

**(1) Ms C Nichols**

**To the Chair of the Education Committee**

**The voluntary youth sector has a rich and diverse range of organisations that work with a variety of young people and offering services ranging from community based universal youth work to specialist issue based support services. The Voluntary Youth Network was launched in January 2017 and has developed an effective improvement plan underpinned by professional ethics, values and principles and delivering to local, regional and National priorities.**

**The plan has enabled the sector to attract support from National funders and stakeholders and the sector is worth between £7 million and £10 million pounds per year to the local economy.**

**Would the Highland Council agree to meet with young people, youth workers and volunteers from the voluntary youth sector to agree action to improve representation of voluntary youth sector at relevant committees and decision making forums?**

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*The plan has enabled the sector to attract support from National funders and stakeholders and the sector is worth between £7 million and £10 million pounds per year to the local economy. Would the HC agree to meet with young people, youth workers and volunteers from the voluntary youth sector to agree action to improve representation of voluntary youth sector at relevant committees and decision making forums?*

*The council welcomes the engagement of young people in the democratic process and I would be happy to ensure there are opportunities for key officers and members to meet with young people, youth workers and volunteers from the voluntary youth sector to discuss their engagement in the Councils' decision making process. It is worth noting that that Highlife Highland co-ordinates both the work of the Youth Convener and the Highland Strategy for Youth Work. The Youth Convener is a voting member of the Education Committee and also can attend and speak at meetings of the full Council. Over the years the different individuals who have held the post of Youth Convener have all made a positive contribution to representing and articulating the interests of our young people across Highland.*