

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject: REVISION OF THE FALKIRK COUNCIL PUPIL COUNCIL**  
**Meeting: EDUCATION EXECUTIVE**  
**Date: 3 FEBRUARY 2015**  
**Author: JOINT ACTING DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 There have been ongoing discussions throughout 2013/14 with young people to explore the effectiveness and purpose of the current Falkirk Council Pupil Council
- 1.2 The outcome of the discussions highlighted the need for changes. Young people wanted a greater voice to influence policy and decisions, involve a broader range of young people and help inspire and empower young people in a way that could lead to change.
- 1.3 The new approach, Youth Ambassadors (YAs), is designed to enhance how we go about developing the four capacities as set out in Curriculum for Excellence:
  - Effective Contributors
  - Responsible Citizens
  - Confident Individuals
  - Successful Learners

**2. YOUTH AMBASSADORS**

- 2.1 The Youth Ambassador programme will replace the Falkirk Council Pupil Council. The aim is to give YAs a voice on decisions that affect them and issues they care about. The YAs will work as part of a team with other young people from Falkirk's secondary schools to:
  - Represent young people from across the authority.
  - Discuss and take action with regards to pupil concerns.
  - Influence policies and strategies relating to young people.
  - Identify topics and issues locally, regionally and nationally that are important and relate to young people.
  - Incorporate GIRFEC framework through contributing and delivering events and initiatives which will enhance and support the health and wellbeing of young people.

**3. EXPECTATIONS**

- 3.1 All YAs are expected to attend 5 meetings per year. All members will be expected to fully participate and contribute to the team. YAs will be creative in how they take forward their role and take ownership of their education experience and influence others.

As part of the team there will be the following roles:

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Secretary

It is proposed that the Chair and Vice Chair will become the pupil representatives on the Education Executive. The representatives are presently nominated by the Pupil Council.

#### **4. BENEFITS**

4.1 This change will offer the participants further opportunities to:

- Represent the voice of young people at authority level as part of a regional team.
- Extend YAs' experience which will aid job and further education applications.
- Learn more about their rights, entitlements and responsibilities.
- Develop leadership skills.

#### **5. NATIONAL AND PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

5.1 In partnership with Stirling and Clackmannanshire Council, Falkirk will pilot this as part of the ongoing Forth Valley Creative Learning Project.

5.2 The programme is supported nationally by Education Scotland who are impressed with our innovative approach to pupil voice. We will work with Education Scotland to stream any events and talks through Glow, allowing young people across Scotland to participate.

5.3 Youth Ambassadors will enable Education Scotland to deliver their priorities relating to reaching young people through Glow and developing pupil voice.

#### **6. RECOMMENDATION**

6.1 Education Executive is asked to agree:

- (i) the implementation of the Youth Ambassador programme; and
- (ii) that the Chair and Vice Chair of the Youth Ambassadors team will become the pupil representatives on the Education Executive.

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**Joint Acting Director of Education**

**Date:** 20 January 2015

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#### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

NIL