Stanwix Rural PC)	U12	Running over 2 weeks in the summer (tbc for 2016)					
2nd Carlisle Houghton & Kingmoor Scouts							
Corby & Hayton							
Cumwhitton Parish Community Partnership - Childrens activities							
1st Holme Eden Guides							
Downagate Youth Club		not running					
Dalston & Burgh							
Bees Youth Club							
Summer Playscheme (Beaumont & Burgh PC)		Running over 2 weeks in the summer (tbc for 2016)					
Dalston Youth Club	mixed				6-8pm?		
Stanwix Urban							
St Michaels Youth Club/Stanwix Youth Club	mixed ages					5-8pm	
Wetheral							
Wetheral Youth Club	Mixed ages					5-8pm	
Summer play scheme (Wetheral Parish Council)		Running over 2 weeks in the summer (tbc for 2016)					
Yewdale							
Yewdale Community Centre		Outreach work to take place by YMCA youth project with a view to running a weekly provision part funded by					
Colour code explanation							
	Funded through Carlisle Local Committee Universal Youth Provision budget						

	Funded though Carlisle Local Committee Community grants budgets	
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# Tomorrow's People?

**A guide for overview and scrutiny  
committees about involving young  
people in scrutiny**



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## **Centre for Public Scrutiny**

The Centre for Public Scrutiny is an independent charity that promotes transparent, inclusive and accountable public services and supports and celebrates excellent and effective scrutiny across the public sector. We support scrutineers by producing guidance, creating networks and forums and sharing our expertise through seminars, consultancy, training and events. Our website [www.cfps.org.uk](http://www.cfps.org.uk) contains the largest on-line collection of scrutiny reviews and reports as well as other publications to tell you more about what scrutiny can do for you.

## **Local Government Group**

The LG Group is made up of six organisations:

- Local Government Association (LGA)
- Local Government Improvement and Development (LGID)
- Local Government Employers (LGE)
- Local Government Regulation (LGR)
- Local Partnerships
- Leadership Centre for Local Government

Our shared ambition is to make an outstanding contribution to the success of local government. Together we work with and on behalf of councils to:

- lobby for changes in policy and legislation
- build a strong and positive reputation for local government
- support them and their partnerships to continuously improve and be innovative.

We provide services at the national level which support and are complementary to the regional and local support provided to councils, as well as the work councils themselves undertake.

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## 1. What this guide is about

This guide aims to help overview and scrutiny committees (OCS) understand the context and ‘business case’ for involving young people in decision-making and to help them be more effective in including young people in their work.

Overview and scrutiny is an essential part of ensuring that local services are effective and accountable. Scrutiny ensures that executives are held accountable for their decisions, that their decision-making process is clear and accessible to the public and that there are opportunities for the public and their representatives to influence and improve public policy.

Scrutiny is now moving into another era with community-led scrutiny of local decisions, where the public’s involvement in challenging local authorities and public service providers on public service improvement and delivery is actively sought by elected representatives. In the context of this guide, constructive and ongoing involvement of young people in scrutiny helps to achieve genuine accountability for the use of public resources.

*“We’ve been consistently impressed by the quality of input when young people have participated or provided evidence to scrutiny sessions”.  
Councillor from Westminster*

Involving young people in scrutiny provides a unique perspective on how well public services are being delivered and how they could be improved, from the point of view of their needs and aspirations for their future and that of their communities.

*“Young people often have a different view and vision to adults, and therefore need to be involved in creating a future vision”. Councillor from Chesterfield*

There are several examples of overview and scrutiny committees seeking the views of young people about their experience of services planned and delivered for their age group. Examples of overview and scrutiny reviews that seek the views of young people about issues not directly related to their age group are harder to find.

The guide will help overview and scrutiny committees to play an active role in ensuring that ‘what matters to young people’ influences difficult decisions about the future funding of public services.

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This is not a technical guide about involvement methods and techniques that overview and scrutiny committees can use to hear from young people – guidance about involvement methods and techniques is readily available from a number of organisations (some suggestions are at the end of this guide).

## **2. Why involving young people is important**

The importance of hearing the views of children and young people is recognised internationally. For example, the United Nations Convention on Rights of the Child recognises that children who are capable of forming views should have the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting them and that their views should be given due weight depending on their age and maturity.

The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has said "youth should be given a chance to take an active part in the decision-making of local, national and global levels". In an effort to harness the energy, imagination and initiative of the world's youth in overcoming current global challenges, the United Nations proclaimed an 'International Year of Youth' starting on 12 August 2010.

In August 2010 an International Labour Organisation report (Global Employment Trends for Youth) about the effects of the global recession on young people, highlighting the heavy price paid by young people around the world. It is clear that young people around the world are on the frontline of current challenges. Although it is easy to assume that this is more prevalent abroad, it is happening in the UK too.

International initiatives to encourage greater involvement of young people in decision-making may seem altruistic and remote, but they set the context for things closer to home. For example, The Princes Trust has reported that the recession will hit hardest in deprived areas, where resources tend to be already scarce for services for young people. Further withdrawal of resources and services for young people will have a high social cost and overview and scrutiny committees can play a vital role in ensuring their views influence difficult decisions about future funding of services.



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The Children's Commissioner's report on 'children's participation in decision-making' (2010) noted three key findings:

- most children are generally dissatisfied with their level of input into decision making processes;
- most children did not accept the low status adults often accorded to children's opinions and the lack of explanation on how children's opinions had been taken into account during a decision-making process;
- even very young children can take a very rational and reasoned approach to decision-making – a finding which reiterates the importance of engaging children in participatory processes from a young age - the effect of which is to make children feel respected, valued and active citizens in a shared community.



The British Youth Council 'stronger together' (2010) report shows that enthusiastic young people can still to be found ready to make a difference where they live. It goes on to demonstrate some of the ways that they can take part as citizens both through local youth councils, and as volunteers in wider civil society.

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The period up to March 2011 and beyond is likely to see some difficult decisions being made about the way public services are planned and delivered. The UK is facing some significant challenges, for example:

- an ageing society – people living longer with more health and social care needs. At the same time the proportion of people contributing tax revenue to fund services is reducing.
- health inequalities – there are significant differences in life expectancy across the country, between areas and within cities and towns. Access to and outcomes from services are different in different places.
- economic downturn – affecting people's life chances, impacting their health, well-being and economic activity. Leading to loss of self-esteem and aspiration, relationship breakdown and personal debt.
- public sector deficit – previous levels of investment in public service reform cannot be maintained. Although health and defence spending are protected, other services will have to find significant savings over the next few years.

The outcomes from the Comprehensive Spending Review, announced on 20 October 2010, will mean that councils and their partners need to take some tough decisions about the future funding of services. For example, councils are having to find an average of 28% savings in their budgets over the next 4 years.

Young people will feel the effects of all these issues now and in the future, but they may not feel able to influence them or have confidence in how adults are planning to deal with them. Getting the views of young people is important in order to plan services for the future. This is backed up by international and national legislation, for example the Equalities Act 2010 and the Children Acts 1989 and 2004 that seek to strengthen joint working to better support children and to act in their best interests.

### **3. What can scrutiny contribute?**

In this rapidly moving political and financial environment, there is a vital role for non-executive councillors to influence decisions about planning and delivering services through councils' overview and scrutiny function.

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By hearing from people directly affected by policies and services, overview and scrutiny committees can get an understanding about the services people and communities value. Outcomes from this kind of work could add value to decision-making processes by introducing considerations of ‘value’, not just ‘cost’.



By hearing from young people about what they value in their community and about their aspirations for the future, OSCs will be able to strengthen the evidence-base about what matters to young people, helping those who plan and deliver public services to make judgements about the best ways to achieve short term savings and longer term improvements.

Through their overview and scrutiny function, councils can use a range of creative and innovative ways to gather an evidence base about what matters to young people and how young people would like to see future services planned and delivered around their needs and aspirations.

Overview and scrutiny committees can be a powerful force for improvement and innovation at a local level. They can help councils to strengthen democracy for the future by involving young people in scrutiny as a mechanism for strengthening accountability.

Overview and scrutiny committees have a track record of involving young people in scrutiny reviews about services for young people. However, tackling the challenges ahead will require them to go beyond traditional approaches and engage young people about a much broader range of issues. At a time when difficult decisions need to be made about future funding for public services and when trust in democracy is low, involving young people in scrutiny can strengthen

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democratic legitimacy by seeking young people's views on services and issues that are not just young people focused. This can help address some of the issues facing society.

Five examples of involving young people in scrutiny of long term issues rather than 'youth specific' services are set out in this guide. Most of the case studies are taken from active Scrutiny Development Areas being supported by the Centre for Public Scrutiny to tackle deep seated issues in communities.

As well as involving young people directly in scrutiny reviews, overview and scrutiny committees can ask for young people's views about the topics committees should be covering in their work programmes and include them in monitoring implementation of their recommendations.

## 4. Tips for involving young people in scrutiny

Think about what you ask young people to do (definitions from Save the Children):

**Participation** refers to taking an active role in a project or a process. By participating, young people have the power to help shape the outcome.

**Consultation** means listening to young people's views and giving them feedback.

**Involvement** describes the variety of ways in which young people participate and are consulted.

Think about how young people will do this:

**Who to involve** - young people of all ages can be involved. It may help to work with people with skills and experience (e.g. youth workers, teachers) as intermediaries, depending on the age or special need of the young people.

**Recruit representatives** - young people meeting regularly with a specific role can help build relationships but maintaining the same group for a long period of time could be difficult and might not capture 'quiet voices'.

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**Talk to existing groups** - planning around communities' needs by talking to existing groups can break down barriers, but it can be difficult to feedback to everyone.

**Hold a one off event** - a quick way to hear views but be creative about how you can best attract young people. If you are only meeting once, how will you feedback what has happened to the ideas?

**Young mentors or young researchers** - young people respond to other young people. Using young mentors can help make connections and break down barriers. To get a young person's perspective of services, think about using young researchers.

**Use social media** - young people regularly use the internet and mobile technology to communicate. Think about how you can use these tools to inform and gather views.

**A range of methods and styles** – success usually means using a range of ways depending on who you want to reach and the time available. For example, the case study about work in Sefton shows how very young people can be engaged.

Be clear and honest about the role of young people in the review

Make the process fun and positive as this will get the best out of young people

Be creative so that you hear as many voices as possible

Respect the ideas you hear and always feedback

Think about venues, appropriate times of the day/academic year and transport

Don't rely only on traditional methods

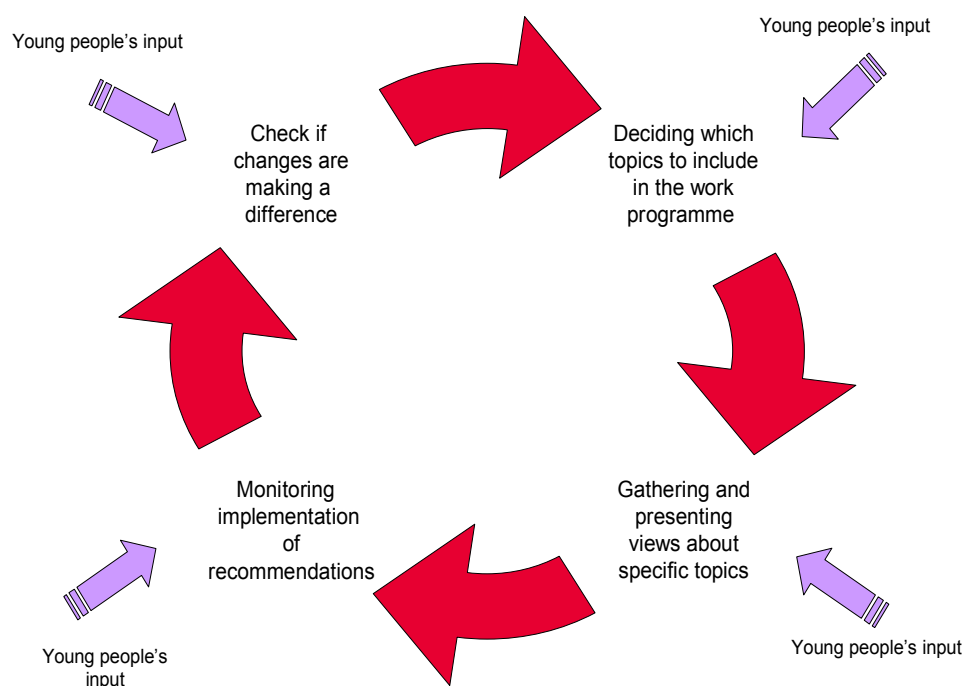
Demonstrate the difference to the decision or service that has happened due to their involvement

Always consider child protection



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There are opportunities to involve young people throughout the whole 'scrutiny cycle', as illustrated in the diagram;



## 5. Examples of involving young people in scrutiny

### *Chesterfield*

Chesterfield's Health Profile for 2009 indicated a life expectancy for men and women living in Chesterfield significantly lower than the England average. This is particularly stark in the Rother community. Chesterfield wanted to take a different approach to understanding and supporting these communities. As part of a wider project supported by the Centre for Public Scrutiny, Chesterfield are helping to develop techniques that can be used across the country to understand and tackle deep seated health inequalities.

An Appreciative Inquiry<sup>1</sup> (AI) approach is helping to develop a model of scrutiny which identifies 'what works' and how to improve services by building on what works. The review brings providers and residents together so that they know what they can build on to create a future both agencies and local people have jointly agreed they want.

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<sup>1</sup> AI aims to identify 'what works' in communities, rather than trying to fix 'what doesn't.' Instead of focusing on gaps and problems, AI focuses on how to build on assets that exist already

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Young people from Parkside School in Rother told their stories about what is good about Rother at a community event which was a central aspect of the scrutiny project.

“Young people are playing an important part in sharing aspirations and designing a better future for their area”, explained Councillor Jane Collins, Chair of the Health Inequalities Scrutiny Committee. “Young people often have a different view and vision to adults, and therefore need to be involved in creating a future vision and encouraged to be involved in making it happen, whilst also learning from the experiences of adults. Young people are being involved and empowered to help shape their own futures and happiness. Ultimately, as indicated by the Marmot Review, health and wellbeing is influenced by how happy people are - not just how long people live but their quality of life”.

Two young people who took part, Sophie and Megan, report that they felt proud to be involved and pleased that community representatives listened to what they had to say and were very interested. They really enjoyed sharing their stories and the experience of addressing the community at the event which gave them added confidence and they enjoyed and felt valued to be part of this community work.

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## **Westminster**

Involving young people adds value and Councillors decided to create a Young People’s Scrutiny Panel. This is Westminster’s first scrutiny group made up entirely of young people, consisting of 8-15 young people aged between 16-19, supported by staff from Youth Services and the Member Services scrutiny team.

This Panel is running until early summer 2011, reporting back to the full Children and Young People Policy and Scrutiny Committee. This will not replace the existing ways in which young people are involved in the democratic function of the Council – in fact it will help to enhance their involvement and help to raise the profile of young people’s views.

In addition to influencing the Council and partner’s work, there will be personal development gains for young people. Supported by officers, during their reviews they will develop new skills in research and evidence collection, running meetings, learning how services are

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delivered via site visits, interview skills and presentation techniques, report writing and many more key skills. The Panel will meet senior politicians and officers and organise its own press coverage. The young people will produce a report which will be presented to the Children and Young People Policy and Scrutiny Committee for consideration before going to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services.

Facilitators have run a session on local services, asking how the young people perceive Westminster and what their positive and negative experiences are of living in the borough. From the feedback, they were able to prioritise issues they might want to investigate. Officers are now identifying ways to develop a wider network to keep all young people up to date about the Panel's work.

Cllr Ian Adams, Chairman of the Children and Young People Policy and Scrutiny Committee, says "we've been consistently impressed by the quality of input when young people have participated or provided evidence to scrutiny sessions, so we thought it was high time for them to be given a chance to set their own agenda for scrutiny. Young people are often more informed than they are given credit for and can offer valuable alternative viewpoints on key issues.

The fact that scrutiny could also contribute to the personal development of young people at the same time made it a simple win-win scenario. Having it count toward the service element of the Duke of Edinburgh award is definitely a big bonus in terms of providing an incentive to participate and giving something back to those involved".

Two young people involved in the review commented that;

*"the Panel is a brilliant opportunity to express what we feel is important and to scrutinise what we want changed and improved"*

*"I joined the Panel to contribute to my community and make a difference".*

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## Hillingdon

As various levels of crime continue to increase, the need for public surveillance has become an essential tool for public safety. Hillingdon were keen to carry out a review of public perceptions of CCTV, including the views of different parts of the community. Evidence showed a general consensus in favour of CCTV but the Overview and Scrutiny Committee identified a significant number of changes and potential improvements that were recommended to Cabinet.

Two members of the Youth Council took part in one of the Committee meetings, explaining that they believed many of the crimes caught on CCTV were directly linked to alcohol and drug abuse by young people. Members talked directly to more young people to find out how much young people knew about CCTV use in the borough, whether they felt CCTV surveillance was directed at young people and if they would welcome the increased use of surveillance or whether they would feel victimised.

The Committee learned that contacting young people to gain their views was very useful when undertaking scrutiny reviews as they provide scrutiny reviews with a different perspective on the topic at hand. Members expressed their delight with the way that the young people presented their evidence and would work with them again on future projects. Furthermore, the young people can get their views across and gain experience of sitting in on Committee meetings.

Young people involved in the review commented that:

*“I thought it was going to be a daunting task – but this was not the case, I was happy to contribute”*

*“It was nice that someone had actually taken how young people felt into consideration as some young people felt victimised by surveillance”.*

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## Salford

Salford identified smoking as the greatest cause of deaths associated with health inequalities. From previous work using Appreciative Inquiry (AI), they had identified that local health cultures may be detrimental to health equity, and were determined to do something about it, starting from the evidence that the decrease in smoking prevalence is due to the increase in people who have never or occasionally smoked rather than the proportion of people who have given up.

It decided to use the AI approach again, starting with communities rather than services and involve the whole system – e.g. service providers, partners etc. in Walkden, an area with high smoking prevalence. It was discovered that people who have never become regular smokers identified as non-smokers before the age of 20. Young people are playing an essential role in the inquiry - non-smoking youngsters from two local high schools, a training project and STA-MP (Salford Tobacco Action - Mission Possible) a young people's group who campaign on tobacco issues. The inquiry aims to paint a more visible and positive picture of the lives of non smokers in the local community, young people saying they want to shape their lives differently from smoking peers or family members.

The OSC ran the 'Big Conversation', providing space for local people to celebrate their success stories and agree a vision for the future for Walkden. The event included local residents covering a wide age range, people from local businesses and front-line workers as well as managers, councillors and many others. People came from community and voluntary sector groups, the council, health services, the police and fire services. There were several young people at the event – and as the day went on you could see how the young people were increasingly shaping the vision for the future of their community. One young resident said it was 'nice to be asked. It is good someone is asking us for a change'.

Judith Emanuel an expert in AI and support consultant to the committee explains;

*“We used a whole system approach and got everyone together to talk about Winning Ways in Walkden, a title chosen by a local woman. It was extraordinary how different the story was if you start from what works. We got some amazing stories from young people who are successful non-smokers against unbelievable odds - like the young woman who could sing and told everyone she did not smoke to save*

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*her voice. Having the young people there made an enormous difference to how we all behaved. The whole group identified in their vision that they wanted young people's solutions to be respected and acted on. That is not to say that young people are the only people who should be involved, their communities are important too".*

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## **Sefton**

Sefton has affluent areas sitting next to deprived communities. The OSC wanted to contextualise what they already know about the area by looking at how families lead their lives – e.g. what they eat, where they go and what they do. They also wanted to understand what works well, what could be better and what their future aspirations are. The aim of the review is to find out whether support and community networks beyond traditional health services impacted upon health outcomes. They described this as the 'glue' of how we live our lives.

The OSC wanted to move beyond 'data' to 'insight through experience' and adopted a community engagement approach through three primary schools. Working with primary age children is new for Sefton, helping to gain insight into the experiences of local families through the lens of pupils aged 5 and 6, working with the voluntary, community and faith sector. Year 1 and Year 2 children are still relatively immune to health marketing messages that perhaps may have influenced the participation and feedback from older children.

To facilitate innovative and active involvement, a local community artist was commissioned, who through a creative arts project 'Me, My Life and My Community' engaged the children in re-creating their daily lives, using a large dolls house with four separate scenes; home, school, community and aspirations. Children were invited to create characters to fill the dolls house re-enacting their family and community life. A range of techniques were used to gain insight into the lives of families such as drawing of self portraits, pass the parcel games, creating figures and characters which all culminated in an exhibition of work and a celebration event in schools for the children, their families and the elected members.

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Members have already seen some early benefits in terms of developing understanding and insight into what impacts on health outcomes. Early outcomes from the work have indicated that social networks, local institutions such as school, after school activities, the lollipop lady and the police are key features in their quality of life. Whilst some children lived in lone parent households both parents and extended families featured greatly in their lives and pictures, which the children all celebrated in their work and games. Schools, particularly primary schools, are at the heart of our communities and we need to build on these community assets to deliver improved outcomes for our population.

*“I have been involved in this Review from the outset as a local Vicar who was concerned about the health of the local community. Seeing daily the negative impact that poor health can have on families, and having to support families that have experienced the early death of a key adult from things that might have been avoidable, I know that this has an impact on the whole community. I am committed to learning from what our children tell us so that we can develop plans that seek to tackle health inequalities in a different way”*

Canon Roger Driver

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## **Hackney**

During a recent review of 'Estate Safety and Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour', London Borough of Hackney wanted to address the perception that most anti-social behaviour is caused by kids hanging out and being intimidating. The Scrutiny Commission wanted to understand what young people's views were - notably what their own fears were, what sort of anti-social behaviour most affected them, and how we could improve reporting methods?

Recognising that a bunch of councillors and officers in suits wielding a survey was unlikely to gain the best output from young people on housing estates, the OSC worked closely with the Hackney Youth Parliament, who then took the questionnaires onto the streets and in to youth clubs. The response from young people was far better than could have been achieved without their involvement. Views from the Youth Parliament itself were useful too. A significant amount of



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preparation went in to it from the Scrutiny side, including a full Saturday session with the Youth Parliament to draft the survey and plan the approach to gaining feedback. We also needed to balance other pressures on young people's time with the need to meet the Scrutiny Commission's tight reporting deadlines.

We were fortunate that the Youth Parliament had already received some consultation training, and working closely with the council's Youth Services meant we could rely on the support of enthusiastic staff who, importantly, already had relevant Criminal Records Bureau checks.

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## 6. Further resources

British Youth Council - [www.byc.org.uk](http://www.byc.org.uk)

Children's Commissioner - [www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk)

Children's Workforce Development Council - [www.cwdcouncil.org.uk](http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk)

Hear by Right - [www.nya.org.uk/quality/hear-by-right/about-hear-by-right](http://www.nya.org.uk/quality/hear-by-right/about-hear-by-right)

Involve - [www.involve.org.uk](http://www.involve.org.uk)

International Labour Organisation – [www.ilo.org](http://www.ilo.org)

Local Government Improvement and Development – [www.idea.gov.uk/empowerment](http://www.idea.gov.uk/empowerment)

Participation Works Partnership - [www.participationworks.org.uk](http://www.participationworks.org.uk)

People and Participation – [www.peopleandparticipation.net](http://www.peopleandparticipation.net)

Prince's Trust - [www.princes-trust.org.uk](http://www.princes-trust.org.uk)

Save the Children - [www.savethechildren.net](http://www.savethechildren.net)



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Registered Charity no  
1136243

This briefing note has been funded by LG Improvement and Development working with the Youth engagement democracy stakeholder group.

