

Report to Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 15 April 2021



Portfolio: Community and Wellbeing (Councillor Holly Whitbread)

Subject: Annual review of the work undertaken by Epping Forest Youth Council

Officer contact for further information: Vanessa Gayton – Team Manager Culture & Community

Democratic Services Officer: Gary Woodhall (01992 564243)

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

That the Overview & Scrutiny Committee receives an annual progress report on the work undertaken by the Community, Culture and Wellbeing Team with the Epping Forest Youth Council.

Report:

Epping Forest Youth Council is a high-profile national award-winning Youth Council, comprising 25 young people, representing 9 Epping Forest secondary schools with one independent member. These young people represent the views of their peers and wider school communities. The current cohort are in their first year of office and about to embark on their 2nd year. Member support has enabled the Youth Council to continue creating youth friendly projects to engage and benefit our communities.

On Thursday 15 April the Youth Council will make a presentation to the Overview and Scrutiny Select Committee highlighting their excellent work over the past year. They have been meeting weekly on Zoom with the Young Persons Officers, taking part in intensive induction training, team building, consultation work, learning from guest speakers and senior figureheads and creating new projects.

The Youth Council will refer to their key areas of work and their plans for 2021/22:

1. #Your Say survey and report. This was an opportunity for young people to share their experiences during the Covid pandemic and express their concerns about their health and wellbeing, their future regarding their education, and their mental health. The report was presented to Cabinet by members of the Youth Council on 19th October 2020.
2. MiLife C19. This project has been devised from the findings of the #Your Say survey. The 10-week schools virtual programme will give young people what they need to build their emotional resilience. The MiLife website <https://www.rbf.org.uk/milife> will incorporate bespoke resources directly relating to Covid 19 and its impact on young people, addressing good mental health and wellbeing by using physical and cultural activities.

Our promotional film has been sent to the 7 district secondary schools and the Youth Council would like to share the film at the end of their presentation. See link below:

<https://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/youth-council-launch-new-wellbeing-project/>

Reason for decision:

It was agreed that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee would receive an annual update on the work undertaken by the Community, Culture and Wellbeing Team with Epping Forest Youth Council.

Options considered and rejected: N/A

Consultation undertaken:

A range of consultations are taken with the Youth Councillors about current issues which inform future projects that will benefit young people in our communities, engaging, educating and signposting them to ensure the environment they live in is a healthier, happier place. These will be included in the presentation.

Resource implications: There have been no increases in budget required from the council to date. The Youth Council receives core funding £12,000 per annum for day to day support and running costs.

In December 2018 the Cabinet agreed a DDF sum of £15,000 to be allocated to Epping Forest Youth Council, to enable them to deliver a range of targeted projects for young people in 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22.

Legal and Governance Implications: N/A

Safer, Cleaner, Greener Implications: N/A

Background Papers: N/A

Impact Assessments: Equality Impact Assessment completed

Risk Management: N/A

Equality: Equality Impact Assessment completed