

Five Child Friendly Task and Finish Groups – Report of the Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board

Report to Cabinet on 10 January 2023

Background

1. The Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board met on 21 November 2022 to receive an update on the Five Child Friendly Task and Finish Groups.
2. Sarah Pengelly (Project Manager) presented a progress update on Five Child Friendly Task and Finish Groups as set out in the submitted report and responded to questions in relation to the following:
 - Where were we in the timeline for the Sub-Groups, particularly the Where I Live Sub-Group.
 - The Future Planning included an agreement in place with all strategy holders to see whether children and young people have been considered, it was vital that this was embedded in everything that we do.
 - The importance of making careers more viable and to create more opportunities for people to have careers within Torbay.
 - There was an ambition to ensure that young people sit on all the Sub-Groups with an aim that in the future young people would lead the Sub-Groups.
 - The process to develop the child friendly work was a slow process, three years was a long time for a young person.
 - What could be done to review the covenant for Tessier Gardens which prohibits children from entering the gardens.
 - What was the timeframe for the safer spaces.

The Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Councillor Law, advised that she was meeting with UNICEF on 1 December 2022, who were the official curators of the worldwide child friendly initiative. If the Council joined up with them they would then provide support and train officers and community groups around the child and young people’s priorities reflected in our Groups. A presentation had also been provided to Torbay Champions showing the place that our young people have in the Torbay Story and work was being done with the Place Partnership Board to see how this could be joined up with the main Torbay Story.

The Sub-Board was advised that Frank Tsyplek had now been appointed to the Youth Trust in a paid capacity to help represent the voice of the young person in addition to being a non-voting Co-opted Member on the Sub-Board.

- 3 The Sub-Board formed the following recommendation to the Cabinet. On being put to the vote, the motion was declared carried unanimously.

That the Cabinet be recommended to ensure greater involvement in the Child Friendly Sub-Groups with young people, with a view to young people taking the lead on the Sub-Groups in the future.