APPENDIX 1



REPORT OF THE 2016-17 YOUTH ASSEMBLY

COHORT 2



Contents

Overview	3
Motions, debating & voting	5
Approved motions:	7
Rejected motions:	21



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 second year that the Youth Assembly has operated in the London Borough of Barnet, and this year 57 members signed up making it one of the largest groups of its kind in the country.

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, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee for consideration at the end of the intake's term (May 2017). 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:

- 11 October 2016
- 8 November 2016
- 6 December 2016
- 17 January 2017

- 21 February 2017
- 14 March 2017
- 11 April 2017
- 16 May 2017 CELS 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
11 October 2016	General introduction	N/A
8 November 2016	Crime	Commander Simon Rose (Barnet Borough Commander – Met Police) Dr Tine Munk
6 December 2016	Education	(Middlesex University, Criminology) Ciaran Macalister (Education Employment and Training Adviser, Barnet Education Employment and Training Support)
17 January 2017	Health	Dr Angela Madden Professor Hertfordshire University Diet and Nutrition Professor Carol Brayne (University of Cambridge Professor of Neuroscience)
21 February 2017	Politics	Amelia Womack – (Co-Leader of the UK Green Party) Tom Brake MP – (Liberal Democrat MP for Carshalton & Wallington) Lord Monroe Palmer of Childs Hill – (Liberal Democrat Lord) Councillor Richard Cornelius (Leader of the LB of Barnet) Councillor Barry Rawlings (Leader of the Opposition, LB Barnet)
14 March 2017	Barnet & the Community	Councillor David Longstaff – (The Mayor of Barnet) Jeni Osbourne – (Youth Development Manager, CommUnity Barnet) Lesley Holland – (Equalities & Diversities Officer, Barnet Council) Mark Blundell –



Meeting	Theme Confirmed speakers	
11 April 2017	General session	Opportunity to raise a motion on any theme.
16 May 2017	CELS Committee	N/A - CELS 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, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee on 17th May 2017.



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

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
'I request that the council creates a programme that provides annual pastoral mental health training to teachers in Barnet schools.' Sehar Al-Hadad	For: 22 Against: 0 Abstain: 4	Education	The Education and Skills service already provides a range of support and training to teachers in relation to mental health: a) Barnet Partnership for School Improvement (BPSI) BPSI is a traded service that provides schools with training and support in schools to improve outcomes for schools, staff and children in Barnet. The comprehensive training programme is available to all schools in Barnet. Historically our programme has focussed on curriculum and teaching and learning support as well as leadership and management support. This has included support for all the staff in schools (including support staff) to improve their performance by accessing effective Continued Professional Development (CPD). The approach is geared to improving practice with, hopefully, a consequential outcome of reducing stress amongst the workforce and improved provision for pupils. However, recently we have focussed more directly on staff wellbeing by offering sessions on Mindfulness and developing a 'resilience approach' in schools. We also draw schools' attention to a further, more complex, programme that develops the Mindfulness capabilities of staff.

MOTION	VOTE	THEME	OFFICER RESPONSE
			b) NQT support
			In addition our programme of training for primary Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs) programme offers sessions relating to mental health and wellbeing as follows:
			 Promoting Emotional wellbeing and mental health Outline/Objectives:
			- understand the importance of promoting emotional well- being in schools
			- develop ideas for promoting emotional well-being in the classroom
			- know how to identify children experiencing mental health difficulties
			- know what to do if you have concerns about a pupil.
			 Managing wellbeing, direction and focus Outline/Objectives:
			 understand the importance of physical, mental and emotional well-being in relation to professional performance learn how to set more meaningful and effective goals recognise the internal and external barriers to effective time management
			- reflect on your own performance - gain helpful tips and tools
			- practise with colleagues and tap into the collective group

MOTION	VOTE	THEME	OFFICER RESPONSE
			wisdom and experience.
			c) HIST
			The High Incidence Support Team organise and offer training (at a cost through traded services) to Barnet schools and settings to address the area of mental health. Recently (March 2017) training was provided by Dr Tina Rae for Barnet SENCOs; 'Reaching for Resilience. Building Resilient Children, Staff and Teams.' The session had a high attendance and received very positive feedback.
			d) Educational Psychology Service
			The Educational Psychology Team also offer support to staff in the area of supporting emotional well-being and mental health. Schools liaise directly with their link EP to establish their training priorities within their individual schools (traded service) – examples of the training offered include:
			Training Menu
			Universal approaches to promoting the emotional well-being and resilience of the whole school community
			'Responding to Mental Health Needs and Promoting Emotional Well-being and Resilience': This training will explore specific mental health needs of young people

MOTION	VOTE	THEME	OFFICER RESPONSE
			including low mood/depression, anxiety, eating disorders and challenging behaviour
			'Self-Harm: how can schools help?' This training aims to improve the knowledge and understanding of secondary schools so that they are able to respond more robustly and be more resilient in the face of troubled adolescents.
			Psycho-education on subjects including resilience, anxiety, self-esteem and anger management
			Motivational Interviewing: This training will outline the theory of MI and enable staff to use the Facilitating Change materials directly with young people to improve resilience.*
		Introduction to Cognitive Behaviour Based Approaches: This training will outline the theory of cognitive behaviour approaches and enable staff to use 'Think Good Feel Good' materials directly with young people to improve resilience.	
			Solution Focused Approaches: This training will outline the theory of solution focused approaches and enable staff to use Solution Focused Brief Therapy materials directly with young people to improve resilience.*
			The EP Team will also offer some central universal training (free

MOTION	VOTE	THEME	OFFICER RESPONSE
			to Barnet and settings) on the area of supporting mental health in schools. e) Barnet and Southgate college A team consisting of a senior Educational Psychologist, a headteacher and our Head of Post-16 Education and Skills team is working with Barnet and Southgate College to broaden post-16 opportunities for those with mental health needs. We are developing an A level programme specifically targeted at this group, with additional support built into the programme. The course is due to start in September.2017.
'Due to the fact that some young people are left behind the Council should work with schools to encourage vocational qualifications such as BETCs and apprenticeships, vocational skills and vocational career paths that are less focussed on grades' Ilana	For: 20 Against: 0 Abstain: 6	Education	The Council recognises that some young people are left behind if they have not achieved five GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and Maths. We work with schools in a number of ways to try to support these young people and help them to make a successful transition. A key part of this is work with schools to identify and support those at risk of not being able to find the right opportunity to enable them to participate in education and training until they are 18 years old. We also work with headteachers to encourage a greater breadth of good quality technical/ vocational education in the borough and some schools are already increasing their offer. We expect this trend to continue as the changes to A Levels

MOTION	VOTE	THEME	OFFICER RESPONSE
			The government is currently placing a great emphasis on the Skills Agenda and issued a Post-16 Skills Plan proposing a change to technical qualifications. We will know more about these changes when the government issues their guidance on implementation. We have attached the plan for those of you who are interested in learning more about the reforms. As part of the government's skills strategy they are actively encouraging companies to provide more apprenticeships from level 2 to degree level and beyond. The Council appointed 15 apprentices in 2016 and will be increasing this to over 40 in 2017.
'I request that the Council takes responsibility to ensure every secondary school student in Barnet has a basic understanding on mental health, done through a small group of students from each school being provided training by the Council and its group going back to their schools and passing on their knowledge.'	For: 24 Against: 0 Abstain: 6	Health	Barnet Council and Barnet CCG have developed a project called 'Resilient Schools' which will be launched in the summer term 2017. All local schools were invited to apply to the programme and after a rigorous selection process six have been chosen to participate. The programme is designed to deliver a sustainable approach to supporting emotional wellbeing and mental health for children and young people across Barnet. 'Resilient Schools' has eight strands of work which include training and support for teachers, pupils, parents/carers as well as a review of curriculum, facilities and other aspects of the school environment. The programme will be initially rolled out in six local schools representing a cross section of ages and

MOTION	VOTE	THEME	OFFICER RESPONS	E	
Tamar Neville			specialist facilities). The isto support self-care welcome this import feel confident that the achieve the aims the Barnet Council and Cou	ne underlying princies and encourage part motion from the record of the	Youth Assembly and 'programme will
I'd like the Council to work with school food suppliers and schools in forming more appropriate prices for healthy foods.' Paniz Dogaheh	For: 28 Against: 2 Abstain: 0	Health	but most Barnet sc which is managed service has a policy from customers. As	hools use the couby ISS (a councile of reviewing its of a result from 1stecial offers at ea	ering contractor to use uncil's catering service, partner). The catering fer based on feedback May 2017 it will make ach secondary school
			Breakfast:	Morning Break:	Lunch:
			Porridge or overnight oatsVariety of	 Fruit and yoghurt energy pot 	Salad Pot or Wholemeal Pasta Pot
				Bottle of	Homemade

MOTION	VOTE	THEME	OFFICER RESPONSE
			Toppings Water Bottle of Water £1.50 £1.20 Granola bar Bottle of Water £2.20
'Schools in Barnet need to stop selling drinks and promote healthier foods.' Huda Ahmad	For: 16 Against: 14 Abstain: 0	Health	All drinks sold in schools that ISS cater for are compliant with the school food plan and all relevant school food compliance requirements. Along with the launch of the offer set out in answer to question 3 above, there will be a healthy eating campaign with various healthy eating/food tips to be displayed in and around the dining area in consultation with a school representative. They will include information/tips on the following: Brain Food for Exams 5 a day Water Sugar Salt Healthy Heart

MOTION	VOTE	THEME	OFFICER RESPONSE
			Healthy Eating on the go It should also be noted that jugs of infused water will be available in Secondary Schools throughout the day.
'I want the Council to provide FREE School meals for children whose families live in relative poverty.' TJ Dobson	For: 14 Against: 0 Abstain: 7	Politics	School meals are provided free of charge for all primary school children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and for older children whose parents are eligible to claim free school meals based on their family income. So children in families experiencing financial hardship, who make a claim and meet the criteria, receive free school meals.
'I want the Council to consider working with Secondary Schools to provide further educational information on politics to pupils.' J Titus-Glover	For: 16 Against: 0 Abstain: 5	Politics	The curriculum offered at each school is a matter for its governing body, taking account of national requirements. The council helps support young people to learn more, and experience more, about politics through its support of the Youth Assembly and other opportunities. It also encourages schools to develop opportunities for young people to participate in decision-making through School Councils – and children across the age range are involved in these across the Borough.
			In light of this motion, the Council's Governance Service will also now be expanding its democratic engagement work. Currently, the service runs an annual programme that gets students to attend council meetings and a workshop with the Mayor Barnet, and also supports the Youth Assembly. In the following months, the service will develop a plan to come into schools and deliver workshops and/or sessions on local and national politics. In the Governance Service we recognise the importance of encouraging young people to learn more about

MOTION	VOTE	THEME	OFFICER RESPONSE
			politics, and we are therefore grateful to the motion raiser for reaffirming our commitment to providing further educational information on it to Barnet's pupils.
'Nationally there has been a significant reduction in the number of libraries. Use of library services is important and one way to encourage the use of libraries could be by rearranging the library in a way that some shelves with infrequently used books, DVDs etc. could be replaced with more tables for student study areas or elderly gatherings as people are no longer using the main services. And ask Council to consider funding options and ways to generate income, e.g. book sales.' Neda Bakian-Dogahe and Rebecca Ganjeh (Joint Motion)	For: 17 Against: 0 Abstain: 1	Barnet and the Community	Thank you for submitting your motion regarding the Library Service. Please see below for our response. However, as factual as it is, it is not intended to be ultimately conclusive against some of the points you raise, as we are always keen to listen to new ideas and develop a more personal dialogue with our residents. We'd be more than happy to engage further and open up the conversation with future members of the Youth Assembly. We will therefore work with those officers in the council who lead on the Youth Assembly meetings to establish how we can engage at meetings in the 2017-18 year. Book borrowing at libraries is still the biggest purpose for which libraries are used by the public. It is also one of the primary legal requirements for a library building under the 'Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964', to provide a comprehensive book stock. As the Library Service, we have to ensure that this act is adhered to, as well as listening to our local communities and providing library users with their most popular requests in terms of what they also expect the service to provide. As residents use the library for a variety of different activities, the
			Library Service has to manage many competing demands for space in the libraries. We want to ensure the best use of the library and therefore try to create spaces that are as flexible as possible. In terms of books and other stock resource, we

MOTION	VOTE	THEME	OFFICER RESPONSE
			constantly review what we hold to make sure we are responding to and reflecting what is in greatest demand within the local community; it's very much an ongoing process so that our stock doesn't go stale and take up unnecessary space. At each library, we provide study space where it can feasibly be provided, in balance with the requirements and expectations of other library users. We have schedules in place at each site for meeting rooms to be used as study space when they are not being hired out by local community groups for other activities. We also work closely with Barnet schools, keeping them updated with any news and changes, and helping to ensure we can support them where and when we can during times of the year before exams when we know the requirement for student study space increases.
'To ask the Council to find ways of encouraging young people to improve wellbeing and increase physical activity in a range of affordable and low-cost way by using different facilities, including parks and leisure centres and encouraging group setting.' Mohamed Soltan	For: 9 Against: 2 Abstain: 7	Barnet & the Community	The Fit and Active Barnet Framework (FAB) 2016-2021, was approved by Adults & Safeguarding Committee in March 2017. It outlines a local framework for the development of sport and physical activity in Barnet over the next five years and is aligned to the Sport England and Department for Culture, Media and Sport Strategies. The FAB Framework recognises there are a range of networks, organisations and providers within the borough that can support an increase in activity levels and improvement in health and wellbeing. Fit & Active Barnet Partnership Board will be reestablished in 2016 with key stakeholders to support opportunities that provide a measurable growth in participation

MOTION	VOTE	THEME	OFFICER RESPONSE
			and support the outcomes contained within the Framework. More information and an outline of Fit & Active Barnet Commitments can be located by visiting; http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s38352/Appendix%201%20-%20Fit%20Active%20Barnet%20Framework%202016-2021.pdf
			The SHAPE programme was established in 2014 to support young people aged 14 – 19 to access sport and physical activity opportunities in the wards of Burnt Oak and Colindale. The programme provides accessible, low cost, weekly opportunities to take part in a range of activities for all abilities; for more information on the SHAPE programme please visit www.barnet.gov.uk/shape .
			All Barnet leisure facilities provide activities targeted at children and young people; including sports courses, lessons, junior active fitness sessions. Concessionary rates are also available for memberships and activities. To find out more information please visit http://www.better.org.uk/
			In January 2017, Barnet Planning Committee approved the redevelopment of Barnet Copthall Leisure Centre and creation of a new leisure facility in Victoria Recreation Ground, New Barnet. This is part of a £35m investment by Barnet Council to improve Barnet leisure facilities and encourage more residents to participate in activity.

MOTION	VOTE	THEME	OFFICER RESPONSE
			https://www.barnet.gov.uk/citizen-home/parks-sport-and-leisure/leisure-centres.html Barnet Youth Zone is a youth project designed to provide a safe, inspiring and affordable place for young people to spend their leisure time. Barnet Youth Zone is supported by Barnet Council and the charity OnSide Youth Zones to bring a purpose-built facility for all young people to Barnet, which will make a life-changing contribution to young people now and in the future. This is an investment in our youth, demonstrating our belief that they deserve the best, as well as being an investment in the future of Barnet itself. The new Youth Zone will be built on Montrose Playing Fields in Burnt Oak, near to Grahame Park and Colindale, as part of the
'I propose that the government and local authorities should aim to tackle domestic violence through raising awareness amongst young people of the signs and how they can support each other and	For: 6 Against: 1 Abstain: 1	General Session	redevelopment and regeneration of the playing fields. It will offer 20 activities each session, including, music, sport, fitness, dance and media, mentoring and employability. Barnet Youth Zone will act as a platform to help grow the total offer for young people. Further information: www.unitasyouthzone.org We welcome this motion. Barnet is currently agreeing their new Violence against women and girls strategy which includes early intervention and raising awareness amongst young people. The Strategy states that the Council will continue to work with schools and higher education establishments to educate young people and teenagers about healthy relationships, abuse and consent and raise awareness of key issues like 'sexting' and online abuse. We will also ensure staff are trained and school

MOTION	VOTE	THEME	OFFICER RESPONSE
prevent it' Aqsa Rabbani			safeguarding policies and procedures address the broader areas of VAWG for example honour based violence, FGM, forced marriage.
'Provision of free and/or reduced school meals (which would otherwise be thrown out) after school' Garance Zinzen	For: 9 Against: 0 Abstain: 1	General Session	

Rejected motions:

MOTION RAISED	VOTE	RELATED THEME
'I want the Council to take more measures to prevent crime in public areas due to the rise of frequency of public offences'	For: 4 Against: 16 Abstain: 10	Crime
Sandriya Sundarakumaran	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
'I want the council to provide more community police and to involve the community in general in protecting schools and school children'	For: 12 Against: 13 Abstain: 5	Crime
Beatrice Bannister		
'I would like the council to raise mental health awareness in schools'	For: Against:	Education
Beatrice Bannister	Abstain:	
'I would like local medical centres to offer regular check-ups that help young people know if they are healthy and so problems such as cancer can be		Health
detected at its early stages to give a successful treatment.'	Abstain: 7	
Sandriya Sundarakumaran		