

## **Report of the Cabinet Member Performance and Engagement**

### **Youth Service:**

The Council has awarded the three year contract for the youth service for Devon to DYS Space Ltd: the social enterprise which has been established by the in house team led by Kevin Henman. The new service will start in February next year. It will provide open access youth work from each of the eight youth centres. It will provide early help and targeted support working alongside many other organizations. It will also support, advise and guide voluntary and community groups around the county, as well as continuing to deliver the Chances Educational Support Service and to oversee the Duke of Edinburgh Award for many young people who may not ordinarily engage in the scheme.

This is another important milestone in the way that the Council is finding new and creative ways to support the people and communities it serves. The Council will be carefully monitoring the performance of DYS Space over coming months. The contract has outcomes and targets that it will need to meet. I will be expecting it to engage young people across the county to make sure that what it does reflects their needs and aspirations.

Our Head of Youth Service, Kevin Henman, has put a few words together on the back of recent events. Kevin says,

*“We are immensely proud to have taken part in the procurement process and for DYS Space Ltd (Space) to have been awarded the three year contract. Our bid was a collaborative effort, directly involving over 75% of our staff group and was supported by our partners at VOYC and Dawlish Action for Youth.*

*Youth work across the country has suffered enormously over recent years, yet throughout that period, Devon County Council has re-iterated the importance and value it places on our youth workers. The staff group have been magnificent in adapting to and overcoming the different challenges the service has faced. They are exceedingly proud of their achievements with young people and their communities. Initially they were relieved and now they are excited and eager to demonstrate what we can collectively achieve over the coming years.*

*Being a public sector mutual, they will have a greater say in the running and performance of Space, as indeed will young people. We are looking forward to forging new partnerships on an equal footing with our colleagues in other young people’s organisations.”*

On a related matter – that of delivery of an Exeter Youth Strategy – I can inform Council that progress towards supporting Young People in and around Exeter is well under way with additional agencies coming on board in support. It is

especially pleasing to note the input of Young People in the formulation of a Strategy for Exeter has been considerable.

I want to express appreciation to all members as well as officers who have contributed to the above. .

### **Member Development:**

At last week's Member Development Committee Meeting members were keen to view information related to DCC' re-accreditation of the 'Charter Plus Award' for Member Development. It can be found on:

<https://www.devonnewscentre.info/devon-receives-reaccreditation-at-charter-plus-level-for-member-development/>

### **Welsh Audit Office:**

On the back of comments received this week from the Peer Challenge Team I'd like to share another 'outside view' of the perception of at least one other body from outside of this Council; namely, the Welsh Audit Office, which, we understand has been observing the progress of our Council and others over the past 12 months.

Carl Haggerty and I were invited by the Welsh Audit Office (WAO) to sit in plenary as well as give presentations about the work of Devon County Council with some focus on Digital Transformation. Carl and I attended the two events, one in Cardiff and the other in North Wales.

Ena Lloyd from the Good Practice Team (WAO) states, "We are very aware that Public Service Delivery is entering a new era in Wales. In this seminar we wanted to share how organisations have laid the groundwork and recognised the need for a cultural shift before tackling service transformation (as well as the Wellbeing of the Future Generations Act, which is only applicable in Wales). Through Twitter and blogs, we (the WAO) were aware of Devon CC's Digital approaches. In particular, we wanted to showcase the benefit of the two way knowledge sharing/learning between Councillor Barry Parsons and Carl Haggerty. Both Barry and Carl were very open and honest, which enabled a very interactive stimulating Q&A plenary session. We wanted delegates to walk away from the seminar being clear on:

- Getting the right talent and authority around the table to work collaboratively for better public services;
- The importance of Trust between the talent and authority;
- The how to get the 'buy-in' between the 'talent and authority.'

From a DCC perspective, Carl and I looked towards openly sharing our learning and approaches around Digital and to allow our thinking to be tested, challenged and developed further. We also had opportunities to grow and develop new relationships and collaborations further afield allowing us to learn from a far wider pool of good practice. It is testament to some of the work here that it is being acknowledged further afield.

**National Hate Crime Awareness Week (8 – 15 October 2016):**

The brochure has been circulated, today, to all members in relation to the **National Hate Crime Awareness Week** which commences on 08 October 2016. The very strong message is that we all adopt a 'Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime'. Devon County Council is working alongside its partners to ensure this message is felt everywhere across our County. We want to see Devon celebrate its rich diversity and reject all hate crime.

I hope Members will take time to read the brochure and to give associated support in all aspects of this very important issue.

**Councillor Barry Parsons**  
**Performance and Engagement**