

	<p><b>Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee</b></p> <p><b>18 May 2016</b></p>
<p><b>Title</b></p>	<p>Report of the Barnet Youth Assembly</p>
<p><b>Report of</b></p>	<p>Barnet Youth Assembly</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>None</p>
<p><b>Officer Contact Details</b></p>	<p>Naomi Kwasa, Governance Officer  <a href="mailto:naomi.kwasa@barnet.gov.uk">naomi.kwasa@barnet.gov.uk</a>                      020 8359 4144</p>

<p><b>Summary</b></p>
<p>This report outlines the work of the Barnet Youth Assembly and the important role it plays in engaging with young people across the Borough. It includes motions successfully voted on by the members of the Youth Assembly to bring to the attention of the committee as key issues affecting young people in Barnet. The 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.</p>

<p><b>Recommendations</b></p>
<p><b>1. That the committee notes the report.</b></p>
<p><b>2. That the committee comment on the priorities of the Youth Assembly and consider the key issues affecting young people laid out at 1.6 of the report.</b></p>
<p><b>3. That the committee approve and note the officer proposals and responses to the priorities highlighted at 1.6 of the report.</b></p>

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

- 1.1** 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** The Youth Assembly is a youth voice forum designed to enable young people to publicly debate issues that are important to them. It also gives young people the opportunity to make their voices heard within the decision making process and helps them develop invaluable skills and confidence in public speaking, debating and critical thinking. The Youth Assembly currently has 21 members, recruited through local schools, who attend monthly meetings held at Hendon Town Hall.
- 1.3** The Governance Service – in tandem with the Children’s Service – runs the ‘Youth Assembly’ which operates as a sub-group of the Barnet Youth Board. This Assembly allows local students the opportunity to discuss issues specifically relevant to them in Barnet. Local Youth Councils, such as this, are designed to engage young people to focus on improving their local area.
- 1.4** 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.
- 1.5** 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 CELS to highlight to councillors the issues which the Youth Assembly would like the council to focus on. The motions brought to the committee are shown below:

1.6

Motion	Detail	Votes	Officer response for committee's consideration
<p>Youth Assembly encourage the council to take a more proactive role in encouraging the electoral registration of 16-18 year olds in the borough, with a focus on educating young people on how to register</p>	<p>The Youth Assembly felt there is a need tackle political disillusionment with young people on a local scale and that there is a lack of information available to young people about how they can be involved in the electoral process. This could be mitigated by sending out information increasing awareness about voter registration.</p>	<p>For: 10 Against: 1 Abstain: 1</p>	<p>We consider this issue to be of great importance to the council and to the work we do in Electoral Services. Going forward we will aim to promote 'Rock Enrol!' in Barnet's schools and colleges. This is an interactive resource pack which encourages young people to register to vote, commissioned by the Cabinet Office.</p> <p>In addition to this, we will work closely with the Governance Service in order to provide more information to students about registering to vote in any correspondence they have with schools regarding their Democratic Engagement Programme and the Youth Assembly. The Governance Service will aim to distribute leaflets to schools and students each academic year from now on regarding the Assembly and how to get involved. On these leaflets there would be information about registering to vote. In addition to this, it is the Governance Service's ambition to create a webpage with information about democratic engagement with young people in the borough, on which there would be information about electoral registration.</p> <p><i>John Bailey – Head of Electoral Services</i></p>
<p>Youth Assembly encourage the council to consider ways of tackling anti-Semitism and general discrimination directed towards young people in the borough</p>	<p>A number of the Youth assembly having experienced discrimination themselves, they felt this is a serious issue which needs a coordinated response from the council in</p>	<p>For: 11 Against: 0 Abstain: 1</p>	<p>This topic, whilst very important, is broad and far reaching. In order to best approach the issue, there would need to be a better understanding of the evidence base or the type of discrimination experienced by young people in the borough. Once this is known, it would be more possible to set realistic expected outcomes.</p>

<p>especially by considering the use of focussed media campaigns</p>	<p>order that young people can go out in the Borough without fear of discrimination.</p>		<p>Going forward, we recommend that Governance work closely with our Equalities Officer in Barnet Council to arrange workshops for future cohorts of the Youth Assembly. These workshops would inform young people more specifically on local and national equalities issues, which could in turn enable the Youth Assembly to champion such challenges for young people in Barnet.</p> <p><i>Community Safety Team/ Governance</i></p>
<p>To urge the council to begin a prevent initiative to promote mental wellbeing in teenagers</p>	<p>The Youth Assembly felt more needed to be done to ensure young people in Barnet have access to activities that will contribute to positive mental health. This would include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Volunteering opportunities promoted in secondary schools</li> <li>- Free sports clubs offered in every secondary school.</li> </ul>	<p>For: 12 Against: 0 Abstain: 0</p>	<p>It is very encouraging to see that young people are putting this forward and LBB welcomes this motion because it reflects an existing national and local priority. Research shows that for people with life-long mental health conditions 50% are established by age 14 and 75% by age 18. It is therefore imperative that this issue is addressed, but it is also clear that if the aim is prevention then it needs to include younger age groups and not just be focused on teenagers.</p> <p>It should be noted that the Director of Public Health's report and the CAMHS Transformation Plan both focus on this issue so any new initiatives need to compliment and reinforce existing programmes of work which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving access to services, including improved CAMH services in children centres and schools, developing drop in sessions and developing a peer support service. Support must focus on how to build young people and their family's protective factors (stable relationships, good school attendance, skills and employability etc.), supporting young people to build resilience in adulthood.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Barnet aims to develop a CAMHS schools network, increasing schools ability to retain pupils with emotional and behaviour needs and reducing the number of exclusions. Working with providers and the third sector Barnet aims to develop a quality offer which schools can buy into, providing advice, guidance and support to schools. The offer will include short term therapy, training for staff, families and peer supporters.</li><li>• The plan is to also develop a team of CAMHS clinicians to extend our work with the most vulnerable children and young people, working with pupils on the edge of exclusion and providing targeted support to students with mental health difficulties and/or challenging behaviour. Support will be targeted around crisis times and prioritise areas such as exam result stress, self-harm, alcohol, substance misuse and child sexual exploitation.</li><li>• This work will build on the primary and secondary projects, creating a wider team based on Barnet school pupils building capacity across the education system.</li><li>• Barnet will also develop a drop-in service that meets the needs of children and young people in the Borough. Our ambition is to build accessible drop-in services for the school aged population, working with and stimulating the third sector, developing social enterprises and or traded services for sustainability.</li><li>• Children, young people and families will develop these as a coproduction work stream</li><li>• A range of peer support programmes will be developed by working closely with CommUNITY Barnet voluntary sector and partners to ensure the right training is provided to those who offer peer support.</li></ul>
--	--	--	--

			<p>This work will be taken forward by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint working when developing services, working closely with providers and other public sector organisations to deliver change across services for young people. Work closely with other local authorities and sector level management through the North Central London sector forum and across the local tri-borough (Barnet, Enfield and Haringey) to share best practice and develop joint commissioning arrangements.</li> <li>• Co-production of CAMH services with children and young people and their families and carers.</li> <li>• Develop a system based approach grounded on children and young peoples' needs and not service boundaries, removing boundaries and delivery services based on the life course, from early years through to adulthood.</li> </ul> <p>We would therefore welcome young people's involvement in the delivery of the above ambitions.</p> <p><i>Sharafat Ali, Head of Children's Joint Commissioning</i></p>
<p>Urge the council to create an initiative that educates young people on travel safety and also the repercussions of acting inappropriately on buses (i.e. harassment, vandalism etc...)</p>	<p>As a large number of young people use buses to travel around the borough the Youth Assembly felt more needed to be done to deter anti-social behaviour and promote safe travel. Members discussed at length the different options available and felt an educational campaign was most appropriate.</p>	<p>For: 5 Against: 4 Abstain: 2</p>	<p>In order to address this issue, council officer will consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioning an educational DVD to offer to schools in conjunction with TfL.</li> <li>• Cover the subject as part of our road safety education programme to schools</li> <li>• Consider working with TfL on a specific outreach programme to schools and youth groups to educate on</li> </ul>

			<p>the topic.</p> <p><i>Jamie Cooke, Strategic Lead – Effective Borough Travel</i></p>
<p>Urge the council to design an information package that can be sent to students regarding what impact subject choices can have on their future career choices. This package would also include information on how to explore other potential colleges that Barnet students can choose</p>	<p>The Youth Assembly considered – through a range of personal experiences – that students in Barnet schools would benefit from additional support when making decisions after taking GCSE and A-Level examinations regarding potential career paths. In addition to this, the Youth</p> <p>Assembly noted that students would benefit more from receiving information which explained what impact subject choices could have on future career paths.</p> <p>Finally, the Assembly noted that Barnet students should be more informed about what other colleges there are in Barnet when it comes to choosing their place to undertake further-education.</p>	<p>For: 11 Against: 1 Abstain: 0</p>	<p>The relationship between subject options at school and career choice is not quite as straightforward as we might think. A lot of different careers can be accessed from a variety of different school subjects; conversely some careers can best be accessed through studying particular subjects i.e. Science careers often require Science ‘A levels’ or Science BTEC. In order to help young people resolve these complex choices a careers interview with a Careers Adviser is often the best way forward.</p> <p>In addition to this, I have presented in the chart below an ‘informal matching’ of particular School subject choices to career outcomes:</p> <p><b>English:</b> Journalism, Law, Politics, Media, Teaching</p> <p><b>Maths:</b> Accountancy ,Business, Computer Programming, Engineering, Finance, Science Careers</p> <p><b>Science:</b> Construction, Engineering, Environmental Work, Technology, Other Science careers (including Psychology, Veterinary work, Astronomy)</p> <p><b>Religious Studies:</b> Social Care, Nursing, Counselling, Community Work, Politics</p> <p><b>Geography:</b> Travel &amp;Tourism Environment work, Transport and Logistics Planning, Surveying, Geology, Estate Management</p>

		<p><b>History:</b> Law, Politics, Journalism, Archaeology, Museums, Heritage, Costume Design</p> <p><b>Languages:</b> Translation and Interpretation, Travel and Tourism, Teaching, Exports, Journalism</p> <p><b>Art &amp; Design:</b> Design work in publishing, Computer games, Clothes, Textiles, Websites, Teaching, Film, Theatre, retail displays</p> <p><b>Business:</b> Banking and Finance, Retail, Hotels, Public Services, Management, Marketing, sales, Human resources, Law and Administration</p> <p><b>Design Technology/ Resistant Materials</b> Construction, Manufacturing, Engineering, Motor Mechanics, ICT careers</p> <p><b>Sport</b> Teaching, Leisure Centres, Gyms, Coaching, Outdoor Activities, Work, Armed Forces ,Sports Science</p> <p>In terms of Computer Aided Guidance there is no algorithm which perfectly matches subject options with career outcomes. There are some software packages which attempt this sort of matching with varying degrees of success but these are paid for (i.e. purchased under licence). One website which is free but which matches interests rather than subjects with career options is PLOTR: <a href="http://www.plotr.co.uk">www.plotr.co.uk</a> and is used in conjunction with the profiles from the National Careers Service website</p>
--	--	--



		<p><a href="http://www.nationalcareersservice.gov.uk">www.nationalcareersservice.gov.uk</a>.</p> <p>This can be useful in at least generating some ideas for young people on how to align their interests with possible career options which can then be explored further.</p> <p>In terms of searching for College options for particular subjects, the best tactic, apart from searching on College websites directly, is to use UCASPROGRESS <a href="http://www.ucasprogress.com">www.ucasprogress.com</a> which will generate the College location or indeed School location for searches for particular subjects.</p> <p><i>Ciaran MacAlister, Education Employment and Training Adviser</i></p>
--	--	--

## **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1** 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.
- 2.2** Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 requires a local authority to make arrangements to promote co-operation within the local authority, with other partners and with other relevant persons in order to improve the well-being of children in its area. Well-being includes:
- Physical and mental health and emotional well-being,
  - Protection from harm and neglect,
  - Education, training and recreation,
  - The contribution made by children and young people to society, and;
  - Social and economic well-being.

Under section 11 of the above Act, local authorities and other statutory partners must ensure that their functions are exercised having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

The Director of Children's Services (DCS) has a statutory duty to fulfil the following in their post:

- The DCS should have regard to the General Principles of the United Nations. Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and ensure that children and young people are involved in the development and delivery of local services.

The consideration of this report contributes towards the fulfilment of the DCS's obligation towards these duties.

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

Not applicable.

## **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

The Commissioning Director, Children and Young People, will implement any actions that the committee delegates in relation to the recommendations.

## **5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

### **5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

The Youth Assembly is enabling young Barnet residents to take responsibility and engage with the council to highlight issues 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.

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)**

The implementation of these recommendations will be done through existing teams and contained within existing budgets held in the Children's and Governance services.

## **5.3 Legal and Constitutional References**

As detailed in Annex A, Responsibility for Functions, in the council's Constitution the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee has the responsibility for all matters relating to the Children's Service.

## **5.4 Risk Management**

Any risks associated will be considered during the implementation of these recommendations.

## **5.5 Equalities and Diversity**

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

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

In line with this, any work undertaken as part of these recommendations will consider and adhere to all relevant stipulations of the 2010 Equality Act.

When considering well-being, it is important to take account of different age groups, race and religious factors and disability. These factors will be considered when undertaking further work, including ensuring that children and young people are able to express their views on proposals.

**5.6 Consultation and Engagement**

Not applicable.

**5.7 Insight**

None.

**6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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>

Decisions of the Children, Education, Libraries & Safeguarding Committee, 18th November 2015:

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/g8259/Printed%20minutes%2018th-Nov-2015%2019.00%20Children%20Education%20Libraries%20Safeguarding%20Committee.pdf?T=1>