

Minutes of: YOUTH CABINET

Date of Meeting: 1 November 2018

Present: Councillor (in the Chair)
Councillors R.Cathcart, P Cropper, J Kelly and E O'Brien

Also in attendance: Emily Keeley
Dzingas Goolis
Sarah Baig
Aaliyah Akhtar
Elle Calderbank
Rhannon Ashton
Numair Khalid
Joshua Harvey
Alexander Cohen
Emma Greenwood
Harriet Potts (in the chair)
Romeo –Davids Byensi
Reana-Maria Byensi
Jack Sloan

Public Attendance: No members of the public were present at the meeting.

Apologies for Absence:Councillor D Jones

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Harriet welcomed everyone and the Youth Cabinet introduced themselves by introducing their shoe as an icebreaker.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Jones, Viktoria Oumble and Bethanie Mortenson

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared at the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was agreed:

That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 19 September be approved.

MATTERS ARISING

It was reported that the UK Youth Parliament's Make Your Mark campaign gives a unique opportunity to reach out to young people to give their opinion on what matters to them. Through school and online, young people around the country took part in the annual Make Your Mark ballot. The ballot is of 10 issues that

matter to young people and they have to vote in order of preference which is the most important for them from most to least important.

It was reported that there were 5996 ballot papers marked in Bury, which was a 31.25% which is the highest every turnout for Bury. There were 1.1 million young people that took part in the ballot and nationally there was a 1 in 5 response to the ballot, but in Bury we had a 1 in 3 response.

It was reported that nationally the top 5 issues were: Knife Crime, Mental Health, Equal Pay Equal Work, Homelessness and Curriculum for Life. The top 5 issues in Bury were Knife Crime, Mental Health, and Curriculum for Life, Transport and Homelessness.

These issues will be debated by the Youth Parliament in the House of Commons and the top 2 issues will become part of a National Campaign for the Youth MPs and the Number 1 issue will be campaigned in Bury.

CURRICULUM FOR LIFE MEETINGS

There will be an update at the next meeting.

UKYP

Numair explained that he was going to the Houses of Parliament next week to meet other Youth MPs and to debate the Make your Make campaign issues. He asked the members of the Youth Cabinet who would be taking part in the next elections for Youth MP. 5 young people in the room indicated they would be running to be Bury's next youth MP. The election will take place on 31 January with the counting of votes taking place on the 1 February with the result being declared at 5pm on the 1 February.

Heather explained that the deadline for standing as a candidate would be next Thursday 8 November with all consent forms and a manifesto produced. There will be a poster printed with a picture and the candidate's manifesto that will be provided to all schools taking part. She also explained that being the Youth MP requires a lot of commitment and you will needed at weekends and some evenings. As Youth MP you go to the Houses of Parliament twice.

YCA UPDATE

Numair explained that the YCA is made up of young people from the 10 different Greater Manchester authorities. There are 2 representatives from each borough. The current campaign for the YCA is for Transport for young people in Greater Manchester and they are working with Andy Burnham to campaign for cheaper tickets for young people.

THE BIG DEBATE

The Youth Cabinet split into teams to debate the following issue:

Should there be a second referendum on Brexit?

A debate was held with arguments for and against and a vote was held.

It was agreed:

That there should not be a second referendum on Brexit.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

As part of the Make Your Mark vote, the top issue reported by young people in Bury was knife crime. The Youth Cabinet undertook an activity in groups with a councillor to talk about what the issues with knife crime were and if they had any ideas how it could be tackled in Bury.

The responses were from the various groups:

That supermarkets and other shops should keep knives locked away in a cabinet that is only unlocked when they are being bought. That the police should be more proactive in searching young people who may be carrying knives. That drugs and alcohol are a bigger problem than knives.

That there needs to be more awareness made of knife crime, they would like to hear from people who have been effected by knife crime in school. E.g. a family who have been affected or a nurse who has had to treat someone with a knife wound.

That awareness should be taught from primary school about what to do if someone you know has a knife, who to tell, how to administer first aid if someone has been attacked with a knife. That the police should be more visible in areas where crime is a problem. That parents should be taught how to deal with a child who may be carrying a knife.

It was discussed that Numair should take this back to the Youth Parliament as MPs are best placed to enact change in this instance.

Councillor Cathcart explained that he thought there was a fund of money from the Home Office which was available for applications for the specific use of work around knife crime. There were different agencies around that could be involved regionally to help. He said he would take the message back to his portfolio meeting and talk to Head Teachers.

Councillor O'Brien explained the Be Safe, Be Cool campaign led by Lesley Davidson may be able to help with any work being done. He also explained there is still a Police and Crime Commissioner role in Greater Manchester, under the Deputy Mayor, Beverley Hughes who could help with a strategic direction at a GM level.

Councillor Cathcart explained he had heard about an operation called County Lines where criminals have been targeting young, vulnerable people outside of their geographical area to encourage them to deal drugs or hold weapons for them.

The Youth Cabinet then undertook the same activity for the 2nd issue from the Make Your Mark ballot; Mental Health.

The responses were:

That there should be more advertising in schools of what is available for those needing Mental Health support, especially what is available outside of school.

That there should be a raising of awareness of the symptoms of mental health issues, so there can be early prevention work done. That there should be more awareness of how people can help themselves with their mental health and how peers can help each other. That there should be lessons on the school curriculum about mental health, there are PE lessons for physical health, so there should be something similar for mental health.

That there should be more support available, helplines that can be phoned, information available on school websites that can be accessed outside of school. There should be a place that you can go to speak to someone when you need to, face to face, rather than over the phone. There should be training for young people to be able to help each other with their mental health as they don't always want to speak to an adult.

STARS disability youth group had emailed Adele to ask a question of the councillors in attendance. They asked if the New Kershaw Centre was going to be converted into offices. The New Kershaw Centre is the only youth space available in Bury and they are concerned it is going to be lost to Offices.

Councillor Cathcart responded that he was going to a meeting with Karen Dolton on Monday 5 November so he will ask the question and respond to Adele.

It was raised that in Ramsbottom there is a campaign trying to get plastic free status and that the schools in Bury could get involved with this also.

It was raised that there are some sites in Bury that have been selected for potential fracking and is it safe?

There was a discussion around vaping and whether it should be allowed and the need for more information about the long term effects.

It was agreed that:

Councillor Cathcart would come and deliver a workshop at the next meeting in his role at Early Break around drugs and alcohol abuse.

**COUNCILLOR
Chair**

(Note: The meeting started at Time Not Specified and ended at Time Not Specified)