

**STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**COMMUNITY SERVICES & LICENSING COMMITTEE**

**AGENDA  
ITEM NO**

**24 JUNE 2021**

**5**

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>HEAR BY RIGHT AWARD PROGRAMME</b>			
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To consider 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.			
<b>Decision(s)</b>	<p><b>The Committee RESOLVES to create a cross Council officer and member group to support the development of an application to the award programme.</b></p> <p><b>The Committee RECOMMENDS to Council that the Council makes the Hear by Right Participation Pledge; and commences the award programme process.</b></p>			
<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 make the pledge, but this would be contrary to the aim and objectives in the Youth Work Strategy.			
<b>Background Papers</b>	None			
<b>Appendices</b>	Appendix A – Youth Work Strategy 2020-2024 Appendix B – Stroud District Youth Voice Vehicle Appendix C – BYC Youth-Led Organisation of the Year Award Appendix D - Hear by Right Introduction (NYA)			
<b>Implications (further details at the end of the report)</b>	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	No	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). It's primary purpose, is use as an organisational development tool. The Hear by Right Introduction document (**Appendix D**) gives comprehensive details of what the NYA offer – reading this document will give greater context regarding this report.

- 1.2** The award programme attributed to the standards framework, enables organisations that deliver or commission services for young people, including local authorities, to improve the active involvement of young people in the services they receive. It will also benefit the communities in which young people live and their own personal and social development.
- 1.3** The Council has a rich history of enabling young people to have a voice, be heard and 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 (**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.’*

In response to the aforementioned objective, the following points are cited in **Appendix D**, in which to create a plan of action.

- 2.2** 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’*. It will also make a significant contribution to the Council’s Fit for the Future programme and the efforts to become an exemplar Council.
- 2.3** The first step to completing the award programme is for the Council to make the Hear by Right Participation Pledge. This is a public commitment that will demonstrate the Council’s commitment to the participation of young people in sharing the central values of inclusion, empowerment, commitment and impact. The pledge is registered by the National Youth Agency (NYA) on their website.
- 2.4** As a Council, we will commence our Hear by Right journey with the support of the NYA. This includes mapping and planning to determine where we are currently, where we want to be and how we will get there. We will include officers, members and where appropriate, young people, working together to identify evidence of our recent progress against the award programme criteria.
- 2.5** The Hear by Right framework is built upon 7 standards and 20 indicators that describe best practice. The award is given at two levels:

‘Active’ – this requires the Council to map and plan between 7 and 17 indicators.

‘Flagship’ - this requires the Council to map and plan between 18 and 20 indicators.

- 2.6** Officers would hope that the Council can aspire to flagship status. As part of the submission to the NYA, officers will be required to produce a case study, which will evidence our progress. This will subsequently form the final part of our submission for the award.

### **3. CONCLUSION**

- 3.1** This report has outlined the details of the initial steps needed to complete the Hear by Right award programme, as directed by the Councils Youth Work Strategy.
- 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, completing the Hear by Right award programme 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).

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