

Mr Paul Marshall

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

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**Paul High
Chairman**

Children and Young People's Services Select Committee

Dear Paul

Participation of Young People at the Children and Young People's Services Select Committee

I am writing in response to the recommendation from the Children and Young People's Services Select Committee on 19th June 2019 to myself and the Leader that asked us to explore options for young people to become involved with the work of the Select Committee.

The Voice and Participation team are currently reviewing and developing a range of opportunities for increasing the participation for young people across the whole of the Council and services. This is under the guidance of the new Children's Senior Management Team and is being developed as a central element under the new Children First Improvement Plan. The Corporate Parenting Panel will also be involved and includes representation from the Children in Care Council (CICC) and Care Leavers.

The work on the review is in the early stages and is exploring how and when children and young people can be supported to engage with, inform and attend formal meetings. There are a number of requests and opportunities for children and young people to engage including involvement in the Select Committee.

The Officers and Members involved in the review are working alongside the CICC and Care Leavers to seek their views on how they would like to get more involved in contributing to the work of the Committees and Panels which scrutinise Children's Services. After this review has taken place we will be able to offer some practical ways for children and young people to contribute to formal meetings, which will need to take account of the fact that many of these do take place during school hours.

In the meantime can we suggest that the Committee considers making it a requirement of the business area or service making presentations to the Committee, that they consider all opportunities to ensure that the views and experiences of services users are represented with regards to the services they are discussing.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Marshall

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Louise Goldsmith

Leader – West Sussex
County Council