



SCRUTINY STUDY OF YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

To - Youth Engagement Scrutiny Panel
Date of meeting – 23rd August, 2016
Notes of - Committee Administrator

BRIEFING NOTES

Background

1. At the Scrutiny Management Team meeting in May this year it was agreed that a scrutiny panel be established to carry out a review on youth engagement.
2. This was in response to a motion considered at the Council meeting on 23rd 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 help young people better understand the functions of the Council and encourage as many young people as possible to engage directly in the democratic process.
6. The Panel is tasked with gathering the views of young people in order to make recommendations as appropriate.

Work so far

7. The Panel began its review by arranging a visit to Nelson and Colne College to speak with students.
8. The meeting was held on 21st June, 2016 and was attended by approximately 19 students, with support from a staff member. A note of the meeting was taken by the Chairman of Scrutiny Management Team and is attached at appendix A.
9. Further to this, the Panel has devised a questionnaire. This can be accessed online at www.pendle.gov.uk/youthsurvey and has been publicised on the Council's

website, via social media and in the local press and has been circulated to local youth groups. Paper copies are also available and an example is provided at appendix B to this report.

10. The questionnaire is primarily aimed at those aged 14 to 24 years, but the views of anybody older are also being sought by way of the following questions –
 - Do you have any comments or ideas about what we could do to help young people understand what their local council does?
 - Do you have any comments or ideas about how young people could have their say on local issues?
 - Do you have any comments or ideas about how we can encourage more young people to join the Electoral Register and vote?
11. The review has also been promoted with local groups and organisations that work with young people.
12. With their help, we hope to welcome a number of young people to this meeting.

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Background Papers: Minutes of the Council meeting held on 23rd March, 2016
Date: 16th August, 2016