**Exeter Youth Voice**

**Expressions of Interest wanted:**

**Commission for an Exeter based Young people and/or creative agency to facilitate the ‘Exeter Youth Voice with young people across the city.**

The member champion for young people from Exeter City Council has financial support from the Exeter Board (Devon County Council and Exeter City Council) and the ‘Exeter: A young people friendly city’ steering group and is now inviting expressions of interest from an experienced young people’s or creative agency to deliver an innovative programme to support the delivery of a ‘Youth voice’ with young people in the city.

 In particular the agency will need to plan and facilitate a series of sessions with young people to build on the consultation that took place with over 600 young people in Exeter earlier in 2017.

The key themes identified at this early stage included:

* A Voice for young people in the city and beyond
* Things to do places to go
* Protection from bullying and violence
* Support young people’s mental health
* An environment with young people in mind
* A young people friendly economy

The facilitator/s with the support of the employing agency would need to deliver over a period of 12 months:

1. Arrange sessions with existing youth forums and youth groups in education and informal settings to enable them to take part in the ‘Youth Voice.
2. Arrange a series of creative opportunities for young people across the city to take part in the Youth Voice’ both in their own communities, through their school and other city centre locations.
3. Liaise with other lead partners including :
* the Exeter City Council Member lead for young people
* the communications team of Exeter City Council who will be supporting this process
* the steering group for this work via the Programme officer lead at Exeter City Council
1. Lead on organising an event at the end of the 12 months to share findings with young people and other key stakeholders.
2. Produce a report with recommendations for next steps.

The aims of this initiative include:

1. To ensure young people across Exeter have a voice and profile that enables them to influence decision making in the city as it impacts on the lives of young people
2. To build confidence, understanding and skills of young people to be able to influence change both individually and as a group.
3. With the support of the project steering group and the Member Champion for Young People, to work towards developing a city wide youth forum that will have the ability to influence decision making as it impacts on young people’s lives.
4. Ensure good links with other local, regional and national initiatives such as Devon Youth Parliament, National Citizen Service, #Iwill campaign.

The agency leading this work will need to ensure that they can demonstrate a creative approach to engaging and working with all young people, particularly those that feel that their voices are not heard at school, college, workplace or in their community.

Excellent co-ordination and facilitation skills will be needed as well as a good understanding of some of the barriers to young people’s participation in decision making processes on issues impacting on young people’s lives.

The successful agency will be aware of the legal restraints of working with young people and being able to profile their views, and be able to find creative ways to ensure young people’s voices are heard.

**Expressions of interest** should include proposals for delivering this project (no more than 500 words) and emailed along with a budget breakdown and any other relevant background information about the organization to the Programme Manager – Communities at Exeter City Council.

For further information please contact Dawn Rivers: Programme Manager – Communities. Exeter City Council. Tel No. 01392 265531 E mail: dawn.rivers@exeter.gov.uk

The work will begin in March/April 2018 for completion by March 2019.

**Closing dates for expressions of interest Monday 12 February 5pm. Interviews end - February 2018 (date tbc).**