

Cabinet Member Report to County Council

8 December 2016

Cabinet Member:	Councillor Christopher Hudson, Cabinet Member for Ipswich
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Ipswich Vision – Young Person Engagement

As a member of the Ipswich Vision Board we have initiated a project to engage with young people aged between 16 to 25 who live, study or work in Ipswich. The thoughts and views of the younger generation are essential when developing a vision for Ipswich; they are the citizens who will shape the future of our county town and are the workforce of tomorrow and as part of the engagement we will be seeking to understand their aspirations, the barriers to achieving these and how these relate to the strands of the Ipswich Vision.

Two focus groups were run during August 2016, which consisted of young people who work at Suffolk County and Ipswich Borough Councils. The groups were fully attended and consisted of 7-8 young people in each group, who gave their views on a range of issues which emerged from asking what was important to them for their futures and what the barriers were to achieving what was important to them. The key themes emerging from this were around; employment and education, transport, lifestyle and housing.

These groups were run to commence the engagement process and also to enable the scoping of the engagement framework, with the expectation that the project would be extended to a wider and more diverse range of young people. All of the participants were enthusiastic about being able to participate in the focus groups, even though none of them were particularly well informed about the Ipswich Vision.

A presentation was given to the Ipswich Board at the end of September 2016 to report back on the emerging themes and to gauge the level of support for extending the engagement with young people from a wider demographic. The presentation was given by the young people who have developed and delivered the focus groups and the Vision Board were enthusiastic to see the work continue.

Focus groups have now been scheduled with; The Prince's Trust (Enterprise programme – for young people starting a business), Copleston High School, Willis Towers Watson, Inspire Suffolk (Prince's Trust Enterprise programme for young people who are NEET). Focus groups are also being discussed with; Suffolk New College, Catch 22, Youth Offending Service, University of Suffolk, Outreach Youth and the Ipswich and Suffolk Council for Racial Equality. Once all groups are completed a report will be presented back to the Ipswich Vision Board with identified themes and some recommendations on how the Vision can better support the needs of young people. It is anticipated that this report will be presented to the Ipswich Vision Board in February 2017.

The project has received support from all directorates within the authority and a steering group has been established with officers from the Communications team, the Engagement Hub and IT. The focus groups have been developed, promoted and run by Poppy Reece (Children's Services), Sharna Allen and Jordan Wallace (Both Public Health) and the project has been managed by Louis Gorham (Resource Management – IT)

Details of the vision are available from

<https://www.ipswich.gov.uk/greateripswichvision> for further information please contact: Louis Gorham; Email: louis.gorham@suffolk.gov.uk, Telephone: 01473 260595.
