

Decisions of the Children, Education, Libraries & Safeguarding Committee

17 May 2017

Members Present:-

Councillor Reuben Thompstone (Chairman)

Councillor Bridget Perry (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Rebecca Challice

Councillor Alison Cornelius

Councillor Helena Hart

Councillor Adam Langleben.

Councillor Anne Hutton

Councillor Kathy Levine

Councillor Val Duschinsky

Also in attendance (as Co-opted Members)

Marilyn Nathan

Darren Warrington

Gladys Vendy

Kevin McSharry

Apologies for Absence

Councillor Kath McGurik

Denis Carey

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Chairman noted that an error had been made in relation to Councillor McGuirk's declaration at the last meeting and that it should be noted her daughter is a teaching assistant and not herself.

The Chairman also said that the work programme needed to be populated

2. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS

Councillor Langleben substituted Councillor McGuirk. Councillor Langleben gave apologies for being late.

Apologised received from Mr Denis Carey.

3. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Councillor	Item	Nature	Detail
Anne Hutton	10 (1.6)	Non-pecuniary	That the Councillor is a Trustee for Barnet Carers Association.
Reuben Thompstone	11	Non-pecuniary	That the Councillor taught a number of the

			students from the Barnet Youth Assembly.
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4. REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER (IF ANY)

None.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS (IF ANY)

A representative from Hendon School came up to the table to speak in relation to the question and said they were happy with the response received from officers.

6. MEMBERS' ITEMS (IF ANY)

None.

7. WHAT MAKES BARNET FAMILY FRIENDLY - VERBAL PRESENTATION

Children from Underhill and Dollis Junior School attended the meeting and made a presentation to the Committee regarding what they believed would make Barnet a Family Friendly Borough.

Strategic Director for Children and Young People thanked the children for attending the meeting and for their presentations, he said he would take the topics that had been raised back to officers in the Council to look into how they could possibly be implemented. Strategic Director for Children and Young People also announced that the Youth Zone would soon be opening in Barnet.

8. REPORT OF THE UK YOUTH PARLIAMENT MEMBERS

The Committee invited the Voice of the Child Coordinator to the table to present the report.

Councillor Hutton queried why there were now only two members of the youth parliament, when four had previously been elected. Voice of the Child Officer explained that two of the young people had unfortunately been unable to continue to commit to the parliament for various reasons.

The Youth Parliament Members addressed the Committee and spoke about their experiences over the past year. Both said that had really enjoyed the opportunity and were looking forward to working on their projects over the coming year.

Voice of the Child Officer said he was very proud of the Youth Members for giving up their time and for being so passionate about their manifestos to improve the situation for children in Barnet.

The four newly elected members of the Youth Parliament introduced themselves to the Committee and spoke about their manifestos.

The Chairman congratulated them all on their positions and on the excellent topics they had chosen as manifestos for the year.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

1. **The Committee noted the report on the progression of the existing UK Youth Parliament members and recognised the campaigns of the new UK Youth Parliament members.**
2. **That the Committee unanimously agreed the actions that the Council would take to meet the manifesto commitments.**

9. LAUNCH OF THE UNICEF PARTNERSHIP AND THE CHILD RIGHTS PROGRAMME

Voice of the Child Officer presented the report. He explained that there were 6 badges that would be implemented and assessed upon which would be produced with the help of children and young people. He explained that 1.10 of the report outlined the measures that would be taken during the partnership and the aim was to become London's most family friendly Borough by 2020.

The Chairman enquired when a follow up report would be received. Voice of the Child Officer said that the partnership was being governed by the Children's Partnership board. My Munday said that it would be possible to update the CELS Committee annually, and this meeting in particular could be a good platform for this each year.

Following consideration of the item, the Chairman moved to the recommendations which were unanimously agreed.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

1. **That the Committee noted the report and supported the objectives for the partnership with UNICEF.**
2. **That the Committee agreed to promote the Family Friendly Barnet vision through the UNICEF Children's Rights Partner (CRP) programme.**

10. BARNET'S YOUTH VOICE OFFICER AND REPORT UPON IMPACT

Voice of the Child Officer introduced the report and gave an update on all the consultation and engagement activities that were due to take place.

The Chairman thanked Voice of the Child Officer for such a comprehensive report.

Following consideration of the item, the Chairman moved to the recommendation.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

That the Committee noted the report upon the activity and the impact of Family Service's participation and engagement activity.

11. REPORT OF THE 2016-2017 BARNET YOUTH ASSEMBLY

A member of the Barnet Youth Assembly spoke on her motion on mental health education that she had put forward at one of the meetings. She felt the response to the motion did not go far enough to help schools tackle mental health. She suggested students from secondary schools could be trained to peer educate and mentor and that this could possibly be funded by the Council.

Strategic Director for Children and Young People informed the Committee that two new initiatives had been established called Thrive and Couth which aimed to provide counselling and support for young people suffering with mental health issues.

Following discussion of the item, the Chairman moved to the recommendations outlined in the cover report. The Committee unanimously agreed to the recommendations.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- 1. The Committee noted the report.**
- 2. That the Committee endorsed the successful motion raised by the Youth Assembly, as outlined in Appendix 1.**
- 3. That the Committee noted and commented on, where applicable, the officers response to the successful motions.**

12. CHILDREN, EDUCATION, LIBRARIES & SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Chairman updated the Committee that the meeting in June 2017 has been suspended.

The Chairman noted that the work programme needed to be worked on and would be revised for the next meeting.

13. ANY OTHER ITEM(S) THAT THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

None.

The Vice-Chairman thanked the Chairman for his hard work over the last year.

The meeting finished at 20.52pm.