

	<p><b>Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee</b>  <b>Wednesday 6 June 2018</b></p>
<p><b>Title</b></p>	<p>Voice of the Child</p>
<p><b>Report of</b></p>	<p>Chairman of the Committee, Councillor David Longstaff</p>
<p><b>Wards</b></p>	<p>All</p>
<p><b>Status</b></p>	<p>Public</p>
<p><b>Urgent</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>Key</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>Enclosures</b></p>	<p>Appendix 1 – Barnet Youth Assembly Motions 2017-18  Appendix 2 – Barnet Young People Survey</p>
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### Summary

UK Youth Parliament provides a platform for children and young people to voice their opinions on issues affecting them and their peers across the UK to bring about social change. Barnet elects four children and young people each year to represent their peers within Barnet both at a local and a national level. Each Youth Parliament member has campaigned on an issue that is important to them. Their term of office lasts for one year and during this time the Voice of the Child Team seeks to support and develop their campaigns and link each member in with the wider UK Youth Parliament. This report provides an overview of the campaigns the newly elected Youth Parliament members will be aiming to develop within Barnet over their year in office. The report also provides an outline of the campaigns, projects and journeys for our outgoing Barnet UK Youth Parliament members' terms in office.

This report updates the committee on the work that has been done by the 2017-18 Youth Assembly (the third cohort), specifically in respect to issues they have raised and want to

bring to the attention of Members.

The Youth Assembly is a public-debating body made up of young people who work, live or study in the borough. Members raise motions that are both relevant to Barnet and important to them, and then have the opportunity to debate on vote on those motions. Successful motions have been included in Appendix 1 – The Report of the 2017-18 Youth Assembly – for Members' consideration, endorsement and comments.

The Assembly, now in its third year, has this year had 39 members signed up.

This report highlights the need for continued support from members and the committee to support young people as they share their hopes for Barnet and positively engage with the council.

Appendix 2 to the report includes a summary of the findings from the October/November 2017 wave of the Barnet Young People Survey, which will be used to inform future planning, including the Children and Young People's Plan.

<b>Officers Recommendations</b>
<b>1. That the Committee note the report on the progression of the existing UK Youth Parliament members and recognise the campaigns of the new UK Youth Parliament members as laid out within the report.</b>
<b>2. That the Committee agree the actions that the Council is going to take to meet the manifesto commitments outlined by Barnet's UK Youth Parliament members.</b>
<b>3. That the Committee comments on, and endorses, the successful motions raised by the 2017-18 Youth Assembly, as outlined in Appendix 1.</b>
<b>4. That the Committee notes and comments on – where applicable – the officers' response to the successful motions of the Youth Assembly.</b>
<b>5. That the Committee note the findings of the Barnet Young People Survey at Appendix 2.</b>

## **1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED**

1.1.1 To provide a review to the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee of the progression and impact made by the outgoing UK Youth Parliament members.

1.1.2 To provide the committee with an overview of the incoming UK Youth Parliament members' campaigns and to communicate the direction for the overall campaign for the UK.

1.1.3 To provide the Committee with an overview of the work of the Barnet Youth Assembly 2017-18. In bringing this report to the Committee the Assembly can engage meaningfully with the council and give young people an opportunity to participate in a formal council meeting, which furthermore strengthens the commitment to helping young people make an excellent start in life.

- 1.1.4 To provide the Committee with the findings from the second year of the Young People's Survey, which took place in November.

## **1.2 Barnet Youth Assembly 2017-18**

- 1.2.1 On 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015 the committee approved the creation of the Barnet Youth Assembly as set out in a paper entitled *Promoting British Values and Citizenship amongst Children and Young People in Barnet - Hearing the voices of children and young people*.
- 1.2.2 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.
- 1.2.3 This year each meeting had particular themes, which were as follows: Inter-Faith, UNICEF, Children's Safeguarding, Suicide and Self-Harm, and Prevent Agenda. For each meeting there were prominent guest speakers who attended – a full list can be seen in the report at Appendix 1. Members were asked to raise motions relating to the theme of the meeting.
- 1.2.4 The Youth Assembly operates a system in which members are asked to submit motions on local issues which are important to them. The member is expected to introduce the motion and then the Youth Assembly debates it, querying information provided and discussing the merits of the motion, with the option to amend as they see fit. Once the motion has been debated thoroughly those motions which receive a majority of positive votes are taken forward to the Committee in an annual report to highlight to Councillors the issues which the Youth Assembly would like the council to focus on. All motions raised – both successful and unsuccessful – as well as a detailed overview of how motions are raised can be found at Appendix 1.
- 1.2.5 Members are recruited through local schools. This year, leaflets were sent out to all secondary schools in the borough and to libraries within the Borough, and posters were put up in local schools to advertise the body and recruit members. This was supported by the launch of the Assembly's website – [www.barnet.gov.uk/youthassembly](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/youthassembly). We also made use of the Council's social media sites, by tweeting the dates and themes of the meetings. The Governance Service – in tandem with the Voice of the Child Team in Family Services – runs the Youth Assembly.

- 1.2.6 The success of the Assembly is contingent on officers carrying forward actions and members taking into consideration the views of the body in future decision making. It is therefore recommended that the committee endorses the motions as outlined in the report at Appendix 1, and comments on those motions where appropriate.
- 1.2.7 As part of the ongoing improvement of the body, the Governance Service and the Voice of the Child Team will be developing the Assembly's website so that the motions raised by each cohort can be seen online. By May 2018, when the third cohort will bring a report to the committee, it is hoped that it will be possible to track the progress of motions and the successes of the body. This is deemed important to the success of the body; it should be clear where the Assembly has been successful in promoting and championing issues that are important to young people locally.
- 1.2.8 The Youth Assembly has proved to be a successful template for engaging with young people in Barnet and encouraging them to interact with the council and work for positive change in issues that affect them. The ambition is to ensure young people feel valued and listened to by the council, as well as building their skills and understanding of policy making and the work of the council. The continued support of Members and the committee is crucial to ensuring this is possible and that the Youth Assembly can develop into a nationally recognised model of how to successfully engage young people.

### **A review of the 2017 Youth Parliament members**

- 1.3 During 2017 two Barnet Members of Youth Parliament, Manal Albadry and Ruby Smith, took an active role in local, regional and national campaigns. They have been involved in leading the development of our UNICEF Child Friendly Cities programme, seeking to raise awareness of the programme and children's rights within Barnet by presenting to professionals and their peers, and sat as members on our Children's Partnership Board where they have been able to represent the views of young people in Barnet. Our members have debated at a national level with the British Youth Council, and have undertaken their roles with dedication and diligence.

- 1.4 Ruby has developed her campaign which aims to tackle racism and stereotyping of young people by bringing faith schools together to take part in workshops. Ruby used the UKYP meetings to develop her project and fundraising plan. Ruby has planned to pilot her project with the support of her school by bringing together a number of year 5 pupils, from faith schools to take part in interactive activities which tackle stereotyping and encourage pupils to listen to other's views and values. A planning meeting has already been arranged with Ruby's school and Voice of the Child Team. Ruby has also networked with the Multi-Faith Forum who encouraged her campaign and shared ideas supporting her with her ambition. Ruby is a member of the Children Partnership Board and has proposed a member of the Multi-Faith Forum should be a representative at these meetings, as a result of which a member of the forum is now a member of the board. Ruby has fed back that being a UKYP member has taught her about current issues for children and young people within Barnet by learning about different subjects, such as mental health and Family Services which in turn has supported her to make informed decisions when representing children of Barnet.
- 1.5 Manal's campaign aimed to develop young people's life skills by facilitating Life Lessons workshops which are to be incorporated into Schools. Manal has created her project plan and has even trialled a workshop at her school who are working closely with her to deliver the project. Manal has created lesson plans focusing on budget planning and healthy eating. Manal has fed back that she has learnt a lot about UKYP and how young people can have a voice within decision making. This experience has enabled Manal to develop her public speaking skills and confidence.
- 1.6 In October 2017, the national Make Your Mark campaign reached just over 4000 young people in Barnet where they could vote on the ten top issues which the Members of Youth Parliament for the UK had previously selected. The top issue for 11-18 year olds who live, study or work in Barnet was '**Work Experience hubs for 11-18 year olds**. *Knowing where to find work experience can be challenging. Government should create an online space to help young people with this*'. As a result, this was taken to Youth Board members where it was discussed how this could be implemented in Barnet. Even though a plan was not agreed by the members, one aspect of the UNICEF CFCC Programme is the 'Education & Learning' badge. As part of the badge framework this campaign will be further explored with children, young people, and partners on how we can support this campaign.
- 1.7 Ruby and Manal attended the House of Commons sitting in November 2017 where they represented the voice of young people across Barnet to debate in the House of Commons chamber. They debated the five issues chosen by the Make your Mark ballot of young people across the UK, and then voted and decided that **Votes at 16 and a Curriculum for Life** will be the UK Youth Parliament's priority campaigns for 2018.

### **Review of Barnet's 2018 Youth Parliament Elections**

- 1.8 The 2018 UK Youth Parliament elections saw **28 young** people aged 11 – 17 across Barnet stand to be elected to the UK Youth Parliament. Our candidates were drawn from many schools, academies and colleges. This positive participation evidences the strong appetite schools, pupils and young people

have for their voices to be heard. Just over 4,000 young people voted during the two-week election period. This demonstrates the reach and the ability for our Youth Parliament to impact upon young people's participation in democratic processes and positive citizenship activity across our borough.

## **2018 Members of Youth Parliament**

1.9 The 2018 Members of Youth Parliament are aged between 14 – 17 years. Each campaigned upon their own manifesto:

- Savan seeks to promote better mental health online through social media. He would like to raise awareness of mental distress and where young people can access support online and would like to see evidence that more young people are using the available sources of support. **Actions:** Savan's manifesto will be supported by the Voice of the Child Team and Jayne Abbott, Resilient Schools Programme Lead, Public Health, to identify key stakeholders within mental health to support Savan's campaign and design and produce an online platform or link in with current online platforms to raise awareness of mental health with young people and how to access support.
- Richard seeks to plan and introduce workshops on mental health in school, raising awareness of available services for young people in years 7-10 aged 15 and below. Early intervention in mental health awareness to help young people identify when they may be suffering from mental distress at an earlier stage. Richard would like to see how schools are taking mental health seriously and to have a mental health awareness day in schools. **Actions:** Richard's manifesto will be supported by the Voice of the Child Team and Jayne Abbott, Resilient Schools Programme Lead, Public Health. The Resilient Schools Programme provides a framework for schools to assess and improve mental health and wellbeing support to pupils, parent and carers and all staff within the school. One of the aims of the programme is to Intervene early to prevent escalation of mental health problems. Richard's campaign can support this programme and working closely with Jayne Abbott will give him the opportunity to learn about mental health services. Richard's insights and views will be crucial in ensuring the programme is child friendly. In addition, the Voice of the Child Team will support Richard to develop his project plan and mental health awareness days in partnership with Cambridge Education and Public Health. All members of UKYP and other Youth Representatives will be provided project management training to support them with delivering their campaigns.

- Lara seeks to reduce University tuition fees to 5K and widen participation in university for young people where finance is a barrier to attending higher education. Lara would like to create a survey to gather students' views on the matter followed by developing a petition to take to the local MP and have her campaign represented in the house of commons. **Actions:** Lara's manifesto will be supported by the Voice of the Child Team to help Lara develop her project plan and create the petition. The Voice of the Child Team will also support Lara to seek support from Middlesex University, local colleges and the Local Authority Communications Team to promote her petition and survey.
- Terek aims to raise awareness of the dangers of knife crime specifically aimed at Year 7 – 9, using partnership working with ex-offenders and victims to raise awareness and educate young people on the destructive impact of knife crime. He would like to see a reduction in knife crime in the Barnet area evidenced by a reduction in attitudes towards carrying a knife shown from the Metropolitan police knife crime survey. **Actions:** Terek's manifesto will be supported by the Voice of the Child Team to link Terek with key stakeholders, such as the Police, Art Against Knives, REACH Team and Youth Services.

1.10 The new Members of Youth Parliament attended a weekend residential with the British Youth Council and hundreds of their peers in April where they commence their 'Youth Leadership Programme'. The residential was described as "inspiring" and gave them the opportunity to see members from around the UK and understand the importance of national focus. One UKYP member networked with Ipswich UKYP members who are also doing a campaign for mental health and shared ideas. Attending the residential helped Lara and Richard to consider the national vision and local picture. They also commented that it improved their presentation, collaboration and persuasion skills.

1.11 Our UKYP members have written profiles about their interests, campaigns and next steps to be added to a new UKYP members page on the Barnet website. Also, one members profile will be included in the next Barnet First Magazine. Here is an excerpt from one member's profile:

"Apart from the free pizza that is given to the Barnet MYPs in our monthly meetings, I would say that it would be the freedom that each member is given to plan and coordinate the steps they would take to achieve the goal of their campaign. Although we are youthful, we are not treated like 'kids' but approached with trust and maturity as if we genuinely are Barnet MPs. We choose the actions that we would like to take to achieve what we want to achieve, and the staff behind UKYP work with you accordingly to that, offering support from the numerous, skilled departments present within Barnet Council. This enables the MYPs to comfortably work through the thought-intensive tasks that arise in UKYP".

## **Barnet Young People's Survey**

- 1.12 Findings from our recent Young People's Survey, carried out every autumn and involving interviews with more than 500 young people from across Barnet, revealed that the majority of young people remain satisfied with the local area as a place to live (89%) which remains in line with the previous study in 2016. More young people feel their local area is a family friendly place to live than last year (84%) and more than adults (75%). Their top three concerns remain the same as before, crime (53%); lack of jobs (33%); and not enough being done for young people (31%).
- 1.13 The majority of young people feel safe at school (97%), travelling to school (95%), outside during the day (95%) and outside at night (56%). However, fewer young people feel safe at night (56%) than they did one year ago (64%) which correlates with the rising concern about crime. Young people are also more positive in terms of image of the council compared to 2016 and also tend to be more positive compared to adults.
- 1.14 The detailed findings from the survey can be found at Appendix 2. The findings will be used to inform future planning, including the development of the new Children and Young People's Plan.

## **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to note the report of the Barnet Youth Assembly, findings of the Barnet Young People Survey and to support the new UK Youth Parliament members throughout their term in office and recognise the achievements of Barnet's outgoing UK Youth Parliament members.

## **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

- 3.1 Not applicable.

## **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 The continuation of support for children and young people's voices to be heard through the UK Youth Parliament within Barnet's Family Services.

## **5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

- 5.1 **Corporate Priorities and Performance**



- 5.1.1 The implementation of the UK Youth Parliament members is incorporated into the decisions made by Barnet, which incorporates the views of young people across the borough and this feeds into the council's priorities, Corporate Plan 2015-2020.
- 5.1.2 The Youth Assembly is enabling young Barnet residents to take responsibility and engage with the council to highlight issue that are important to them. This resonates with the commitment in the Corporate Plan to help residents help themselves. It provides a platform for developing skills such as public speaking and critical thinking, which positively contribute to the future of these young people.
- 5.1.3 The Barnet Youth Assembly is enabling young Barnet residents to take responsibility and engage with the council to highlight issue that are important to them. This resonates with the commitment in the Corporate Plan to help residents help themselves. It provides a platform for developing skills such as public speaking and critical thinking, which positively contribute to the future of these young people.
- 5.1.4 Barnet's Corporate Plan is underpinned by the principles of Fairness, Responsibility and Opportunity. They are at the heart of the council's approach and work with young people needs to be conscious cognisant of those aspirations.

## **5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

- 5.2.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. Funding for the UK Youth Parliament is contained within the existing budgets within Family Services.

## **5.3 Social Value**

- 5.3.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. Before commencing a procurement process, commissioners should think about whether the services they are going to buy, or the way they are going to buy them, could secure these benefits for their area or stakeholders.

## **5.4 Legal and Constitutional References**

5.4.0 Local authorities have specific duties in respect of children under various legislation including the Children Act 1989 and Children Act 2004. They have a general duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need in their area and, if this is consistent with the child's safety and welfare, to promote the upbringing of such children by their families by providing services appropriate to the child's needs. They also have a duty to promote the upbringing of such children by their families, by providing services appropriate to the child's needs, provided this is consistent with the child's safety and welfare. They should do this in partnership with parents, in a way that is sensitive to the child's race, religion, culture and language and that, where practicable, takes account of the child's wishes and feelings.

5.4.1 Part 8 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 provides the statutory framework for Ofsted inspections. Section 136 and 137 provide the power for Ofsted to inspect on behalf of the Secretary of State and requires the Chief Inspector to produce a report following such an inspection. Ofsted will have monitoring visits on a regular basis in local authorities found to be inadequate. A new Ofsted framework will be in place from January 2018, however monitoring visits will still be undertaken for authorities found to be inadequate. In addition to Ofsted's statutory responsibilities, the Secretary of State has the power to direct local authorities. This power of direction includes the power to impose a commissioner, direct the local authority to work with improvement partners and direct alternative delivery options. Subsequent directions can be given if the services are not found to be adequate.

5.4.2 Article 7 of the council's constitution states that the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee has the responsibility for all matters relating to children, schools and education.

## 5.5 Risk Management

5.5.1 The nature of services provided to children and families by Family Services manage significant levels of risk. An inappropriate response or poor decision-making around a case could lead to a significant children's safeguarding incident resulting in significant harm. Good quality early intervention and social care services reduce the likelihood of children suffering harm and increase the likelihood of children developing into successful adults and achieving and succeeding. The implementation of the Barnet Children's Services Improvement Action Plan based on inspection findings and recommendations reduce this risk and drive forward improvements towards good quality services.

## 5.6 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 The 2010 Equality Act outlines the provisions of the Public Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies **to have due regard** to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups
- foster good relations between people from different groups

5.6.2 The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day business and keep them under review in decision making, the design of policies and the delivery of services

5.6.3 Equalities and diversity considerations are a key element of social work practice. It is imperative that help and protection services for children and young are sensitive and responsive to age, disability, ethnicity, faith or belief, gender, gender, identity, language, race and sexual orientation. Barnet has a diverse population of children and young people. Children and young people from minority ethnic groups account for 52%, compared with 30% in the country. The percentages of children and young people from minority ethnic groups who receive statutory social care services account for 61% of Children in Need cases, 56% of child protection cases and 60% of all Children in Care. The proportion of children and young people with English as an additional language across primary schools is 44% (the national average is 18%).

5.6.4 Social workers practice in relation to inequalities and disadvantage is inconsistent. Recent learning from audits and practice week has highlighted attention to diversity and the cultural context in assessments is an area of practice in need of immediate support from management, the Practice Development Workers and targeted training. The action plan addresses the additional work which needs to be done to ensure that children's diversity and identity needs are met; "5b(ii) Strengthen consideration of diversity in assessment so that assessments thoroughly explore and consider family history including the influence of cultural, linguistic and religious beliefs, norms and expectations".

## **5.7 Corporate Parenting**

5.7.1 UKYP candidate and election campaigns were promoted to our Children in Care through the Children in Care Council and Onwards & Upwards Team. We had two Children in Care Council members attend our information evening, however decided not to go forward as a candidate due to other commitments.

5.7.2 A member of the Children in Care Council attended the UKYP weekend residential as a Youth Representative with the British Youth Council and hundreds of their peers in April where they commence their 'Youth Leadership Programme'. The learning from the weekend has supported the young person to take on the role of leading the Children in Care Council.

5.7.3 In July 2016, the Government published their Care Leavers' strategy *Keep on Caring* which outlined that the "... [the government] will introduce a set of corporate parenting principles that will require *all departments* within a local authority to recognise their role as corporate parents, encouraging them to look at the services and support that they provide through the lens of what a reasonable parent would do to support their own children.'

5.7.4 To ensure that Barnet acts as a good corporate parent to children in care and care leavers, we:

- have committed to supporting children and young people to achieve their best in childhood, adolescence and adulthood as outlined in the Corporate Parenting Pledge for children in care and care leavers as approved by full council on 29 January 2016. Updates on performance against the pledge are provided to Corporate Parenting Panel annually;
- provide learning and development for elected members and senior officers to understand their duties and responsibilities to children and care and care leavers;
- ensure elected members, senior officers and partners can monitor and challenge the performance of the council and its partner agencies regarding outcomes for children in care and care leavers through the appropriate channels such as the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee, Corporate Parenting Advisory Panel and Corporate Parenting Officers' Group.

## **5.8 Consultation and Engagement**

5.8.1 The UK Youth Parliament members will have regular consultations and engagements with the Voice of the Child Participation Officer. The officer will support the development of their campaigns and projects while working closely with them throughout their term in office.

## **5.9 Insight**

5.9.1 N/A

## **6 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1 Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee Report, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017: <https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/g8690/Public%20reports%20pack%2017th-May-2017%2019.00%20Children%20Education%20Libraries%20Safeguarding%20Committee.pdf?T=10>

6.2 Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee Report, 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015: <https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s27431/Promoting%20British%20Values%20and%20Citizenship%20amongst%20Children%20and%20Young%20People%20in%20Barnet.pdf>