



## **SCRUTINY STUDY OF YOUTH ENGAGEMENT**

To - Scrutiny Management Team

Date of meeting – 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2016

Notes of - Committee Administrator

### **BRIEFING NOTES RE REVIEW PLANNING – YOUTH ENGAGEMENT**

#### **Background**

1. Included in the Team's 2016/17 work programme is a piece of work on youth engagement.
2. This is in response to a motion considered at the Council meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2016.
3. Council was told that the number of 18 year olds registered to vote in Pendle was down by 24% in December 2015 compared with the year before.
4. There was concern at the lack of understanding amongst young people in the community about the role of Councillors and about the functions of this Council.
5. It was therefore felt that it was important to encourage as many young people as possible to engage directly in the democratic process.
6. We are told that many youth groups in the area discuss issues that affect them and sometimes issues over which the Council has jurisdiction.
7. However, there is sometimes a lack of communication between the Council and the Youth Groups in terms of how policies and decisions may affect young people.
8. It is felt that Pendle has a good network of youth groups whose insight would be valuable to Councillors in Pendle to help form their decisions.

#### **The way forward**

9. At the request of Council, the Team is now asked to consider the appointment of a Scrutiny Panel to carry out this work, to include the Member Champion for Young

People, representatives of the Youth Group and Education sectors and the Council's Communication and Localities Team.

10. You are also asked to appoint a Leader and members to that panel and to agree terms of reference. The Council has asked that the Panel implement a plan to:
  - Encourage more young people to join the Electoral Register
  - Establish a mechanism for better consultation with young people on decisions taken
  - Ensure young people better understand the functions of Pendle Borough Council and what it does for them

Town Hall,  
NELSON,  
Report Author: Lynne Rowland (Tel:) (01282) 661648  
E-Mail: [lynne.rowland@pendle.gov.uk](mailto:lynne.rowland@pendle.gov.uk)

Background Papers: Minutes of the Council meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2016  
Date: May, 2016