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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Inverclyde Alliance Board</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>17 June 2019</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Ruth Binks, Corporate Director Education, Communities &amp; Organisational Development</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Hugh Scott Service Manager</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 715450</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Young People Representation on Inverclyde Alliance Board</b>		

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## **1.0 PURPOSE**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Inverclyde Alliance Board to progress with plans to explore the possibility of appointing Inverclyde's two elected Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYPs) to the Inverclyde Alliance Board.

## **2.0 SUMMARY**

- 2.1 In 2013, the Scottish Government agreed that 2018 should be dedicated to young people and as such 2018 was officially referred to as the Year of Young People. Community Learning and Development's Youth Work Services team delivered a series of events and opportunities for young people to take part in including our first ever awards event and two successful Clyde Conversations events.
- 2.2 As a legacy of the Year of Young People, it is hoped that the youth consultation and representation agenda be further developed to include and involve young people more meaningfully within formal structures. As such, it is proposed that the 2 democratically elected members of the Scottish Youth Parliament be co-opted on to the Inverclyde Alliance Board to enhance the role and profile of an MSYP and ensure that voices of young people are heard and can be effective in influencing decisions taken at this level.
- 2.3 In addition, it is proposed that other members of the Inverclyde Youth Council be given the opportunity to attend the Board along with one of our MSYPs on a rotational basis. This will provide continuity as well as an opportunity for members of the Youth Council to gain experience of attending such meetings and hopefully develop confidence, skills and knowledge of local government structures which they could use to develop the Youth Council further.
- 2.4 The elected MSYPs and members of the Youth Council attending the meetings will be supported by members of Community Learning and Development's Youth Services Team who will support the young people in relation to all aspects of attending such a meeting e.g. agenda, report / presentation preparation, their role during the meetings etc.
- 2.5 If approved, it is hoped that the young people can provide an important youth perspective on agenda items. The MSYPs will formally represent the Youth Council and young people from across Inverclyde. They regularly consult with young people and as such have a firm understanding of young

people's views and opinions and can share this information with the Board as appropriate.

- 2.6 There are examples of young people sitting on formal committee structures elsewhere across Scotland. In North Lanarkshire Council, members of the North Lanarkshire Youth Council sit on the Youth, Equalities and Empowerment Committee and in Perth and Kinross Council, the MSYPs sit on the Lifelong Learning Committee. If approved, Inverclyde would still be one of the few authorities to take this significant step and ensure youth participation is valued and that the role of the MSYP is both meaningful and recognised.

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Alliance Board:

- a. Notes the content of this report.
- b. Agrees to the proposed arrangements for our two MSYPs to sit on the Alliance Board;
- c. Agrees to the proposal for other members of the Inverclyde Youth Council to attend the Board as and when required.

**Ruth Binks,**  
**Corporate Director: Education, Communities and Organisational Development**

## **4.0 BACKGROUND**

4.1 Inverclyde's Youth Participation and engagement structures currently comprises:

- 2 Elected Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament
- Inverclyde Youth Council
- Clyde Conversations Steering Group
- Clyde Conversations Events
- I Youth Zone Steering Groups
- LGBT Clyde Pride Group

4.2 There is in place a well-established, dynamic and sector leading approach to pupil /youth engagement through pupil councils, I Youth Zone steering groups, Clyde Conversations Steering Group and events, Inverclyde Youth Council and the members of Scottish Youth Parliament who support regular consultation events and activities across Inverclyde. The young people involved in this diverse infrastructure welcome the opportunity to continue to inform decision-making processes.

4.3 This desire has been strengthened by the focus of the Year of Young People 2018 and young people have requested increased opportunities of participation as part of the legacy planning. In Inverclyde, the Year of Young People presented a range of opportunities for young people both locally and nationally to enhance the youth participation agenda and this would be a fitting legacy of the year.

4.4 The Inverclyde Youth Participation Strategy demonstrates the commitment from the local authority to ensure that young people feel they have a voice and are included and empowered to make changes to their own lives. Underpinning the Strategy is Article 12 of the UNCRC which states that "when adults are making decisions that affect children, children have the right to say what they think should happen and have their opinions taken into account". This proposal would ensure that Inverclyde is meeting the objectives stated in Article 12 and would ensure that youth participation is both meaningful and empowering.

4.5 The involvement of young people in the planning and delivery of the Clyde Conversations events worked well from the perspective of both elected members and young people and this presented an opportunity to deepen the level of engagement and influence on the part of young people. Young people are keen to represent the interests of Inverclyde's young people at this level.

## **5.0 IMPLICATIONS**

Legal: none at present

Finance: None

Human Resources: none at present

Equality and Diversity: There is representation within our youth participation structures from young people with a variety of backgrounds and experiences including LGBT, care-experienced young people, young people with disabilities and young carers.

Repopulation: none at present

Inequalities: none at present

## **6.0 CONSULTATIONS**

6.1 Various consultations have been carried out in relation to youth representation including the Penny for Youth Thoughts, Clyde Conversations Survey and the consultation used to create the Youth Participation Strategy.

## **7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 None

