

Chief Executives' Group – North Yorkshire and York

5 February 2015

The Promise

The commitment to listen to and respond to the voice of children and young people in North Yorkshire.

1 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To update the Group on the development of 'The Promise', the document outlining the commitment to listen to and respond to the voice of children and young people in North Yorkshire.

2 Background

2.1 In July 2013 a new NYCC CYPS Voice, Influence and Participation (VIP) Group was established to "develop a strategy for children's and young people's engagement and participation in decision making across the Directorate".

2.2 The VIP Group agreed that the most appropriate way forward was to establish a set of principles regarding children's and young people's engagement and participation which services would agree to adhere to. Although NYCC already has a 'Community Engagement Promise', it was felt that an accessible document specifically relating to children and young people was required.

2.3 Following consultation with North Yorkshire Youth Council and partner agencies, 5 principles regarding children's and young people's engagement and participation were agreed and these were incorporated with supporting information into 'The Promise'.

2.4 The commitment to children's and young people's engagement and participation was also highlighted in 'Young and Yorkshire' with "*Involve children, young people and families at all stages of planning, delivering and evaluating services*" listed as one of the key principles underpinning the work of Children's Trust partners.

3.0 The Promise – Our commitment to listen to and respond to the voice of children and young people in North Yorkshire

3.1 The 5 principles set out in The Promise are that services will:

- Involve children and young people in designing, developing and reviewing services which are provided for them.
- Involve children and young people when making decisions on services which affect them.
- Provide children and young people with opportunities to raise issues which are important to them, and ensure they are listened to.
- Feedback to children and young people on what has been said and what is going to happen as a result.

- Provide information which may be used by children and young people in accessible and appropriate formats. Gather information from children and young people using accessible and appropriate methods.
- 3.2 The Promise document also includes case studies relating to each principle and information on the ideology of children's and young people's participation work.
 - 3.3 The document is accompanied by a Self-Evaluation and Action Plan toolkit which services should complete in order to identify areas for improvement and related training needs. The VIP Group will oversee the use of this toolkit, audit results, provide support where required and respond to identified training needs.
 - 3.4 The Promise was launched at the North Yorkshire Youth Voice Convention on 29 November 2014.
 - 3.5 The document was presented to NYCC's Management Board on 9 December 2014 where it was agreed that the principles should be adopted across all NYCC departments.
 - 3.6 It is intended that all services working with children and young people agree to adopt The Promise, and that this includes services who may not work directly with children and young people as part of their core business, but who may occasionally make decisions which will impact on them.

4 Recommendations

- 4.1 The Group notes 'The Promise: The commitment to listen to and respond to the voice of children and young people in North Yorkshire'.
- 4.2 Members and partners agree to adhere to the 5 principles set out in The Promise.
- 4.3 Members and partners agree to encourage the adoption of the 5 principles set out in The Promise by other services.

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