

## Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 9 October 2019

Electoral Division affected: (All Divisions);
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### Participation Strategic Framework

(Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer)

Contact for further information:

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#### Executive Summary

This report provides an opportunity for members of Children's Services Scrutiny Committee to review the draft Participation of Children and Young People Strategic Framework 2020 – 2023. It also shares a current example of a participation project that has been co-produced with members of Lancashire Youth Council.

#### Recommendation

The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- i. Consider and provide comment on the principles and priorities of the draft Strategic Framework (Appendix A)
- ii. Note the proposed monitoring and governance arrangements
- iii. Note and provide comment on the youth council research project (Appendix B)
- iv. Discuss and identify any further recommendations to support the ongoing work to strengthen participation practice across county council services.

#### Background and Advice

In early 2019, the Strategy Lead for Participation reviewed current participation practice and policy across Lancashire. The scoping report identified a number of areas where improvements could be made. These included:

- Strategy and Governance – review and refresh the Participation Strategy and governance arrangements.
- Create a 'culture of participation' – identify and establish a network of 'participation champions' across LCC services and associated agencies, to promote 'evidence based' participation.
- Coherent Youth Voice structure – Strengthen and promote opportunities for children and young people to link in with a coordinated network of forums, including LINX (Children in Care Council) and the Youth Council.

- Training resource – Ensure that an appropriately resourced range of participation training is made available for practitioners and children and young people. Wherever possible accredit that training.
- Participation Reporting – establish recording and reporting mechanisms for participation, to evidence impact.

This Strategic Framework takes into account these identified improvements and replaces the 'Active Participation Strategy', last refreshed in 2015.

### Monitoring and Governance Arrangements

The Children, Young People and Families Partnership Plan provides the overarching priority that "Children and young people are supported to influence decision making and bring about positive change for themselves and others." The proposed Framework and evidence of impact will be discussed with the Children, Young People and Families Partnership and evidence of impact of specific participation activity reported through the relevant multi or single agency groups.

### Participation Project Example - Youth Council Research Project

Following the Make Your Ballot response of 27,400 young people, aged 11 – 18 across Lancashire, the Youth Council identified 'Knife Crime' as a key issue they would like to research. Working in partnership with The Centre for Children & Young People's Participation at the University of Central Lancashire, the youth council have co-produced a knife crime research project. This is outlined in 'Appendix B' and the findings will be presented at a 'Youth Summit' in October, where services and agencies will be invited to respond.

### Consultations

The Lancashire Participation Network has been re-established, with around 40 'Participation Champions' identified and willing to share best practice. An appreciative enquiry activity took place with these champions to identify how to 'Enhance participation practice across Lancashire'. The findings from this activity, combined with evidence from previous engagement activities, including with children and young people, have formed the 'Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats' analysis contained within the strategic framework.

### Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

### Risk management

### Financial

It is expected that the operational commitments of the Strategic Framework will be met within existing resource from across the Partnership Board member agencies. If future developments require additional resources/funding this will be subject to future Committee/Cabinet reports as appropriate.

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**  
**List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
N/A		

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate N/A