

# APPENDIX 1



## REPORT OF THE 2017-18 YOUTH ASSEMBLY

COHORT 3

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## Overview

The Youth Assembly is a group of young people who live, work or study in Barnet and come together to debate local issues that are important to them at Hendon Town Hall. This is the third year that the Youth Assembly has operated in the London Borough of Barnet, and this year 39 members signed up.

The role of a Youth Assembly Member is to vote on the motions that they raise, with successful motions being presented to the Children's Education and Safeguarding Committee for consideration at the end of the intake's term (June 2018). The purpose of the body is to provide young people in the borough with an opportunity to improve their public speaking skills by debating in the town hall, and to stimulate change in respect to issues that are important to young people in the borough.

The meetings of Cohort 2 of the Youth Assembly took place on the following dates:

- 12 October 2017
- 16 November 2017
- 7 December 2017
- 24 January 2018
- 15 March 2018
- 12 April 2018
- 6<sup>th</sup> June – CES Committee

Meetings took place from 6PM and lasted until 8PM, and adhered to the following format:

- 6.00PM – Guest speaker, including questions
- 6.45PM – Break (including some food and drinks)
- 7.00PM – Raising and debating of motions
- 8.00PM – Close.



This year each meeting focused on a specific theme. For the first half of the meetings, the Assembly heard from prominent and influential speakers on the relevant theme. In the second half of the meeting, members raised and debated motions related to the meeting's theme. The guest speakers and themes for the meetings were as follows:

Meeting	Theme	Confirmed speakers
12 October 2017	General introduction	N/A
16 November 2017	Inter- Faith	Es Rosen Barnet Multi-Faith Forum
7 December 2017	UNICEF	Tony Lewis on behalf of UNICEF
24 January 2018	Children's Safeguarding Board	Sharon Dodd and Kerry Hodges
15 March 2018	Prevent Agenda	Community Safety
12 April 2018	General session	Opportunity to raise a motion on any theme.
16 May 2018	CES Committee	N/A - CES Committee

## Motions, debating & voting

The main part of what a Youth Assembly Member's role is to raise, debate and vote on motions. An overview of what a motion is (in the context of Youth Assembly meetings), and the process that was followed at meetings, is as follows:

- A motion is simply a statement, or request, that a member wants the Youth Assembly to consider. The motion might be '*I request the council to publicly endorse lowering the voting age to 16*'. The person that submits the motion will introduce it to the Assembly, giving reasons why it's important to them.

- The Assembly will then have the chance to debate or ask questions to the motion raiser. Based on the discussion, the motion raiser can then either put their statement directly to a vote, or choose to reword it (for instance to *'I request the council to publicly endorse lowering the voting age to 16 and agree to lobby Barnet's MPs on the matter'*) and then put it to a vote.
- If a motion is successful (that is to say a majority of members agree with the request) then it will be put into a report that will be presented to the Children's, Education and Safeguarding Committee on 6 June 2018.

Members were advised that they could be critical of motions, and they did not have to approve every motion – if they didn't agree, they were encouraged to say so. Part of the Youth Assembly is public debating; their voice was regarded as important as the next one. They were also advised to be realistic with their motions and to be clear with what they wanted to achieve.

The successful and unsuccessful motions are found at the end of the document. Every successful motion has a response from a senior officer of the council.

If members want to follow up on their motions then they should email [youthassembly@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:youthassembly@barnet.gov.uk)

The progress of these, and previous motions, will be found on the website in the following months. Members will be able to track how their motions have got on, and see what impact they've had on their local area.



## Approved motions:

MOTION	VOTE	THEME	OFFICER RESPONSE
<b><i>I would like the Council to pressure the Government to work with social media companies to combat hate crime online (such as publishing clear guidelines on what hate crime is), as well as working with schools to educate young people on what constitutes hate crime and its impact. E.g. funding organisations that go into schools and working with organisations like the BMFF.</i></b>	For: 12 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0	Inter-Faith	<p>Barnet Community Safety Team works closely with Barnet Mencap to deliver Hate Crime training to faith communities in partnership with the BMFF as well as with organisations who work with people with disabilities. There are currently <a href="#">nine Hate Crime</a> reporting centres around Barnet that are open to anyone who has experienced hate crime. The recent end of year report submitted by Barnet Mencap, that will go to the Mayor's Office For Policing and Training (MOPAC), highlights the fact that more funding is needed for school workshops. The Community Safety Team encourages people of all ages and backgrounds to also report Hate Crime through the website <a href="#">True vision</a> or by downloading <a href="#">the Self Evident App</a>. The Council has a Schools Prevent Officer that will advise Barnet schools on how to better report Hate Crime and direct them towards the websites and the apps available, so that students can be better informed.</p> <p>Communications and Strategy Team</p>
<b><i>I would like the Council to set up a youth multi-faith forum for students to attend and have their say on inter-faith cohesion in Barnet e.g.</i></b>	For: 12 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0	Inter-Faith	<p>The Barnet Multi Faith Forum (BMFF) has a long standing aim to create A Barnet Youth Faith Forum (BYFF) and together with other partners we wish to proceed to establish this in order to provide young people (16-25) who</p>

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<p><b><i>Meets regularly (perhaps once a month)</i></b>  <b><i>Feeds back to the Council</i></b>  <b><i>Presence in schools</i></b>  <b><i>Including both primary and high-school age.</i></b>  <b><i>Safe environment for young people to ask questions.</i></b></p>	<p>ons: 0</p>		<p>are associated with places of worship or institutions in the borough to have the space and opportunities to meet with others to discuss issues that concern them. We therefore wish to invite you as Faith leaders to a meeting to discuss the formation of such a forum on Tuesday June 12<sup>th</sup> at Middlesex University from 16.00 to 18.00.</p> <p>We hope you are able to bring with you a young person who might be able to represent your community and participate in these discussions.</p> <p>Our intentions at this meeting are to present and explain the principles and purpose of such a Forum which though facilitated and supported by BMFF, will be run and developed solely by the young people themselves for them to determine their agenda events and activities. Please RSVP to me at this address <a href="mailto:info@barnetmultifaithforum.org">info@barnetmultifaithforum.org</a> and from which I will provide more information.</p>
<p><b><i>Propose schools and the Council promote children's charities and organisations to help children understand their rights.</i></b></p>	<p>For: 12  Against: 0  Abstain: 0</p>	<p>UNICEF</p>	<p>The UNICEF UK Child Friendly Cities and Communities (CFC) programme is a 3-year partnership programme which will see the Council, the local voluntary community sector (charities, trusts etc), Education (schools), Police and Health work together with children and young people to embed a child's rights-based approach across the borough. In practice, a CFC is a place where voices, needs, priorities and rights of children are considered and taken seriously as an integral part of public policy,</p>

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			<p>programmes and decision-making. The programme will provide tailored child's rights and rights-based approach training to partners and CYP and provide platforms for CYP to help develop, drive, monitor and evaluate the initiative.</p> <p>To achieve a CFC status we will need to have made sustainable progress in 6 key areas (or badges) which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Safe &amp; Secure</li> <li>- Family &amp; belonging</li> <li>- Education &amp; Learning</li> <li>- Communication</li> <li>- Culture</li> <li>- Cooperation &amp; Leadership</li> </ul> <p>We will be running events and focus groups throughout the next 3 months to gain as many voices and ideas from anyone living, working or studying in the borough, to help us co-produce a new Children and Young People's Plan. I hope that explains how we will aim to meet your motion to embed an awareness and respect for children's rights.</p>
<p><b><i>Stricter laws that prevent shops and security from limiting how many children can enter a shop at any one time.</i></b></p>	<p>For: 5 Against: 4 Abstain: 3</p>	<p>UNICEF</p>	<p>We need to carefully balance the rights of Children wanting to use shops, with the rights of shopkeepers to not suffer abuse, anti-social behaviour, thefts or assault. Very sadly we recently saw the tragic results of a shopkeeper being assaulted in Mill Hill.</p> <p>It is understood that most Children have respect for</p>

MOTION	VOTE	THEME	OFFICER RESPONSE
			shopkeepers and cause no issues whatsoever, unfortunately it is the few who behave poorly that create a problem for everyone. Within reason, a shopkeeper can refuse or limit access to anybody they wish.  Metropolitan police
<b><i>Propose the council encourage more study and communal areas in libraries for children and not limit the times that young people can enter the libraries.</i></b>	For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 1	UNICEF part 2	The Council has transformed the library service. Young people can enter libraries with an adult at all times through the use of technology as can year 11 students.
<b><i>Encourage the council to commit to redevelopments that do not reduce the amount of social housing.</i></b>	For: 8 Against: 0 Abstain: 1	UNICEF part 2	Estate regeneration is a complex process which must take account of the specific circumstances of each site, including local infrastructure needs, local housing need (tenure mix, affordability and unit size), other local development opportunities, placemaking, viability and the nature of the surrounding area. Historically on some estates the council has purposely chosen to reduce the number of social rented units in order to promote a more diverse housing stock. We always try to ensure that there isn't a loss of affordable housing on new schemes. However this requirement has had to be balanced with the need to make the schemes viable (which will enable regeneration and new homes to be delivered), and the importance of creating a mixed tenure community. We are also providing a number of surplus

MOTION	VOTE	THEME	OFFICER RESPONSE
			<p>sites to Opendoor Homes so that they can deliver 320 affordable rented properties.</p> <p>Strategic Lead - Regeneration and Development</p>
<p><b><i>For Barnet Council to increase awareness of adoption for unborn children and increase the eligibility of families to adopt.</i></b></p>	<p>For: 3 Against: 0 Abstain: 6</p>	<p>UNICEF part 2</p>	<p>Barnet has a good record of placing children in good time where it is appropriate for adoption.</p> <p>Obviously social care and the courts need to be especially careful that we don't place children for adoption with strangers if there are family members can bring up the child.</p> <p>Nicky Hale Head of Corporate Parenting</p>
<p><b><i>Educating and encouraging young people on the subject of self defence. For example including this in Physical Education lessons or through workshops.</i></b></p>	<p>For: 9 Against: 0 Abstain: 0</p>	<p>UNICEF part 2</p>	<p>This is an interesting idea. I would encourage young people to take up a local martial art or self-defence course should this be of interest to the student. There are plenty of local courses for most ages and abilities. It would also have the secondary benefit of physical activity &amp; exercise. I would suggest raising with the School Head to see if this can be included in P.E. in the future.</p>

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<b><i>Council to set up a relationship with local businesses to provide work experience and encourage schools to allow time off for children to participate and ensure information is provide to home educated children.</i></b>	For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 2	UNICEF part 2	This is not an area we usually get involved with unless it is through traded services. We would be happy to share a list of businesses who are prepared to give placements to young people if this list was available through other sources. In relation to encouraging schools to allow time for young people to have this experience we do not feel we have the authority for this.  <a href="#">Cambridge Education</a>
<b><i>Council to encourage the Barnet MPs to support votes at 16 and extending the franchise to young people.</i></b>	For: 7 Against: 1 Abstain: 1	UNICEF part 2	This is an area of national debate and we are aware of the campaign to promote this. The Council can debate this issue at a future meeting.
<b><i>We propose the council work with TFL to improve and promote children's safety on public transport.</i></b>	For- 6 Against- no Abstain- 2	Children's Safeguarding	This area will be explored as part of the UNICEF Child friendly Communities and Cities programme under the safe & Secure badge.  Over the next few months focus groups will be deliver with children & young people and professionals where public transport concerns will be discussed.  Victoria Nzeribe Child Rights Lead
<b><i>Cllr's and officers to work with children and young people to develop the Barnet and BSCP (Barnet's Safeguarding Children</i></b>	For- 6 Against- 0	Children's Safeguarding	In response to the question around BSCP Website: the website was developed alongside young people from #BOP and UNICEF Children's Rights Council.

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<p><b>Partnership) website to make it more child friendly</b>  <a href="https://thebarnetscp.org.uk/bscp">https://thebarnetscp.org.uk/bscp</a></p>	Abstain-3		<p>Rosie met with them to agree the logo, the look and feel of the website, which they signed off before content was developed.</p> <p>We understand that as part of business as usual activity (the website is now managed by the BSCP and our Comms Team) that there should be ongoing comms with young people in relation to the website development.</p> <p>Yogita Popat  Head of Performance, Improvement and Inspection</p>
<p><b>CIlr to include and listen to Young People in the democratic process</b></p> <p><b>More information:</b>  <b>Young people should be more involved in decisions that help improves services and lead to change.</b>  <b>Councillors should attend care homes on a regular basis, to better understand the needs of children in care.</b>  <b>Young people should get updated on issues that affect them and feedback on how motions raised at Youth Assembly are progressed.</b></p>	For- 8 Against-0 Abstain-1	Children's Safeguarding	<p>We are constantly looking at ways to involve young people in decision making both about the community and their individual lives where we are involved. We always want to do more.</p> <p>Councillors do attend care homes to understand the needs of children in care. There is also mandatory training for Councillors on their corporate parenting role. This involves children and young people in care.</p> <p>We will ensure that feedback is given by the Voice of the Child team to all motions.</p>
<p><b>Whilst the Barnet Youth Assembly provides young people with a forum to discuss their beliefs, its function as a policy creation</b></p>	For: 9 Against: 0	Prevent Agenda	<p>The Voice of the Child Team is working closely with the young person who raised the motion to explore how we can move this motion forward. The Voice of the Child</p>

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<p><i>structure for young people is inherently flawed by the fact that members are not elected – though the assembly is relatively large, its members do not have a mandate to represent the views of the young people of Barnet, only to speak their own views and suggest their own thoughts. It is true that the assembly encourages more young people to be involved with democracy, and it is also true that the policy it suggests is useful. However, Barnet’s young people need a structure where elected members with a mandate to create policy can meet regularly with local councillors and have more power and autonomy to have their policy suggestions become reality. A potential solution to this problem would be to create a Youth Council, elected by postal ballot by all young residents of Barnet, giving young people an experience of how the real council runs by replicating its structure to a degree, and giving them the opportunity to suggest policy and campaign towards it becoming a reality. This requires reassurances from Barnet’s elected councillors that policy raised by the youth democratic structures will be enacted.</i></p>	<p>Abstentions: 0</p>		<p>Coordinator is waiting the young person's proposal on how the Assembly could be structured and links in to UKYP. The Voice of the Child Coordinator will work with Governance and young people to discuss how this proposal could be achieved.</p>

**Rejected motions:**

MOTION RAISED	VOTE	RELATED THEME
<i>I would like the Council to set-up a day which encourages young people in the Borough to boycott social media in order to make a statement about how hate-crime is spread too easily on these platforms.</i>	For: 0 Abstentions: 3 Against: 6	Inter-Faith