

Meeting: NDF - Children and Young People Action Group	Date: 27 March 2024
Paper prepared by: Sean Mackney	Decision required?
Subject: Terms of Reference	

Executive Summary:

The meeting aims to formalise the Children and Young People Action group (as part of NDF) and decide on its membership, aims and objectives, a chair and a secretary and the general Terms of Reference.

1) Introduction

NDF is the partnership of organisations working together to improve the lives of those who live and work in Northern Devon and to plan for the future of the area. It engages influential systems leaders: MPs, local authorities, at district and county level, development organisations, major employers, anchor institutions such as the hospital, college and schools, and organisations representing stakeholders from citizens to major collaborative projects that have significant impact within Northern Devon – the area encompassing the districts of Torridge and North Devon.

The vision of the NDF partnership is that 'By 2050, Northern Devon is healthy, prosperous and sustainable, recognised for its aspiration, innovation, and ability to get things done. A place where all are able to succeed and no one is left behind.' Supported by a professional secretariat, the organisation comprises the Partnership Board and five 'Action Groups' that lead and coordinate action in different domains of life and activity in the area: Economy, Innovation & Skills; Climate; Health & Wellbeing; Place and Community; and Children and Young People. The NDF Board is close to finalising the partnership's strategy, which is expected to be published within the next month. The consultation draft is attached for information.

There is a great deal that we do within our schools and colleges, in the curriculum and in the wider student experience, but we also know that there are many wider determinants of learner success that we can lead and influence. The purpose of the CYP Action Group is to bring together the range of stakeholders influencing the future of children and young people in Northern Devon to set a combined agenda; to give direction to and coordinate new collaborative projects and initiatives focused on work with children and young people; and, through the direct connections with other systems leaders across the Northern Devon Futures Partnership, to be able to positively impact the wider environment for the benefit of children and young people.

The first meeting of the Children and Young people action group has been set to determine the membership and the Terms of Reference for the Group.

NDF Action Groups develop and pursue their wider agenda as determined by the members of each group. They are expected to pursue the strategic aims and objectives of the Partnership set out in the strategy, but often have a more extensive range of activities that they wish to pursue, monitor, or coordinate, providing a locus for regional activities in a particular domain.

The Children and Young People's Group is therefore invited to explore the wider range of topics of interest, whilst also noting the aims and objectives in the Strategy as they relate to children and young people.

2) Content

Terms of Reference:

Role/Purpose

The purpose of the CYP Action Group is to bring together the range of stakeholders influencing the future of children and young people in Northern Devon to set a combined agenda; to give direction to and coordinate new collaborative projects and initiatives focused on work with children and young people; and, through the direct connections with other systems leaders across the Northern Devon Futures Partnership, to be able to positively impact the wider environment for the benefit of children and young people.

Term

This Terms of Reference is effective from March 2024 and will be ongoing until terminated by agreement between the parties.

Membership

The Group will comprise:

- Headteachers from all local MATs
- Youth Organisations/Youth Parliament representative
- Police representative
- Council SEND representative
- Academic Faculty Director, Petroc (Further Education)
- Careers Hub Devon Council
- Head of Bideford College (secondary school)
- Head of Marland School, Devon (SEN school)
- Head of Great Torrington Community School (secondary school)

Aims and Objectives

To be determined by the members of the Group, but to include the following:

Aims:

1. Provide an environment where children and young people thrive.

Objectives:

1. Develop a Northern Devon Youth 'Passport to the Future'
2. Utilize multipurpose centres to support youth initiatives.
3. Provide support for home-schooled young people and those with special needs.
4. Establish a University for Northern Devon within 10 years.

Key Performance Measures

1. Number of young people adding 'passport stamps'
2. Number of Family and Youth Centres established.
3. Percentage increase in youth engagement in local opportunities.
4. Establishment and progress on the Northern Devon University project.

Meetings

All meetings will be chaired by the Chair of the Children and Young People Action Group.

Decisions made by consensus (i.e. members are satisfied with the decision even though it may not be their first choice). If not possible, action group chair makes final decision

Meeting agendas and minutes will be provided by the secretariat, this includes:

- Preparing agendas and supporting papers

- Preparing meeting notes and information

It is proposed that meetings will be held quarterly for approx. 90 minutes either in person or online.

Amendment, Modification or Variation

These Terms of Reference may be amended, varied or modified in writing after consultation and agreement by Network Group/Advisory Group members.

Themes and Topics of the Action Group

The Group is invited to brainstorm and discuss possible topics of consideration for the Action Group. The Secretariat will then endeavour to support the Group in pursuing that agenda, preparing speakers and topics for future meetings.

Stakeholder input prior to the constitution of the group suggested a number of areas that may be of relevance. They are included here to stimulate the Group's thinking, but not to determine or constrain the Group's deliberations over what it wishes to focus on.

3) Proposals/Recommendations

For the Action Group to approve the Terms of Reference including Objectives, Key Performance Indicators and membership.

For the group to confirm a Chair and a secretary of the group.

Appendix One: Stakeholder ideas for topics of interest for the NDF Children & Young People Group

YP Activities

- Increase Young Person – Student voluntary and community engagement
- Need to give children a voice, giving them confidence to speak out
Youth Parliament
Youth Council
- Getting young people interested in local opportunities – getting YP to engage to aspire to work locally.
- Look at recreation and hobbies to keep YP in the area.

Support

- Parental support to support their children – a learn & support program? Currently have Maths and English provision for parents running at Petroc.
- The Holistic Young People's life
Program to contribute to the success and opportunities for all:
4 x work placements
Volunteering opportunities
Time with nature – visit beach, Moors, Biosphere
Fitness and health
- Challenges around social care (currently 250 children in care in our area). Wrap around support for parents, carers, families.

SEND

- Create a SEND learner, NEET task force with monitoring and intervention

School life/Curriculum

- Transition support for every education transition.
- A 'Reach Foundation' partnership project to shift disadvantage.
- Curriculum development – moving forward, looking into the future to what skills may be needed.
- University for Northern Devon – in 10 years
- Natural History GCSE coming into curriculum in 2 years' time.

Employment, Skills, Training (Cross over with EIS)

- An immersive VR conference of the major sectors in our patch providing the opportunities.
- Showcase to YP success stories of people from ND area – bit like an alumni for all.
- Promote recruitment in STEM jobs, Police, Healthcare – encouraging own aspirations.
- Investigate the positive effects of employers becoming school Governors
- Understanding work opportunities in the area.
- Work experience opportunities earlier in schools. YP need to choose their GCSE options earlier in school (From year 8)

Other

- Look at short term actions/ the smaller issues than can be resolved quickly.
- Resettlement Migration – work and training opportunities