



**Glasgow City Council**

**Wellbeing, Equalities, Communities, Culture  
and Engagement City Policy Committee**

**Report by Head of Policy and Corporate Governance**

**Contact: Michelle Booth - Ext: 77928**

**Youth Participation: Engagement in Council Civic and Democratic  
Structures Update**

**Purpose of Report:**

- To update the committee on the outputs and recommendations from the Wece Youth Voice Design Jam; and
- To update the committee on the continued development of youth engagement with the committee and the wider council.

**Recommendations:**

- Note the report;
- Note the recommendations contained within the report regarding ongoing youth participation with the committee; and
- Note the ongoing council work to engage young people in civic and democratic structures.
- Note ongoing work with Education Services to support ongoing pupil engagement and develop joint strategies across council departments.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes  No  consulted: Yes  No

**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:**

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## 1 Introduction

On 16 March 2021, the Scottish Parliament unanimously passed legislation to incorporate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) into the Law in Scotland. The UNCRC Act came into force on 16 July 2024. The UNCRC Act makes the rights of children part of the domestic law of Scotland and therefore directly enforceable in the Scottish courts. Incorporation therefore enhances accountability for human rights obligations, allowing people to hold duty bearers to account. The new law complements the Rights Respecting Schools initiative many schools across Glasgow participate in.

Following an update to the Committee in [April 2024](#) on the council's ongoing work to develop youth participation in its civic and democratic structures, a Design Jam was held for the Committee and young people in September 2025. This followed the WECCE Committee development day on 21 September 2023 in Shettleston. The event was hosted by a local project Fuse Youth Café, and as well as their own young people, welcomed others from South West Arts and Music Project (SWAMP) in Pollok, and Delivering Real Change from Yoker, representing the three strategic areas of Glasgow. Taking place during our second time as European Capital of Sport in 2023, Glasgow Girls FC were also invited as a citywide project representing an equalities protected characteristic (sex).

The Youth Voice Design Jam, hosted by the Centre for Civic Innovation (CCI) brought together young people from the [Youth Climate Action Fund](#) programme and members of the Committee to explore where and how young people can be more involved in shaping the city.

Topics for collaboration included decision making, participating in projects and initiatives, sharing ideas for what young people would like to see in their local areas and more.

A Design Jam is a collaborative event geared towards working together, coming up with ideas, and building on the ones with potential.

As a result a number of outputs, recommendations and next steps are detailed in the report in Appendix One which sets out the context of the wider work being carried out by CCI and where the work of the Committee can sit within that.

Work will now continue to develop these initiatives alongside wider work by the Communities Team to capture and assist in coordinating all of the youth participation contacts that the council family undertakes to maximise its potential.

This includes alignment with the developments outlined in the recent report on [Pupil Participation Developments](#) that was taken to the Education, Skills & Early Years City Policy Committee in January.

## 2 Additional Work With Young People

### ➤ Promoting Anti Racism together in Education

The Youth Engagement Strategy Development complements Glasgow Education Services Citywide School Forum and Senior Phase Parliament youth voice initiatives. Most notably this work also aligns with Glasgow Education Services PARTIE (Promoting Anti Racisms together in Education) where Glasgow's school anti-Racism Charter was launched in 2023. Regular events showcase the work of schools who share their anti-racist learning and are facilitated by anti-racist workshops from teachers who have undertaken the Education Scotland Building Racial Literacy Programme.

### ➤ Girls4Equality

Girls4Equality is a legacy from the award-winning Girls@COP26 - the Solutions are Feminist initiative. The young women first met in November 2021 during COP26 as S3 pupils and this created a platform for young women from across Glasgow secondary schools to voice their concerns and experiences. They discussed key themes that affect their lives as young women in the city in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Through their biannual meetings held on International Day of the Girl and International Women's Day, our young women have engaged in meaningful discussions on various themes such as Place, Safety, Culture, and Health, and Wellbeing that intersect with SDG5 'Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls'. These gatherings have helped to empower our young women to become advocates for change and ensure their voices are heard opinions valued when developing council policies.

To continue the international award-winning work, Education Services has established a new S1 group of young women as a legacy of Glasgow 850. This initiative will serve as a natural continuation of our commitment to empowering young women in the city.

### ➤ Young Men's Mind Project

Young men are being supported by Education Services through the Young Men's Mind Project launched at a conference in January 2026. This project has been developed to support the mental health of young men in our city based on evidence gathered by Education Psychologists. The project will be delivered in partnership with Strathclyde University and a variety of other agencies. After the initial Conference, young people returned to their schools to develop an action plan based on their own school priorities. They are being supported to do this by the allocation of coaches, their teachers and wider Education staff.

### 3 Policy and Resource Implications

#### Resource Implications:

*Financial:* None

*Legal:* None

*Personnel:* None

*Procurement:* None

**Council Strategic Plan:** GRAND CHALLENGE ONE - Reduce poverty and inequality in our communities  
Mission 2 - Meet the learning and care needs of children and their families before and through school  
Mission 3 - Improve the health and wellbeing of our local communities

GRAND CHALLENGE FOUR – Enable staff to deliver essential services in a sustainable, innovative and efficient way for our communities

MISSION 2: Run an open, well governed council in partnership with all our communities

#### Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

*Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2025-29? Please specify.*

Yes, Service users are provided with information accessible to them on services provided by the Council Family

*What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?*

It is potentially increasing awareness and access to information about Council Services

*Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.*

Voter turn out and civic engagement are often weakest in the most socio economically deprived areas of the city when cross related to local poverty levels

#### Climate Impacts:

*Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:*

No direct impacts noted at this time

*What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?*

No direct impacts noted at this time

*Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?*

No direct impacts noted at this time

**Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:**

No data protection impacts noted

### **3 Recommendations**

- Note the report;
- Note the recommendations contained within the report regarding ongoing youth participation with the committee; and
- Note the ongoing council work to engage young people in civic and democratic structures.
- Note ongoing work with Education Services to support ongoing pupil engagement and develop joint strategies across council departments.