



Derby young people's web site and recruitment for the Youth Forum Derby core group

RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 To widely promote the use of www.youthlinkderby.org.uk by all young people aged 11 – 19 years old
- 1.2 To identify and encourage all young people from the community to participate in the Youth Forum Derby core group.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 Youth Link Derby is a new web site designed by and for young people in Derby.
- 2.2 The site is managed by a steering group. Membership of the group comprises of staff from the Education and Social Services departments. This group has editorial rights for the web site. The group is keen to ensure that the site is accessed by all young people.
- 2.3 Youth Link Derby aims to engage young people in consultation and moderated discussion boards. It is envisaged that the young people themselves will become involved in suggesting topics and moderating those topics.
- 2.4 Derby Youth Forum is the Council's main vehicle for engaging young people in consultation. The forum is open to all young people aged 11 - 19 who live in the city. Membership is on a voluntary basis. The forum currently meets four times a year.
- 2.5 There is a core group of young people who help to run the forum. They meet every half term to discuss issues and to decide on the topics for discussion and consultation. There are currently 11 members of the group - 54% are female, 46% are male and 27% are from black and minority ethnic communities.
- 2.6 The membership of the core group has been consistent over the past year, however most of the group will be leaving over the next year, either to go to University or because they are over 19 years of age. It is within this context that we are seeking to recruit new members who are representative of the community.

- 2.7 We are keen to increase the number of young people as representatives on the core group. This should enable us to raise participation in the Youth Forum Derby. We aim to achieve this by seeking support from community groups. This will be through engagement with these groups, seeking to visit as many as possible.
- 2.8 The aims of the visits are to:
- provide information about the Youth Forum Derby
 - engage young people in dialogue
 - engage young people in consultation and democratic processes
 - recruit new volunteers to the core group.

For more information contact:	Jackie Scruton 01332 255631 e-mail jackie.scruton@derby.gov.uk
Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. The only costs would be in the provision of leaflets detailing the role and purpose of the group. These would be funded from the existing Consultation Support Team budget.

Legal

2. The Race relations (Amendment) Act 2000 puts a legal obligation on all public authorities to promote racial equality and good race relations between different racial groups.

Personnel

3. None

Equalities impact

- 4.1 The recruitment of black and minority ethnic representatives would raise awareness of cultural and diversity issues and understanding between difference, especially with regard to young people's issues. Recruitment to the Youth Forum Derby core group would also contribute to raising self-esteem and confidence of both the young people involved and their peers.
- 4.2 When the Disability Discrimination Act (2005) becomes live in late 2006, we will have a legal obligation as a public authority to promote equality for disabled people and to eliminate harassment and discrimination against disabled people.

Corporate objectives and priorities

5. This work links to the Council's objectives of providing a stimulating and high quality learning environment and to a shared commitment to regenerating our communities.