

Scrutiny Task and Finish Panel Agenda



Youth Engagement Review Task and Finish Panel Monday, 22nd June, 2015

You are invited to attend the next meeting of **Youth Engagement Review Task and Finish Panel**, which will be held at:

**Council Chamber, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping
on Monday, 22nd June, 2015
at 7.00 pm .**

**Glen Chipp
Chief Executive**

**Democratic Services
Officer**

Rebecca Perrin (Democratic Services)
Tel: 01992 564532 Email:rperrin@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Members:

Councillors J McIvor, G Mohindra, S Murray (Chairman), S Neville, A Patel, C Roberts, B Surtees and M Tinker

THE DEADLINE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF SUBSTITUTES TO THIS MEETING IS
18:00 HOURS

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (COUNCIL MINUTE 39 - 23.07.02)

(Director of Governance) To report the appointment of any substitute members for the meeting.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(Director of Governance) To declare interests on any items on the agenda.

In considering whether to declare a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct, Overview and Scrutiny members are asked to pay particular attention to paragraph 11 of the Code in addition to the more familiar requirements.

This requires the declaration of a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in any matter before an OS Committee which relates to a decision of or action by another Committee or Sub-Committee of the Council, a Joint Committee or Joint Sub-Committee in which the Council is involved and of which the Councillor is also a

member.

Paragraph 11 does not refer to Cabinet decisions or attendance at an OS meeting purely for the purpose of answering questions or providing information on such a matter.

4. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING (Pages 5 - 14)

To agree the notes of the meeting held on 18 May 2015. (attached)

5. TERMS OF REFERENCE (Pages 15 - 16)

To note that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed the Panels Terms of Reference as attached.

6. YOUTH COUNCIL FINANCE (Pages 17 - 20)

The costs of operating the Youth Council can be defined into two main categories, as follows;

Operational budget: this covers direct costs of Youth Councillor training, development events, transport & travel to and from meetings, publicity, equipment and miscellaneous expenses, and,

Associated staff costs: this covers a percentage of the salaries of the Young Person's Officer and Young Person's Assistant.

It should be noted however, that the two posts delegated to support the Youth Councillors in their operation also fulfil a range of other youth engagement work on behalf of the Council. This includes Organising and supporting initiatives such as Crucial Crew and Reality Roadshow, volunteering work and targeted youth programmes in communities.

The financial spreadsheets attached, gives the details of the actual breakdown of expenditure for the operational budget over the last six years and the current total budget for the two posts associated with the Youth Council. The actual time allocation to support the Youth Council is estimated as 60% of the total amount.

The spreadsheets also highlight the amount of External Funding secured by the Youth Council over the last six years.

7. SCHOOL QUESTIONNAIRE (Pages 21 - 30)

At the inaugural meeting of the Review Panel, Members were advised that the Youth Council includes representatives from every secondary school in the District and Epping Forest College and a number of Councillors who are home schooled or who live in the District but go to school across the District border.

Panel members were keen to receive feedback from the local schools and a questionnaire was distributed for this purpose. The responses to the questionnaire are attached.

8. FEEDBACK FROM LOCAL PARTNERS (Pages 31 - 36)

The Youth Council works with a range of local statutory, community and voluntary sector partners. As part of the review process, some of the key organisations have been asked to submit their views on the efficacy and success of the Youth Council within the District (attached).

9. COMPARISONS FROM LONDON AUTHORITY AND SIMILAR DISTRICT COUNCIL IN ESSEX (Pages 37 - 38)

Details of Youth Councils provided by other local authorities in Essex and further afield have been sought as part of the review (attached).

10. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

On the 8 July 2015 the Panel would consider the following items;

1. The Wider Youth Strategy and Engagement undertaken by the Council; and
2. Essex County Council Services for Young People.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday 8 July 2015 at 19.00 in Committee Room 1.

This page is intentionally left blank

EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MINUTES

Committee:	Youth Engagement Review Task and Finish Panel	Date:	Monday, 18 May 2015
Place:	Council Chamber, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping	Time:	7.00 - 7.50 pm
Members Present:	Councillors S Murray (Chairman) G Mohindra (Vice-Chairman) R Butler, J McIvor, M Tinker and B Surtees		
Other Councillors:	Councillors H Kane		
Apologies:	Councillors C Roberts		
Officers Present:	J Chandler (Assistant Director (Community Services)), G Wallis (Community, Health & Wellbeing Manager), C Overend (Policy & Research Officer) and R Perrin (Democratic Services Assistant)		

6. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (COUNCIL MINUTE 39 - 23.7.02)

The Panel noted there were no substitute members appointed for this meeting.

7. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest pursuant to the Council's Code of member Conduct.

8. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The notes from the 20 April 2015 meeting were agreed as a correct record subject to the removal of 'for the remainder of the municipal year' from the resolution of the appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

The Chairman sought agreement from the Panel to continue their membership till the completion of the Task and Finish Panel in October 2015 with the removal K Adams, who was not re-elected on 7 May 2015.

Agreed that membership for the Task and Finish Panel would be proposed for the 2015/16 annual year.

9. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Panel considered its Terms of Reference, as agreed at the last meeting and the Chairman requested that point 3 be split into two.

Agreed that point 3 be split into two as follows;

"3. To consider feedback from local schools and other partners in respect of the work of the Youth Council.

4. To include a London authority and a comparative District Council in Essex."

10. EPPING FOREST YOUTH COUNCIL

Matthew and Jaymey gave a presentation regarding the current Youth Council 2014-16 and their predecessors with their achievements over the last seven years. (attached)

Councillor Butler praised the Youth Council and their achievement.

Councillor Mohindra asked for details on the Volunteering day organised for August 2015. Jaymey advised that it would be held in the Summer Holidays and details would be passed onto Councillor Mohindra via email.

Councillor Surtees asked the Youth Councillors whether they felt the Youth Council reached out far enough to young people in rural areas of the District. Jaymey advised that the Youth Council had completed a mapping exercise of youth services and groups across the District which mapped the youth services, clubs and groups. He also acknowledged that the secondary schools were very influential. The Youth Council also used social media to reach out to young people all over the District and this was a very effective tool.

Councillor Surtees advised that the work being done by the Youth Council was impressive but commented that perhaps the wider community, in particular adults might not be aware of the Youth Council. Matthew advised that the Youth Council had been advertised through the Forester, which had been available to all residents, they likewise engaged in local press releases and had webpages dedicated to the Youth Council through the District Council website. The Youth Council had also used external funding to provide Intergenerational days for sheltered housing residents around the District, which allowed Youth Councillors and residents to socialise, with donations collected by the Youth Council from the Local community. Jaymey suggested that further promotional flyers and posters could be placed in sport centres and libraries around the District, although Epping Sports centre were already displaying a Youth Council board. The Panel also suggested that Town and Parish Councils could be contacted as well.

Councillor Murray enquired how the Youth Council received feedback from young people. Matthew advised that Youth Councillors were available to be contacted through email, Facebook, Twitter and suggestion cards in schools. An example of how this worked was when Matthew received a suggestion cards asking for advice on Stress. This was then followed up by Stress awareness posters being displayed in schools, assemblies and receiving feedback from pupils within the school directly. Jaymey gave another example with a problem raised at St John's School regarding transport. This enabled the Youth Council to Mystery Shop different buses routes and companies in the District and feedback to Essex County Council (ECC). The feedback resulted in visual changes to the bus time tables, which were easier to read and similar to tube maps.

The Panel asked about the security and confidentiality of the suggestion cards. Jaymey advised that all information from suggestions cards was dealt with confidentially and that the Youth Councillors had received training on this matter. The issues raised would be handed over to officers and discuss at full Youth Meetings, if appropriate to work out a solution. The location of the boxes differs depending on the schools but all were placed in public areas with adult monitoring.

The panel wanted to thank the Youth Councillors from their presentation and were very impressed with the variety and ways in which they communicate with their peers.

Agreed that the presentation would be circulated to Members of the Panel via email.

11. YOUTH COUNCIL - LOCAL SCHOOLS FEEDBACK

The Chairman advised the Panel that half of the questionnaires sent out to the local schools had been received back and copies were handed out to Members at the meeting. The Panel decided that the information should also be circulated to Members of Panel not in attendance and that they would consider the comments at the next meeting. It was also noted that mainly Head teachers had taken the time to complete the questionnaires.

The Community, Health & Wellbeing Manager advised that any other questionnaire's received back before the next meeting would be scanned and sent out to the Panel.

Agreed that the questionnaires responses from the remaining schools would be emailed immediately onto Panel Members and members would consider the responses for the next meeting.

12. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The panel discussed the business required for the next two meetings held on 22 June 2015 and 8 July 2015.

Agreed that;

1. On the 22 June 2015 the Panel would consider the following items;
 - Finance of the Youth Council;
 - Feedback from the school Questionnaires;
 - Comparisons from a London Authority and similar District Council in Essex;
 - Feedback on other Youth Councils.

2. On the 8 July 2015 the Panel would consider the following items;
 - The wider Youth Strategy and engagement undertaken by the Council; and
 - Essex County Council services for young people.

13. FUTURE MEETING DATES

The Panel discussed the alternative dates suggested.

Agreed that future dates for the Task and Finish Panel were;

- Wednesday 8 July 2015;
- Tuesday 11 August 2015; and
- Monday 14 September 2015.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Panel noted that the next meeting would be Monday 22 June 2015 at 19.00 in the Council Chamber.

CHAIRMAN

This page is intentionally left blank

Youth Engagement Task and Finish Panel: Terms of Reference

Origin

At its meeting on 10th February 2015, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed a request from the Leisure and Community Services Portfolio Holder, to establish a new Task and Finish Panel to review potential options for the best use of the existing Council budget for youth engagement, which is currently utilised for operation of the Epping Forest Youth Council.

Terms of Reference

1. To review the operation of the Youth Council and identify specific areas of work undertaken and the success and impact of these;
2. To review the level of engagement the Youth Council has with peers in local schools and 'other young people' of all ages across the district, through the range of work undertaken by the Youth Council and the importance of this engagement for local community groups;
3. To consider feedback from local schools and other partners in respect of the work of the Youth Council;
4. To include a London authority and a comparative District Council in Essex;
5. To identify the expenditure related to various elements of the Youth Council work programme and analyse the cost/benefit of this;
6. To consider other work undertaken by Community Services and Safety to engage with young people and identify the costs associated with this;
7. To consider the status of Essex Youth Services following recent service transformation and resulting implications for the district; and,
8. To prepare a set of recommendations for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting in November 2015.

This page is intentionally left blank

EFYC Presentation to Youth Engagement T & F Panel 18th May 2015

The purpose of our presentation this evening is to give you an in-sight into the activity of the currently elected cohort of Youth Councillors, and also a broader overview of the work of our predecessors since the Youth Council was originally formed seven years ago in 2009. To compliment our presentation, packs have been put together for each of you with examples of the resources the Youth Council has lead on producing, conference reports, photographs and so on.

In terms of the current cohort, our predecessors did an excellent job at handing over the baton to ensure that we had an "A" political elected body of 21 Youth Councillors from April 2014.

45 candidates stood for the 21 seats that were up for grabs last March and an amazing 2488 votes were democratically cast making the last elections the best ever.

The Youth Council`s primary focus this year is to ensure that our peers and schools are fully involved in our work. We are continuing to report to School Councils in order to be a clear link between wider young people and the District Council.

By far our highest profile event since taking up office was our Youth Conference on 14th October last year. We hosted the Epping Forest Youth Conference in the Council Chamber and 90 pupils from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10, representing ten secondary schools from in and around the Epping Forest District, came along. We wanted to consult with our peers about the main issues affecting the lives of local young people. We wanted to get their views on possible solutions, and gather their innovative ideas on how to improve the local community. Additionally we were keen to promote the importance of local democracy to pupils.

The three main concerns highlighted by our delegates were, alcohol misuse, bullying and stress. Issues also raised were around skills and jobs, the need for more volunteering opportunities for young people and the misuse of drugs, particularly "legal highs."

Our findings have been shared with the Epping Forest Youth Strategy Group, and we really hope that the people who hold the purse strings take notice of what local young people are saying.

In response to delegates` specific concerns that bullying is a major issue, and that it is not always addressed by schools, the Youth Councillors launched our own campaign called "#URNot Alone" during National Bullying Awareness Week in November.

Our campaign highlighted the services and support groups for victims of bullying and their parents. Youth Councillors delivered school presentations on this topic and to compliment these, we designed a USB memory stick wrist band promoting the #URNotAlone Bullying Awareness campaign. It includes the link to the EFYC web page which has our Fact Sheet promoting phone numbers and support groups for

young people, victims and parents. The wrist bands were distributed to pupils and teachers also gave their support by posting selfies on the EFYC Facebook page, holding the #URNotAlone statement and promoting the support services such as Childline and Samaritans. The project was deemed a great success by pupils, parents and teaching staff. Most significantly, last month our work was formally recognised when we were awarded the prestigious County-wide High Sheriff of Essex's shield and £1000 towards our project.

Social media is an important part of our work as it not only promotes what we are doing but it raises the positive profile of young people in the Epping Forest district. We currently have 515 followers on Twitter and 389 'Likes' on Facebook. During our anti-bullying campaign we had over 7200 views on Twitter and 42 new followers.

Giving young people a voice is what the Youth Council is all about. Therefore, we have been delighted to have been asked to contribute to 10 separate consultations since taking up office and we're also pleased to have representation on the Epping Forest Youth Strategy Group, where we feel we make a valuable contribution and give young people a voice in the decision making process.

Youth volunteering is a big theme for us. As young volunteers ourselves we are passionate about encouraging other young people to volunteer. We really like the Council's Youth Volunteer Programme which is now being taken up by all secondary schools in the district. We ourselves have tried out one of the Youth Volunteer Days and were supported by staff from the City of London to help clear an area of woodland. This was a great team building experience for us, but more than that, we felt a real sense of achievement at the end of the day. Consequently, in the summer we are hosting an open youth volunteering day where wider young people can come along and give volunteering a try.

To support this work we have secured funding from the Police & Crime Commissioners fund to re-visit a project our predecessors started – this involved the production of a "Young Persons' Guide to Volunteering". The guides, which are provided in a handy Oyster card holder wallet, signpost young people towards volunteering opportunities and include some handy tips about volunteering.

Something that we hear a lot is that there is a need to break down barriers between the older residents in the district and young people. Our predecessors developed the inter-generational project which has been well received by the residents from Jubilee Court in Waltham Abbey and Leonard Davis House in North Weald. We, in turn, have hosted an event at Buckhurst Court in Buckhurst Hill in partnership with the Voluntary Action Epping Forest Carers Group and Sheltered Housing team. Lots more of these types of event are planned as the feedback we have had from older residents has been overwhelmingly positive.

Another event that we have been involved in was a project developed by Community Services called Rural Roots. A large scale community fun day was organised in the village of Fyfield last summer and we were pleased to support this in a number of ways; in advance of the event we spoke to local businesses and collected donations to the value of £400, and we then manned stalls on the day and raised a further £120 for the Help the Heroes charity.

A further notable achievement for us is that Youth Councillor Evangeline Foster was selected as an Ambassador for the prestigious 'Step Up to Serve' campaign, for her community and volunteering work. Evie also sits on the Essex Police and Crime Commissioner Youth Forum and has taken part in County consultations to address the issues raised by young people.

Over the past 7 years the Youth Council has lead on numerous high profile projects. These have included:

- Environmental initiatives involving schools surveys and the subsequent distribution of energy saving devices for school IT departments.
- Transport initiatives involving mystery shopping the quality of the local bus services for young people, a comprehensive survey and subsequent discussions with Essex County Council about the concerns of Epping Forest young people.
- Speed meeting events with adult Council Members and senior officers
- A project focussing on personal safety and the development of an educational DVD and booklet called "How Safe Are You". This particular project was adopted across West Essex as it was so well received. There was also a follow up card produced clarifying "How to Report a Crime".
- One of the highest profile initiatives that the Youth Council has been involved in consistently over the years is the mapping of local youth groups in the area. Following the familiar comment from young people that there is "nothing to do" in their area, back in 2011 Youth Councillors first came up with the idea of identifying exactly what groups were running and then going to visit them "under cover" to review what they were like. The additional benefit of this exercise was that it allowed Youth Councillors to consult with local young people who live in the area but attend school outside of the district. Ultimately, this then lead to the first Youth Project of the Year Awards with groups being star rated. The following year the project grew, and the first tube-map style posters were produced showing young people where youth groups were running and how to contact them. The most recent tube map was put together in 2014. Ultimately, this is an excellent example of a piece of work done for young people, by young people, that no other agency had previously undertaken in our area.
- Numerous events and conferences have been organised by the Youth Council and radio interviews and press releases happen on a regular basis – all of which raise the profile of Epping Forest young people and the District Council.

A significant number of Youth Councillors have gone on to be high profile ambassadors for young people over the years. Many have gone on to become Head Boy or Girl in their school, many have further promoted the youth democracy agenda whilst at university, and 6 past Youth Councillors have actually secured employment with the Council as casual staff supporting holiday initiatives for children and young people.

Finally, we feel that a significant fact to note is that, since being set up in 2009, the Youth Council has been able to secure in excess of £28,000 of external funding for youth initiatives in the district. This is funding that we are told would not have been available to the Council without a constituted body of young people in place.

We appreciate that we've covered lots of information very quickly here, so please feel free to ask us any questions you may have. The packs that you have contain a wealth of information which we would encourage you to peruse at your leisure.

Thank you for listening.

Youth Engagement Task and Finish Panel: Terms of Reference

Origin

At its meeting on 10th February 2015, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed a request from the Leisure and Community Services Portfolio Holder, to establish a new Task and Finish Panel to review potential options for the best use of the existing Council budget for youth engagement, which is currently utilised for operation of the Epping Forest Youth Council.

Terms of Reference

1. To review the operation of the Youth Council and identify specific areas of work undertaken and the success and impact of these;
2. To review the level of engagement the Youth Council has with peers in local schools and 'other young people' of all ages across the district, through the range of work undertaken by the Youth Council and the importance of this engagement for local community groups;
3. To consider feedback from local schools and other partners in respect of the work of the Youth Council;
4. To include a London authority and a comparative District Council in Essex;
5. To identify the expenditure related to various elements of the Youth Council work programme and analyse the cost/benefit of this;
6. To consider other work undertaken by Community Services and Safety to engage with young people and identify the costs associated with this;
7. To consider the status of Essex Youth Services following recent service transformation and resulting implications for the district; and,
8. To prepare a set of recommendations for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting in November 2015.

Aims and Objectives

- (a) To report findings to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and submit a final report for consideration by the Committee and the Council by November 2015;
- (b) To include two representatives from the District Youth Council on the Task and Finish Panel;
- (c) To determine the impact of the Council's current engagement with young people, through consultation with local statutory and voluntary sector partners, and,
- (d) To determine the best use of the allocated funding for the future.

This page is intentionally left blank

EPPING FOREST YOUTH COUNCIL FINANCE

OPERATIONAL BUDGET

COST CENTRE CODE CD 112 **£12,000**

2009-10 **£**

TRAINING, DEVELOPMENT & EVENTS	2,583.97
TRANSPORT & TRAVEL	5,269.10
GENERAL, PUBLICITY, EQUIPMENT ETC...	4,402.69
	12,255.76

2010-2011 **£**

TRAINING, DEVELOPMENT & EVENTS	1,786.00
TRANSPORT & TRAVEL	7,406.65
GENERAL, PUBLICITY, EQUIPMENT ETC...	2,894.59
	12,087.24

2011-2012 **£**

TRAINING, DEVELOPMENT & EVENTS	2,817.83
TRANSPORT & TRAVEL	5,005.48
GENERAL, PUBLICITY, EQUIPMENT ETC...	4,198.78
	12,022.09

2012-2013 **£**

TRAINING, DEVELOPMENT & EVENTS	3,068.46
TRANSPORT & TRAVEL	4,996.09
GENERAL, PUBLICITY, EQUIPMENT ETC...	3,972.16
	12,036.71

EXTERNAL FUNDING SECURED

2010-2011 - EXTERNAL FUNDING **£**

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY FUND	8,439.96
JACK PETCHEY	600.00
O2 THINK BIG FUND	900.00
	9,939.96

2011-12 - EXTERNAL FUNDING **£**

YOUTH CAPITAL FUND	3,121.89
JACK PETCHEY	1,000.00
SCP	1,925.00
O2 THINK BIG FUND	900.00
	6,946.89

2012 -13 - EXTERNAL FUNDING **£**

JACK PETCHEY	2,175.00
	2,175.00

2013 - 14 - EXTERNAL FUNDING **£**

ECC	1,200.00
JACK PETCHEY	1,700.00
O2 THINK BIG FUND	600.00
	3,500.00

2013-14	£
TRAINING, DEVELOPMENT & EVENTS	2,663.16
TRANSPORT & TRAVEL	3,796.27
GENERAL, PUBLICITY, EQUIPMENT ETC...	5,478.01
	11,937.44

2014-15	£
TRAINING, DEVELOPMENT & EVENTS	3,444.49
TRANSPORT & TRAVEL	4,318.06
GENERAL, PUBLICITY, EQUIPMENT ETC...	4,297.13
	12,059.68

2014-15 - EXTERNAL FUNDING	£
HIGH SHERIFF	1,000.00
PCC	£1,390.00
JACK PETCHEY	1,950.00
O2 THINK BIG FUND	1,100.00
	5,440.00

TOTAL EXTERNAL FUNDING £28,001.85

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT SALARIES

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
	£	£	£	£	£	£
TOTAL	<u>38,042.70</u>	<u>41,115.19</u>	<u>42,033.09</u>	<u>39,389.89</u>	<u>43,073.76</u>	<u>43,594.14</u>
				**		

This page is intentionally left blank

From: JShepley [mailto:JShepley@dphs-tkat.org]
Sent: 19 May 2015 14:56
To: Diane Butler
Subject: Feedback

Hi Di,

Here is the questionnaire.

Thanks,
John

EFYC questionnaire

The two ambassadors have had significant experience to enhance their profile.

Students have been given the opportunity to reflect on modern world issues such as democracy and drugs.

They have not been as prominent as I hoped. I have had to chase them to do things. This may be because they are in year 11 and have their GCSEs. In future, it may be better to elect students from younger year groups.

It is a good opportunity for our students to get involved. It would be better if there were more opportunities for a wider range of students to get involved.

Yes -- we use it as part of our delivery of British values.

It did amongst the students that attended, however this hasn't drip fed across the school.

It gives students the chance to get involved in a democratic process.

Unknown

No additional comments

From: Bell, N [mailto:NBell@westhatch.essex.sch.uk]
Sent: 20 May 2015 10:07
To: Louis Walton
Subject: RE: Review of Epping Forest Youth Council

Please see our responses to the questionnaire

Responses to the questionnaire - Epping Forest Youth Council

1. The opportunities which have involved the students being in the council chamber seeing democracy in action has been very useful. The students have enjoyed being part of the youth conferences and the debating with local MP's and other agencies.
2. Our Youth councillors have been very difficult to engage and have done very little within the school community. Despite constant reminders and attempts to engage this have done very little with the Student Voice or whole school body.
3. Prior to this year we have only had one Youth Councillor and she didn't stay at the school the whole year. She did lead a couple of assemblies and helped to arrange a Student Voice election
4. We Have a good relationship between the PSHE coordinator and Epping where we have Dropdown days such as the reality roadshow which contributes to the schools citizenship agenda
5. I feel the Youth Conference is good at engaging a small number of the students involved in the day's events. However, without the support of the Youth Councillors within school there is little follow up from the conference.
6. This is very dependent on the experience and work of the councillors and I am sad to say this year there has been little engagement from these individuals.
7. We did a volunteering project last year which was brilliant for the young people involved they showed their ability to help others and work hard for those who needed their help. They have since volunteered within school and have joined organisations which doing volunteering projects in their own time. This is a valuable life skill and I feel it has been brilliant for those students involved. I would like to have had more opportunity to arrange a trip this year. Sadly my timetable only includes one hour to do all the Student Voice work and this is simply not enough.

Many Thanks

Nick

Questionnaire for Epping Forest Schools – Your views about Epping Forest Youth Council

<p>What do you think have been the benefits for the young people from your school that have been involved in the Epping Forest Youth Council?</p>	<p>We have taken our Yr11's to the conference and found them excellent opportunities for discussion. Delegates have grown in confidence and they have gained valuable insight into the working of local government/politics.</p>
<p>How effectively do you feel your school's two currently elected Youth Councillors engage with their peers and all strands of your school community? (For example, have they delivered assemblies to promote initiatives such as their anti-bullying work, or youth volunteering wallets?)</p>	<p>This is something we could do more frequently. Our delegates have not really fed back to the rest of the pupils.</p>
<p>Your school has supported the Epping Forest Youth Council since 2009. How effective do you feel the work of your school's previous Youth Councillors has been overall?</p>	<p>Some have been more engaged than others but Amalise Amitege and Gabriella Ernst were extremely good. The experience has helped shape their career plans I think.</p>
<p>Does the school's working relationship with the Epping Forest Youth Council contribute towards your citizenship agenda and, if so, how?</p>	<p>Yes : our PSHE courses draw on some of the work the EFDC does.</p>
<p>Do you feel that your school's participation in Youth Council events, such as the Youth Conference held in Oct 2014, has helped to raise awareness of the local democracy agenda amongst your pupils?</p>	<p>This has been one of the best things we have participated in. Quite a few Yr11's choose to take Government & Politics, partly due to the exposure this gives them.</p>
<p>What value do you feel there is to your school in participating in the bi-annual Epping Forest Youth Council elections?</p>	<p>The experience of taking part in the whole electoral process is very valuable. It also gives our pupils a sense of place within the borough.</p>
<p>Over the past two years, have pupils from your school participated in the annual volunteering days that the Council offers? If so, what benefits have you seen from your schools' involvement in these?</p>	<p>NO</p>
<p>Would you like to add any further comments?</p>	<p>Would it, perhaps, be possible to widen the remit of the conference so that the issues discussed were more varied? Perhaps include something on the working of the chamber? Thank you for involving us and our pupils</p>

Questionnaire for Epping Forest Schools – Your views about Epping Forest Youth Council

<p>What do you think have been the benefits for the young people from your school that have been involved in the Epping Forest Youth Council?</p>	<p>Development of leadership skills, experience with public speaking and an excellent opportunity to be involved in their community.</p>
<p>How effectively do you feel your school's two currently elected Youth Councillors engage with their peers and all strands of your school community? (For example, have they delivered assemblies to promote initiatives such as their anti-bullying work, or youth volunteering wallets?)</p>	<p>They have been involved in the delivery of assemblies, for both anti-bullying and youth volunteering. They have ensured that the EFYC suggestion box is used and monitored and where appropriate, have shared feedback.</p>
<p>Your school has supported the Epping Forest Youth Council since 2009. How effective do you feel the work of your school's previous Youth Councillors has been overall?</p>	<p>We have had outstanding previous Youth Councillors, including students that have gone on to remain involved in politics. Every Youth Councillor has taken their role and responsibility seriously, however we should mention and praise Jaymey McIvor for his above and beyond work and efforts.</p>
<p>Does the school's working relationship with the Epping Forest Youth Council contribute towards your citizenship agenda and, if so, how?</p>	<p>Yes, when Youth Councillors share the 'major issues' we try to link this in with Citizenship, however this could be better.</p>
<p>Do you feel that your school's participation in Youth Council events, such as the Youth Conference held in Oct 2014, has helped to raise awareness of the local democracy agenda amongst your pupils?</p>	<p>Definitely. We recently held a mock general election and members of the Youth Council were instrumental in delivering speeches and 'leading' their parties.</p>
<p>What value do you feel there is to your school in participating in the bi-annual Epping Forest Youth Council elections?</p>	<p>It gives young people the opportunity to be involved and have their voice heard. It teaches them very important life skills and contributes to their personal development.</p>
<p>Over the past two years, have pupils from your school participated in the annual volunteering days that the Council offers? If so, what benefits have you seen from your schools' involvement in these?</p>	<p>Some of our Youth Councillors have participated. We always encourage them to share their experiences and feedback to school council and other groups of students.</p>
<p>Would you like to add any further comments?</p>	

Questionnaire for Epping Forest Schools – Your views about Epping Forest Youth Council

<p>What do you think have been the benefits for the young people from your school that have been involved in the Epping Forest Youth Council?</p>	<p>They have used the opportunities given to them by the council to go personally & have taken the representation of our school voice on a wider platform very seriously.</p>
<p>How effectively do you feel your school's two currently elected Youth Councillors engage with their peers and all strands of your school community? (For example, have they delivered assemblies to promote initiatives such as their anti-bullying work, or youth volunteering wallets?)</p>	<p>Our councillors report back to our school council have given presentations in assemblies. The role of EFYC is known by all members of the school community.</p>
<p>Your school has supported the Epping Forest Youth Council since 2009. How effective do you feel the work of your school's previous Youth Councillors has been overall?</p>	<p>Some of our early representatives have recently finished degrees at University and have reflected how the council encouraged their public speaking & overall confidence.</p>
<p>Does the school's working relationship with the Epping Forest Youth Council contribute towards your citizenship agenda and, if so, how?</p>	<p>We really enjoy the links we have built with the Youth Council & the opportunity to visit the council as part of their democracy days. This is part of our PASCCE programme.</p>
<p>Do you feel that your school's participation in Youth Council events, such as the Youth Conference held in Oct 2014, has helped to raise awareness of the local democracy agenda amongst your pupils?</p>	<p>Yes. Any opportunities for engagement are valuable and help to support wider participation levels for teenage pupils in understanding their role in the democratic process.</p>
<p>What value do you feel there is to your school in participating in the bi-annual Epping Forest Youth Council elections?</p>	<p>This opportunity allows us to go through the whole electoral discussion & process internally drawing from it a wide variety of learning objectives.</p>
<p>Over the past two years, have pupils from your school participated in the annual volunteering days that the Council offers? If so, what benefits have you seen from your schools' involvement in these?</p>	<p>Our pupils have grown in confidence & are learning how important it is to be pro-active citizens for life.</p>
<p>Would you like to add any further comments?</p>	<p>We have found our engagement with Diane & the team very positive and feel that this initiative needs to be sustained so that young people can actively be part of the decision making agenda in the areas in which they live.</p>

BRAESIDE SCHOOL LIMITED

Telephone: 020 8504 1133
Facsimile: 020 8505 6675
Email: enquiries@braesideschool.co.uk
Website: www.braesideschool.co.uk



130 High Road
Buckhurst Hill
Essex IG9 5SD

Ms D Butler
Youth Engagement Officer
Epping Forest District Council
25 Hemnall Street
Epping
Essex
CM16 4LU

13th May 2015

Dear Diane

Epping Forest Youth Council Review

We have highly valued the links which we have had through the Youth Council since its inception.

Our pupils have enjoyed a wider engagement with the democratic process through the civic visits programme and our councillors have grown in confidence and enjoyed their engagement with other local teenage representatives.

Two of our former pupils who acted as councillors several years ago are now involved in Law school studies following a law degree and psychology degree and both feel that their early youth council work helped to inform their wider lives.

Diane Butler and her team have ceaselessly worked to promote the voice of young people locally and have always been responsive to the needs of schools.

Maintaining a Youth Council in the area is vital if we are to encourage young people to take part in the democratic process.

Yours sincerely

Gillian Haddon
Head Teacher

Questionnaire for Epping Forest Schools – Your views about Epping Forest Youth Council

<p>What do you think have been the benefits for the young people from your school that have been involved in the Epping Forest Youth Council?</p>	<p>It has given them an excellent opportunity to get involved in the local community. They have gained an insight into local political & community issues, which anchored within the school community.</p>
<p>How effectively do you feel your school's two currently elected Youth Councillors engage with their peers and all strands of your school community? (For example, have they delivered assemblies to promote initiatives such as their anti-bullying work, or youth volunteering wallets?)</p>	<p>They have been excellent in their commitment and attitude towards their roles. They have re-launched our school council as they see the bigger picture & wider aspects of such as things. They have delivered a number of assemblies and are an absolute asset to the youth council & our school.</p>
<p>Your school has supported the Epping Forest Youth Council since 2009. How effective do you feel the work of your school's previous Youth Councillors has been overall?</p>	<p>The work since 2009 has been invaluable. They have opened up the eyes of the school in terms of issues in the local community & it is a very important role that I hope continues for many years to come.</p>
<p>Does the school's working relationship with the Epping Forest Youth Council contribute towards your citizenship agenda and, if so, how?</p>	<p>Yes, in terms of political aspects, campaigns, issues such as anti-bullying.</p>
<p>Do you feel that your school's participation in Youth Council events, such as the Youth Conference held in Oct 2014, has helped to raise awareness of the local democracy agenda amongst your pupils?</p>	<p>Our students who attended to conference, benefited greatly from attending; it's a shame more students couldn't attend. It raised awareness of a range of issues and made them think about things at a greater scale.</p>
<p>What value do you feel there is to your school in participating in the bi-annual Epping Forest Youth Council elections?</p>	<p>Great value; we really do hope that this continues particularly when there is so much negative in the press about youth; it is fantastic that the youth are involved in the</p>
<p>Over the past two years, have pupils from your school participated in the annual volunteering days that the Council offers? If so, what benefits have you seen from your schools' involvement in these?</p>	<p>Yes. Volunteering is so important to developing the skills of a young person, building their confidence & providing avenues for future opportunities.</p>
<p>Would you like to add any further comments?</p>	<p>We have and will always support the Epping Forest Youth Council as it works alongside what we do & builds the young people to look at the community in a whole different way. It is well organised & well managed.</p>

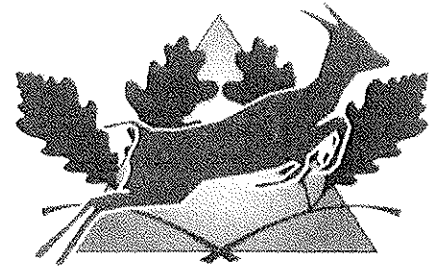
Questionnaire for Epping Forest Schools – Your views about Epping Forest Youth Council

<p>What do you think have been the benefits for the young people from your school that have been involved in the Epping Forest Youth Council?</p>	<p>They have gained enjoyment, confidence and an understanding of how decision are made. They also have a great appreciation of the wider community and how to represent the views of others.</p>
<p>How effectively do you feel your school's two currently elected Youth Councillors engage with their peers and all strands of your school community? (For example, have they delivered assemblies to promote initiatives such as their anti-bullying work, or youth volunteering wallets?)</p>	<p>Our Councillors have spoken at assemblies e.g. next week they speak to Year 9 about volunteering. They take opportunities to talk to others informally (including on line) and have met with School Council. These opportunities allow the Councillors to represent their peers accurately and concisely.</p>
<p>Your school has supported the Epping Forest Youth Council since 2009. How effective do you feel the work of your school's previous Youth Councillors has been overall?</p>	<p>Difficult to quantify the effectiveness but the Councillors' friends, peer group and year group will (many of them) be aware of the Council and the Councillors' work.</p>
<p>Does the school's working relationship with the Epping Forest Youth Council contribute towards your citizenship agenda and, if so, how?</p>	<p>... To a small extent - again it is effective to work with Councillors' friends, peer group & year group rather than as a whole.</p>
<p>Do you feel that your school's participation in Youth Council events, such as the Youth Conference held in Oct 2014, has helped to raise awareness of the local democracy agenda amongst your pupils?</p>	<p>The small number of students who attended the event were exposed to a range of ideas and opinions. This was good as a "one-off" exercise but we could/should have brought their ideas back into school. Nevertheless, very worthwhile.</p>
<p>What value do you feel there is to your school in participating in the bi-annual Epping Forest Youth Council elections?</p>	<p>This is a good thing - it raises awareness of the wider community and the process of representative democracy.</p>
<p>Over the past two years, have pupils from your school participated in the annual volunteering days that the Council offers? If so, what benefits have you seen from your schools' involvement in these?</p>	<p>Students have been involved but only in relatively small numbers. Those who took part enjoyed their time and are convinced of the importance of volunteering.</p>
<p>Would you like to add any further comments?</p>	<p>The challenge is for the EFYC to impact as widely as possible. We need good ideas, practical projects that Council members initiate in their own schools and which link their school to the wider community. I do think that something would be lost if EFYC did not exist.</p>

Questionnaire for Epping Forest Schools – Your views about Epping Forest Youth Council

<p>What do you think have been the benefits for the young people from your school that have been involved in the Epping Forest Youth Council?</p>	<p>It has shown how democracy works and given an insight into political systems</p>
<p>How effectively do you feel your school's two currently elected Youth Councillors engage with their peers and all strands of your school community? (For example, have they delivered assemblies to promote initiatives such as their anti-bullying work, or youth volunteering wallets?)</p>	<p>One has been more active than the other. It is useful as one of them wish to pursue a career in politics.</p>
<p>Your school has supported the Epping Forest Youth Council since 2009. How effective do you feel the work of your school's previous Youth Councillors has been overall?</p>	<p>They need a higher profile as nobody is aware of their work</p>
<p>Does the school's working relationship with the Epping Forest Youth Council contribute towards your citizenship agenda and, if so, how?</p>	<p>We currently do not have a citizenship program.</p>
<p>Do you feel that your school's participation in Youth Council events, such as the Youth Conference held in Oct 2014, has helped to raise awareness of the local democracy agenda amongst your pupils?</p>	<p>Very vague - Students who attended had value but it wasn't disseminated down to others.</p>
<p>What value do you feel there is to your school in participating in the bi-annual Epping Forest Youth Council elections?</p>	<p>Again it showed how democratic system operated. Developed public speaking skills.</p>
<p>Over the past two years, have pupils from your school participated in the annual volunteering days that the Council offers? If so, what benefits have you seen from your schools' involvement in these?</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>Would you like to add any further comments?</p>	<p>No.</p>

Our ref: E.7.1/EKW



LOUGHTON
TOWN COUNCIL

1 Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane
Loughton, Essex IG10 2QZ
Telephone: 020 8508 4200
Facsimile: 020 8508 4400
e-mail: contact@loughton-tc.gov.uk
Web site: www.loughton-tc.gov.uk
Town Clerk: Enid K Walsh

Ms Diane Butler
Youth Engagement Officer
Epping Forest District Council
25 Hemnall Street
Epping CM16 4LU

29 April 2015

Dear Diane

Youth Engagement activity in Epping Forest

On behalf of the Town Council I am pleased to write in support of the work and contribution made by Epping Forest Youth Council.

It has been impressive to see the various projects undertaken by the youth councillors, particularly the recent anti-bullying awareness work and the provision of safety advice to young people. This is clear evidence of their engagement with the wider community.

Our local Loughton youth councillors have also attended many of our community events during recent years. They have acted as excellent ambassadors for the young people in the town by giving readings at official services and by the laying of wreathes. These have included WWI centenary services and our commemoration of the award of the Victoria Cross to Private Sidney Godley last August, and also at our annual Civic Services.

We value their support and assistance when we need to engage with our young people, for example over the forthcoming consultation on refurbishment of the play area off Traps Hill.

Given their personal education commitments, their achievements during their 2-year terms of office have been impressive although this will have been made easier by the support and expertise of the relevant District Council staff.

Please let me know if I can provide any additional information for this review.

Yours sincerely

Enid K Walsh
Town Clerk

Open Spaces Department

Sue Ireland BSc, MSc, MIPGS
Director of Open Spaces



Email alison.tapply@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Date 29 May 2015

Diane Butler
Youth Engagement Officer
Epping Forest District Council
25 Hemnal Street
Epping
CM16 4LU

Dear Diane

EFDC Youth Engagement Review

We have been working in partnership with the EFDC for the last four years delivering practical conservation projects together on the Forest with the Youth Council. These sessions are invaluable to us for a number of reasons, they:

- Forge a link between the Forest and an often difficult to reach section of the community – young people
- Allow us to gather ideas and present our ideas regarding youth engagement
- Work as a platform for us to promote positive messages about the Forest and how to enjoy it
- Allow the young people to act as champions for the Forest as they pass on information to their peers therefore increasing the impact of the work we do together spreading the message

The young people engage in activities where they gain skills in the following:

- Team building
- Leadership
- Learn new skills using specialist tools and equipment
- Discover about conservation management techniques

If you would like to discuss any for these points further, please get in touch. Yours sincerely

Mrs Alison Tapply
Forest Keeper



"Creating opportunities for everyone to discover and become who they were designed to be..."

19th May 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

Epping Forest Youth Council

Having now been working with children and young people in Epping Forest in various roles since 2003 (as a member of staff at Davenant Foundation School, Children's Pastor at St. Mary's Church in Loughton and now as Director of the RBF Foundation), I have had the privilege to see the Epping Forest Youth Council develop from its inception to its current iteration under Di Butler's leadership.

For those young people who participate as council members themselves, it is undoubtedly a formational experience that clearly has a lasting impact on their personal development and future prospects. It is an activity that not only 'looks good on a CV' but actually gives the participant a transferrable skill set that can be applied in a wide variety of further education/employment opportunities; creating well rounded, confident individuals who are skilled communicators and strong advocates for their peers.

Like any elected body, the challenge for the Youth Council is to continue to engage effectively with their electorate outside of campaign time and in my experience the Youth Council has been more successful at this than many of their senior counterparts. I have worked in partnership with YC members on a number of initiatives over the years, bringing them into contact with non-YC members and ensuring they are hearing from young people who aren't necessarily those who might be in their social circle and are from other parts of the district that they may not have encountered before. The output of the Youth Council, such as the Personal Safety DVD and the Volunteering Card have largely been well received by the young people that I work with and are good examples of where the Youth Councillors can be observed by their electorate as adding value locally.

As with any democratic structure, the more opportunities for interaction between constituents and elected members the better, so I would suggest that in future, more opportunities be created for the Youth Councillors to actively engage with the young people they represent be created to ensure that there is an ongoing dialogue rather than just on a project-by-project basis, and not necessarily just through formal 'consultations' or 'conferences' as these tend to give one-off snapshots rather than being ongoing conversations. As part of the Youth Opportunities 'Tube Map' information gathering process, youth councillors have visited a wide variety of local projects in previous years and I wonder whether this could happen on a more regular basis with youth councillors having one evening a month (for instance) where they are released from their council meetings to effectively run a 'surgery' at a local group where their role is to actively engage with the participants to not only hear young people's views on the ground but also to further raise the profile of the Youth Council locally, ensuring that the business of the Youth Council retains a sharp focus on what young people in the District are really asking for as well as the personal passions and causes that the Councillors themselves feel strongly about.

RBF would be more than happy to partner with EFDC in any future development of the Youth Council as we see them as a highly worthwhile local body whose role and position has the potential to grow and expand greatly as advocates and service deliverers as other local youth services continue to contract and 'transition' as statutory resources become more scarce. We feel any reduction in their remit, scope or level of engagement would be to the detriment of all young people in the District.

Yours Faithfully,

*Luke Lowrie
Director
The Red Balloon Family Foundation*

The Red Balloon Family Foundation – a Registered Charity in England and Wales (1158982)

56 Thaxted Road
Buckhurst Hill
IG96AW

office@redballoonfamily.co.uk
www.redballoonfamily.co.uk
www.facebook.com/redballoonfamily

020 3086 8186
@redballoonfam
instagram.com/redballoonfamily

From: jfoile@vaef.org.uk
Sent: 06 May 2015 16:50:16
To: Diane Butler
Cc: Julie Chandler; jsymes@vaef.org.uk
Subject: Youth Engagement task and Finish Review

Hi Di

I hope you find the following information useful in response to your request for VAEF's comments on the District Council's youth engagement activity in Epping Forest. As you will note, the first few sentences are about the positive work VAEF have undertaken with the Youth Council. I have then shared some of my thoughts and observations on the Youth Council.

Firstly then, Voluntary Action Epping Forest Carers project has worked with the Youth Council on several Intergenerational project activities and each one has been a great success. The council members have made their own suggestions for activities and each taken on tasks to bring the event together at the same time as taking on the needs of the age group they would be working with. The group of carers are all over 65 and don't deal with young people on a regular basis but were keen to participate in the events. The activities included bingo, a music quiz, a sporting quiz, cake decorating, an Easter egg hunt and old fashioned games such as tiddlywinks and shove ha'penny. The youth councillors each sat on one of the quiz teams and the carers said they enjoyed having a young person on the team in their words it injected some life in to their team. The bingo calling certainly caused a few laughs with the older ladies not understanding the bingo language of the young caller.

The feedback from the carers was very positive saying what an enthusiastic bunch of young people the youth councillors were and how nice it was that they wanted to mix with the old folk. The opinion of the carers was that they would like to participate in future events as it was nice to be around young people. From our part even though VAEF does not now operate a Carers project at present, we would definitely be interested in working with the Youth Council again on a similar event at one of our Befriending clubs for older people.

When I met a number of the youth councillors at the EFDC conference I found them to be extremely bright and articulate and therefore probably the type of young people that may well have decided to contribute to their community with no encouragement in the first instance. It is for this reason I wonder whether more resource should be dedicated to working with those youngsters that do not have great opportunities ahead of them. This is not necessarily to say there shouldn't be a Youth Council as it is good to have representation from young people, but perhaps more of a balance is required.

You may also be interested to know that VAEF has just started to work with the youth offending team to try to support some of these young people onto a better pathway.

I hope you are keeping well Di and please let me know if VAEF can be of further assistance.

Regards

Jacqui

Jacqui Foile
Chief Officer
Voluntary Action Epping Forest
01992 564424

Gill Wallis

Subject:

FW: Review of Epping Forest Youth Council / Youth Engagement - ECC

From: Diane Butler
Sent: 04 June 2015 10:51
To: Gill Wallis
Cc: Chris Overend
Subject: Review of Epping Forest Youth Council / Youth Engagement - ECC

From: Vicky Young, West Senior Community Based Commissioner [<mailto:Vicky.Young@essex.gov.uk>]
Sent: 04 June 2015 10:16
To: Diane Butler
Subject: RE: Review of Epping Forest Youth Council - Urgent Request for Monday 1st June

Di,
Huge apologies for the delay!!

Young people themselves gain a great deal from their involvement in youth councils. The format has been very good, with young schools representatives, as it means that each young person in each school can express their views to their school council who in turn represent their views to the youth council (who in turn have the opportunity to represent their views at the Young Essex Assembly and from there the UK Youth Parliament). This ensures that young people's views and opinions are shared nationally.

The youth councillors themselves not only receive training and support to develop their skills in this role, they also gain confidence through expressing their voice and through the experiences they take part in, running events, meeting to councillors and this can open many doors for young people during their participation and in the future.

The Epping Forest Youth Council has been a shining example across Essex and is frequently referred to positively.

The Youth Council have at times worked with the ECC Youth Service, for example, they have been pro-active with the Youth Strategy Group stakeholder event this year. The young people attending this group requested the opportunity to be part of this and a group of them were involved in it's design and implementation. This may seem like a 'nice addition' to such an event, but this meeting is key in setting the outcomes that we will commission against for this financial year and their considerable involvement gives weight to discussions, particularly as they were able to put in views through their school networks, school councils and from their recent consultation. This helps us to ensure that we get the best outcomes set for young people. We also had a lot of positive feedback about these young people's involvement as being vital in the process. Without the training and experience these young people already have, this would not have been possible.

Youth Councillors are represented at the Youth Strategy Group meetings regularly, which is a group made up of ECC and EFDC officers, county councillors and other key representatives. It's purpose is to both steer and champion young people's services in Epping Forest. The youth councillors who attend this meeting have without exception participated well and been a clear voice of young people across the district, due to their clear links through the schools and other local groups. When they join in our debates, which they always do, their views carry weight and they often give examples which back up their arguments. I can honestly say that the youth council have a very positive and influential voice at these meetings and that their presence is valued by myself and the councillors.

Youth Council elections are very positive in schools and other youth settings for raising debate about politics and democracy and it encourages young people to see that there is good value in electing someone they can relate to who will represent their views.

I summarise to say that whilst I have worked with and witnessed a range of youth voice projects in the past, the EF Youth Council have over the years surpassed my expectations not just in their abilities but also in the way they conduct themselves. They have always been a credit to EFDC.

Regards

Vicky

Vicky Young

Senior Youth and Community Commissioner, West Essex

Essex County Council Youth Service

Goodman House, Station Approach, Harlow, CM20 2ET | telephone: 01279 404401 | email:

vicky.young@essex.gov.uk

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT REVIEW TASK AND FINISH PANEL – 22 JUNE 2015

INFORMATION ON YOUTH COUNCILS – OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Introduction

At the inaugural meeting of the Panel on 20 April 2015 Members, when agreed that it would be useful, for comparative purposes, to have information with regard to youth councils in a range of other local authority areas. Accordingly, set out below, in bullet-point format, are the key features from a number of authorities which have active youth councils.

The information supplied at this stage is taken from the web-sites of the local authorities, youth councils and programmes referred to as set out in early May 2015. The intention is to speak directly with the youth officers concerned regarding their current activities/initiatives and report on the outcome of those discussions at the Panel meeting.

Harlow Youth Council

- Elections are held each year in December on a town-wide basis in secondary schools and some youth groups.
- Formed in 2002 and consists of a locally elected group of 13-19 year olds
- Elected Youth Councillors stand for 2 years and can re-stand after 2 years if they are under 20 years of age.
- Full Youth Council meetings, held at the Civic Centre, are open to the public and are held on the first working Monday of each month.
- The Youth Council offers specific dates throughout its calendar for the purposes of consultation with, and presentations from, other agencies and organisations.
- Responsibilities of Youth Councillors include attending meetings – Youth Council meetings, Harlow Council meetings on occasions and a variety of community meetings and events.
- Collects information about young people including from the young people themselves, Harlow Council, Essex County Council, local youth organisations and conducts surveys/questionnaires
- Listens to young people and feeds back their views where appropriate to adult Councillors for their consideration and action if appropriate
- Anti-bullying campaign
- Links to British Youth Council, Childcare and Kidscape, NSPCC, Rise Above-Health and Well-being, the Samaritans and Young Essex Assembly.

St Albans

- St Albans Youth Council is a group of young people between the ages of 11-19 from across the District of St Albans.
- It lobbies the Council on local youth issues, raises money for charities, researches local youth issues and acts as a voice for young people.
- The Film Club is a new youth specific cinema showing films for any young people aged 11-19 at a discounted rate.
- Six of the Youth Councillors attended a Five Ways to Wellbeing Conference and gave a key note presentation and organised a workshop highlighting the gap in provision between a young person seeking support from their GP for a mental health issue and any meaningful help in beginning to deal with difficulties. .

In the past two years the Youth Council has:

- Produced a Mental Health Report covering 2,500 people which was presented to the House of Lords to the Deputy Prime Minister

- Appeared in local media, including BBC Three Counties 'Shrink Wrapped'
- Supported a variety of charities such as Youth Talk
- Helped provide young people with free school transport

Hillingdon Young People/Youth Council

- Hillingdon Youth Council is 'the voice for young people who live, study or work in the borough'.
- Elections are held annually.
- The Youth Council meets every Monday and is involved in planning and facilitating the annual youth conference, carrying out the project work based on the needs expressed by young people.
- It meets with the Borough's Corporate Management Team every three months and raises issues concerning young people.
- Carries out project work about issues raised at the annual conference e.g. sexual health issues.
- Attends specific department meetings to ensure young people are involved in decision-making.
- It gets actively involved in the design and delivery of services for young people.
- Enables Hillingdon's two members of the UK Youth Parliament to receive feedback from young people and vice versa.
- Disability Multi Sports Club
- Velocity Programme
- Aims are set out in the Youth Council manifesto.

Bromley Youth Support Programme and Youth Hubs

- Bromley has a Youth Council which operates on a basis very similar to that at Epping Forest District
- The Youth Support Programme brings together different services for young people including the work undertaken by the Youth Council.
- The programme is for young people from Year 6 up to 19 (or 25 if the young person has a disability).
- It offers four locality youth centres (hubs) providing activities and support based on the needs of the locality.
- The centres are open at a variety of times including day time, evenings and weekends.
- It has set up a project for young people with disabilities.
- It has a mobile team which visits areas of the borough with a 'music and kitchen' bus
- Has a dedicated Duke of Edinburgh Team.
- A youth involvement team through which young people can have their say about issues affecting them.

Summary and Conclusion

The local authorities assessed were chosen because of the more extensive breadth of their youth councils. The work being carried out at other several other local authorities was also looked at but in many instances consisted of no more than a brief summary on a website with a link to Twitter or Facebook which then 'tailed off'. In that regard, in comparative terms, the work being carried in Epping Forest is more extensive and impressive.