

# STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

## COUNCIL

21 OCTOBER 2021

|  |   |        |          |               |
|--|---|--------|----------|---------------|
| <b>Report Title</b>  | <b>HEAR BY RIGHT PARTICIPATION PLEDGE AND AWARD PROGRAMME</b>   |        |          |               |
| <b>Purpose of Report</b>                                       | The Council's Youth Work Strategy, features an objective that commits the Council to undertaking the award programme of the national Hear by Right standards for youth participation. This report outlines details of the decision taken by the Community Services and Licensing Committee to begin the initial steps needed to complete the Hear by Right award programme. |        |          |               |
| <b>Decision(s)</b>   | <b>The Council RESOLVES to Endorse the decision made by the Community Services and Licensing Committee to make the Hear by Right Participation Pledge; and commence the award programme process with the support of a cross Council officer and member group.</b>   |        |          |               |
| <b>Consultation and Feedback</b>                               | All consultation was carried out ahead of the Youth Work Strategy being approved.   |        |          |               |
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| <b>Options</b>   | Council could decide not to endorse the pledge, but this would be contrary to the aim and objectives in the Youth Work Strategy and the decision made by the Community Services and Licensing Committee.  |        |          |               |
| <b>Background Papers</b>                                       | All background papers, including minutes of the Community Services and Licensing Committee Meeting on 21 June 2021 can be found via the following link:<br><a href="https://stroud.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&amp;MId=1106&amp;Ver=4">https://stroud.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&amp;MId=1106&amp;Ver=4</a>                              |        |          |               |
| <b>Appendices</b>  | All appendices referenced for the report to the Community Services and Licensing Committee on 21 June 2021 can be found via the following link:<br><a href="https://stroud.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&amp;MId=1106&amp;Ver=4">https://stroud.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&amp;MId=1106&amp;Ver=4</a>                                      |        |          |               |
| <b>Implications (further details at the end of the report)</b> | Financial   | Legal  | Equality | Environmental |
|  | Yes/No  | Yes/No | Yes      | No            |

## 1. INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Hear by Right is the national standards framework for youth participation, created and made available by the National Youth Agency (NYA). The Hear by Right Introduction document (**Appendix D**) gives comprehensive details of what the NYA offer.
- 1.2 The decision by the Community Services and Licensing Committee to make the Hear by Right Participation Pledge and commence the award programme process with the support of a cross Council officer and member group, was made on 21 June 2021.
- 1.3 The Council has a rich history of enabling young people to have a voice, be heard and be taken seriously on matters that affect them – this has been underpinned and enhanced since 2012 by a dedicated youth work strategy. At its core, the Councils Youth Work Strategy (**Appendix A**) features a youth voice vehicle (**Appendix B**) that has evolved over 21 years, into an award winning model for youth participation. This was recognised nationally by the British Youth Council in 2020 (**Appendix C**).

## 2. MAIN POINTS

- 2.1 The Councils Youth Work Strategy (**Appendix A**) features 7 objectives. One objective (No. 4) focuses on the Hear by Right standards. It states that the Council will:

*‘Continue to develop practice within the Council with regards to the national Hear by Right standards, to support a culture of change towards greater youth participation across services. Undertake the national participation pledge and Hear by Right award programme.’*

- 2.2 The Participation Pledge demonstrates the Council’s commitment to the participation of young people in sharing the central values of inclusion, empowerment, commitment and impact. Undertaking the Hear by Right award programme will support the Council to continue to: *‘inspire and equip young people to become change makers, influencers and co-producers’*; it will further *‘embed youth participation’* across the Council; continue to *‘foster best practice’*; and *‘improve services’*. Alongside the support for young people’s own personal and social development, it will subsequently benefit the communities in which young people live. It will highlight any areas for improvement for the Council; and therefore make a significant contribution to the Council’s Fit for the Future programme and the efforts to become an exemplar Council.

## 3. PROGRESS TO DATE

- 3.1 The first step to completing the award programme is underway. Officers from the Council’s Youth Service are working with the National Youth Agency (NYA). They will be undertaking specific online training shortly – this will also be offered to other officers and members in the cross service support group. Further training for those at the heart of the assessment process and the submission of evidence, will then follow.

### **3. CONCLUSION**

- 3.1** This report has outlined the decision taken by the Community Services and Licensing Committee to make the Hear by Right Participation Pledge and commence the award programme with cross Council support.
- 3.2** Completing the award programme and living its principles will demonstrate how well the Council upholds the values of inclusion, empowerment, commitment and impact with regards to youth participation. It will subsequently make a significant contribution to the values and commitments of the Council in its role as a local authority.

### **4. IMPLICATIONS**

#### **4.1 Financial Implications**

There are no significant financial implications arising from this decision. Funding has been allocated from the existing budget.

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#### **4.2 Legal Implications**

There are no significant legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

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#### **4.3 Equality Implications**

There are not any specific changes to service delivery proposed as a result of this decision. However, making the Hear by Right Participation Pledge and completing the award programme assessment, will make a significant contribution to upholding the Councils Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Policy – which has already received public endorsement from the Chairperson of Stroud District Youth Council (Full Council Meeting, 18 March 2021) and since, input from the Stroud District Youth Council as a whole with regards to consultation on the draft EDI policy.

Some changes to the EDI Policy may need to be considered on a case by case basis at a later date, to ensure improvements to some service delivery regarding the inclusion of young people.

#### **4.4 Environmental Implications**

There are no significant implications within this category.