

## Report to the meeting of Wellbeing Board to be held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023

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### Subject:

Bradford Citizens Young Persons Action Team

### Summary statement:

This paper provides an update on the work of Bradford Citizens young person's action team.

### EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:

Equality and diversity considerations have been regarded throughout this paper. By attending the wellbeing board the young person's action team specifically contribute to the equalities theme of **community and service design**, as they are welcomed to participate and contribute at this forum.

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## 1. SUMMARY

Bradford Citizens is grateful for the opportunity for young people to attend and give a presentation at the Bradford Wellbeing Board on 28th February 2023

- 5 MATs in Bradford have collaborated to form Bradford Citizens as an alliance working to bring a strong voice for young people in Bradford. This alliance is seeking to broaden its membership beyond MATs to a range of civil society institutions. Bradford Citizens is facilitated by Citizens UK.
- Young People from MAT Schools in Bradford have been working together to identify issues from their experience that can be tackled in order to improve their lives. Mental Health has come out as a priority and within this issue the young people have identified practical solutions which they would like to present as proposals to decision makers and partner bodies within Bradford.
- To this end a group of young people from different schools will give a presentation to the Health and Wellbeing Board and participate in a discussion on their proposals chaired by Cllr. Susan Hinchliffe.

## 2. BACKGROUND

**Bradford Citizens** is currently an alliance of 5 School Multi-Academy Trusts (BDAT, Beckfoot, Carlton, Dixons and Exceed), with other Trusts joining. The aim is to broaden this alliance among more schools, the University, faith groups, charities and trade unions. The alliance began in March 2021 with a school pandemic summit which was based on listening to 20,000 students in 18 schools. From these stories, we produced the Schools Pandemic Recovery Manifesto and developed actions in 4 areas: effects of racism; mental health experience and support; effects of disadvantage; lost opportunities/LGBTQ+. In April 2021 school students from Bradford participated in a virtual meeting with West Yorkshire mayoral candidates. Actions teams for each of the 4 areas have since identified the changes they want to see, with associated practical outcomes, and students have led meetings with civic leaders in the city.

In 2021/22 students have met with senior leaders including West Yorkshire Mayor Tracy Brabin West Yorkshire Mayor, Alison Lowe (Deputy Mayor (Police and Crime)), ACC Osman Khan, Therese Patten (*CEO Bradford District Care NHS Foundation Trust*), Kirsten England (CEO, Bradford MDC), Susan Hinchliffe (Leader, Bradford MDC), Toby Howarth (Bishop of Bradford) and David Scott (Corporate Affairs Director, Morrisons plc). Currently, we collaborate with Born in Bradford/Age of Wonder and have worked with the Alliance of Life Chances (Kathryn Loftus) to connect data with the lived experiences of children to win change. We also connect with Young in Covid.

In July 2022, Young People from Bradford Citizens presented at the 'Tackling Inequalities for our Children' event, held by Centre for Applied Education Research. We have also met with Richard Cracknell and Kate Welsh to coordinate with Child Friendly Bradford and the CYP Plan.

This process has given opportunity for co-production work with the health trust and school nurse team. In November 2022, Bradford Citizens held a second school summit which

involved 6,000 from 20 primary and secondary schools in a listening process. From this, 3 priorities were voted on: the cost of living, mental health and tackling racism.

The work applies the method of community organising through a 5-step change model – organising, listening, planning acting and evaluating. Through these steps young people gain skills in leadership, chairing meetings, negotiating and co-production.

Alongside prioritising the voices of young people, Bradford Citizens strengthens its member institutions to engage in civic life in a sustained and significant way.

It should be noted that young people are speaking for themselves and not on behalf of their school. Through listening we identify internal solutions (those within the schools/member institutions) and external solutions (those that sit within the wider society of Bradford).

### **3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

#### **Issues:**

The specific mental health issues that have been identified by the students are:

- Young people as wellbeing ambassadors
- Accessible trained mental health staff in schools
- Support for talking about mental health
- Educating parents/carers
- Self-awareness and body image issues.

In the presentation to the Board these will be presented by the young people in specific detail with practical proposals. It is planned that this will take the form of a 15-20 minutes' presentation by the young people, with 10-15 minutes response and discussion.

### **4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL**

None arising

### **5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

None arising

### **6. LEGAL APPRAISAL**

None arising

### **7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

#### **7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

None arising

#### **7.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS**

None arising

#### **7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

None arising

#### **7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

None arising

#### **7.5 TRADE UNION**

None arising

#### **7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS**

None arising

#### **7.7 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS (for reports to Area Committees only)**

#### **7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

This report is entirely based on the views of young people from across the District. Bradford Citizens have listened to 20,000 students to date in 24 schools and are summarising here the views of the students on Young People's Mental Health. We will be presenting specific and practical proposals to the Board which will have a direct impact on improving Mental Health services and provision for young people. Looked After young people are included as part of the listening process in the schools that are members of Bradford Citizens, but no specific data or issues for this group of students have been collated.

#### **7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT**

None arising

#### **8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

None

#### **9. OPTIONS**

n/a

#### **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the Board note the contents of this report and the views expressed by the Bradford Citizens Young People's Action Team at the Wellbeing Board on 28<sup>th</sup> February.
2. That the Board takes note of the specific proposals brought by the Young People's Action Team and responds appropriately at the Wellbeing Board on 28<sup>th</sup> February.
3. That the Board commits to working with the Young People's Action Team to take forward/develop the specific proposals on Mental Health to improve services and provision across the District for ALL of Bradford's children and young people.

**11. APPENDICES**

Bradford Citizens briefing note

**12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

n/a