

**TITLE OF REPORT:**           **Liaison with Gateshead Youth Assembly**

**REPORT OF:**               **Interim Strategic Director, Care Wellbeing and Learning**

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## **Summary**

The Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to more pro-active links with Gateshead Youth Assembly. This report outlines activity undertaken following the 2016 GYA Elections and priorities set by Youth Assembly for 2017.

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## **Introduction**

1. Andrew Adams was appointed Chair and Josh Smith the Vice Chair following the Elections held in November 2016.

Hannah Douglass remains the Youth Parliament member who represents Gateshead's young people attending regional and National meetings.

Currently 6 Schools and Gateshead College are represented within GYA and the membership intend to promote awareness of GYA across all schools and hope to speak to school councils and head-teachers to promote the benefits being involved can have for young people.

2. GYA and Peace of Mind worked jointly and held a series of drop-in sessions for Refugee and Asylum seeking young people in the run up to Christmas. The program developed events and activities on issues that affect young people. GYA groups applied to "The Key" and were awarded a small grant to hold a "Community Christmas Party" that attracted over 120 Children and their families.
3. GYA members continue to join forces with members from One Voice.
4. GYA continues to be called upon by Gateshead Strategic Partnership and Public Health to explore how young people can further support issues on Community Safety and Improving and promoting Good Health.
5. GYA aim to work closely with Northumbria Police Cadets (Gateshead) to deliver their presentation on Child Sexual Exploitation and lobby schools to raise the issue and encourage dialogue between pupils and teachers.

6. Sarah Gascoigne, former GYA member and GYC Board member sits on the board of Governors for Gateshead Hospital Foundation Trust and we hope with this involvement it helps shape and influence developments at the QE's Children Unit. Sarah sits on behalf of GYA as the meetings are during school times.
7. GYA have identified Emotional Wellbeing (Mental Health and Bullying), public transport, the environment and Tobacco as Priorities for 2017.
8. Members of Gateshead Youth Assembly meet every week either at Gateshead Youth Council or within the Council Chambers and plan to hold three Convivial Suppers. Members of OSC are invited to attend a Convivial Supper on January 31<sup>st</sup> 2017, to be held at Gladstone Terrace.
9. Members will deliver training to GYA on a monthly basis including Youth Work Core Skills, Confidence Building, Committee Skills and Community Volunteering and Activism.

### **Proposal**

10. Members of the new Assembly attend future meetings and continue to discuss their activity in 2017 and agree a focus on their activities to support the wider Gateshead agenda.

### **Recommendations**

11. The Committee is requested to note the information presented in the report.
12. The Committee is asked to note the invite to the Convivial Supper on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January, which will provide an opportunity for Councillors to meet with and hear a presentation from representatives of the Youth Assembly.

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