


REPORT TO CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY BOARD

11 November 2019

Subject:	SHAPE Programme
Cabinet Portfolio:	Cabinet Member for Best Start in Life - Councillor Joyce Underhill Cabinet Member for Living Healthy Lives – Councillor Farut Shaeen
Director:	Director of Public Health - Lisa McNally
Contribution towards Vision 2030:	
Contact Officer(s):	Neesha Patel, SHAPE Project Manager Public Health neesha_patel@sandwell.gov.uk

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board:

1. considers the recommendations stated in the report.
2. agrees to consider the opportunities for young people to scrutinise key council proposals when appropriate.
3. makes any comments and recommendations as necessary.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 Members of the Board requested members of SHAPE Youth Forum to be invited to the next meeting to meet the Board members and explain the work they do as part of the SHAPE Programme.
- 1.2 This report provides an overview of the SHAPE Programme including its governance arrangements, consultation methods and anticipated future

steps to involvement in decision making and co-production with children and young people.

- 1.3 The report invites the scrutiny board to consider opportunities for maximising the extent to which young people can contribute to the scrutiny and feedback of council reports or initiatives.

2 IMPLICATIONS FOR VISION 2030

- 2.1 The project supports the achievement of predominantly ambitions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10, however does touch on all other aspects of the Vision 2030 too. The Programme raises aspirations and resilience in young people, encourages them to live healthier lives, gives them the skills and knowledge to help them grow and achieve their career aspirations, enables them to feel safe in their communities and works in partnership to get things done to meet the needs of young people.

3 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The SHAPE Programme is a child's voice initiative for Sandwell, governed by the SHAPE Strategic Board. The Programme focuses on the five overarching priorities, staying safe, being healthy, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution and economic wellbeing.
- 3.2 The Programme provides a vehicle for directorates to consult and engage with children and young people on any aspect of service improvement, raise awareness of issues and services across a large population of young people, showcase local talent and develops future leaders.
- 3.3 The SHAPE Strategic Board aims for all its multi-agency partners to engage with children and young people in ways that enable them to be actively involved in shaping decisions, and leading and initiating action for change and development across our services on an ongoing basis.
- 3.4 The SHAPE Strategic Board will be the governing body for all engagement with children and young people in Sandwell. The Governance Structure in Appendix 1 shows how it reports to other Boards and committees to enable effective communication and ensure all work undertaken is shared with others.
- 3.5 The SHAPE Strategic Board is chaired by the Director of Public Health who is the Council's lead director of SHAPE. The SHAPE Board is made up of a number of partners representing internal and external agencies including the voluntary sector who have played an integral role in the Programme. The SHAPE Board reports to the Health and Wellbeing Board and the new Children and Young People's Commissioning Partnership.

- 3.6 SHAPE Youth Forum is made of a diverse range of young people aged 12 and above from across the Borough. This forum connects with other regional and national groups with the inclusion of two Youth Commissioners, two UK Youth Parliament Members and two UK Youth Parliament Deputy Members. It also links to the Looked After Children Board and Care Leavers Forum working closely with the Children's Trust Participation Team.
- 3.7 Core events held through the SHAPE Programme include SHAPE Your Talent Show, a local talent show held to showcase young people's talents in music, dance and entertainment. This event has even been recognised by The Voice Kids who invite young people from SHAPE's talent show to audition on an annual basis. The SHAPE Youth Festival is an event held at Sandwell Valley to showcase what external and internal stakeholders offer in terms of services for children and young people. It is a fun community day out for young people and families. The SHAPE Our Future is an annual conference held for Primary and Secondary schools and Sandwell Community School, raising awareness on the SHAPE themes.
- 3.8 The Clickwise Campaign is a youth led initiative supporting parents to learn about the dangers children and young people face online in particular recognising signs of grooming. It is a concept derived by the former Chair of SHAPE Youth Forum who himself was sexually abused as a child. The Anti Bullying Roadshow is held during anti-bullying week to raise awareness of the signs of bullying to primary and secondary school children and how to tackle and build resilience to deal with these issues. The National Takeover Challenge is an initiative whereby young people take over the role of Directors/Service Managers or senior management boards and challenge them on their roles.
- 3.9 It is important to note SHAPE **is not** a Youth Service, it is an initiative run by young people offering a mechanism for consultation.

4 THE CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 The SHAPE Programme has been hugely successful in developing child's voice across Sandwell whether it is through SHAPE Youth Forum, school councils or through voluntary and community organisations. However, there is still more work to be done to ensure young people are not only engaged in service design but also co-produce and design services impacting on their lives.
- 4.2 Through the SHAPE Strategic Board, a Children and Young People's Engagement Strategy has been developed in partnership with the CCG, Sandwell Council, Children's Trust and the Voluntary Sector. Children and

young people have also been consulted through the SHAPE Youth Forum. The Strategy has been endorsed by the Health and Wellbeing Board. The creation of a Children and Young People's Engagement Strategy ensures a joined-up approach to participation and engagement with children and young people.

- 4.3 The strategy action plan will ensure projects involving children and young people promote the 5 priorities of SHAPE, hence also taking into account the Board priorities of keeping people healthier for longer and keeping people safe and supporting communities
- 4.4 With a shared vision in place, it would be imperative to introduce a process whereby young people can be involved in decision making. It is recommended the members of the scrutiny board consider how to maximise opportunities for young people to scrutinise proposals when appropriate.

5 CONSULTATION (CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)

- 5.1 Consultation takes place with SHAPE Youth Forum which consists of approximately 25 young people ranging from the age of 12 to 21 from diverse communities and backgrounds, across the Borough. The forum meets on a bi-weekly basis allowing council and partner agencies to consult with the members on service re-design or project ideas which impact on children and young people.
- 5.2 Additional to this consultation takes place every 2 years through the SHAPE Survey which in 2017 received 939 responses from secondary school age young people. The survey consults on all of the 5 themes for SHAPE and the results help to develop the SHAPE Programme for the following year.
- 5.3 The annual SHAPE Our Future conference for schools is also an opportunity to consult with children and young people from primary and secondary school age. A separate conference is also held for young people from Sandwell Community Schools who needs may differ from those who attend mainstream schools.
- 5.4 Consultation with SHAPE Youth Forum has taken place on how they want to support scrutiny hence the proposal submitted.

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS.

- 6.1 Options will be discussed once the recommendation has been approved.

7 STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The SHAPE Programme is funded by the Directors of the Council with a total funding of £125,000 and with a financial contribution from CCG for 2019/20 of £30,000. Other partner agencies offer contributions in kind consisting of resources e.g. staff and facilities.
- 7.2 The SHAPE Programme is permanently resourced with a Project Manager currently based in Public Health. To support the Project Manager allowing more time to focus on the strategic objectives, a Project Officer post will be introduced.
- 7.3 Strategic and delivery support continues to be provided by Youth Services. The Programme is a partnership-based approach and hence is delivered by many internal and external partners.

8 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 There are no legal considerations regarding this report.
- 8.2 The SHAPE initiative is operating on a partnership basis with partner organisations confirming their commitment by taking the work programme through their own governance processes for ratification.

9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report

10 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 10.1 New data protection regulations - General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) are adhered to by the SHAPE initiative and Programme.

11 CRIME AND DISORDER AND RISK ASSESSMENT

- 11.1 There are no crime and disorder risks especially relating to this report, however the impact of engagement in positive activities should reduce crime and disorder in the long term.

12 SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSALS

- 12.1 The sustainability of the proposals is reliant on the continued provision of funding for the SHAPE Programme.
- 12.2 There is also reliance on young people representation from all participation groups if given the opportunity to scrutinise. These include SHAPE Youth Forum, Care Leavers and Looked After Children.

13 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)

13.1 The SHAPE Programme's engagement with children and young people benefits their health and wellbeing and contribute to social value within Sandwell's communities.

14 IMPACT ON ANY COUNCIL MANAGED PROPERTY OR LAND

14.1 There is no impact on any council managed property or land arising from this report

15 CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

15.1 The SHAPE Programme has successfully demonstrated that child's voice can be captured and considered when developing services, however as part of the council's process of scrutiny, they are currently not included.

15.2 By providing the opportunity for young people to scrutinise in decisions relevant to them, young people will be able to feedback their views.

15.3 This preproposal enables true participation and young people will feel valued in knowing they are having a. Scrutiny in this way are co-opting young people into their work to bring a young persons' perspective.

16 BACKGROUND PAPERS

16.1 None

17 APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Governance Structure

Appendix 2 – 2018/19 Plan for SHAPE Youth Forum

Appendix 3 – 2019/20 Plan for SHAPE Programme

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