



Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee

Wednesday 17 May 2017

Title	Report of the outgoing 2016 Uk Youth Parliament members and the incoming 2017 UK Youth Parliament members.
Report of	Voice of the Child Coordinator
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	None
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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 in order to bring about social change. From 16 January to 8 March 2017 Barnet UK Youth Parliament elections took place across the borough, with 39 young people standing as candidates to be elected. 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 last 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 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.

Recommendations

- 1. That the Committee note the following 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.**
- 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.**

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.2 To provide a review to the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee of the progression and impact made by the outgoing UK Youth Parliament members.
- 1.3 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.

A review of the 2016 Youth Parliament members

- 1.4. During 2016 two Barnet Members of Youth Parliament, James Saker and Rai Hussein, took an active role in local, regional and national campaigns. From being involved within Public Health consultations seeking to raise awareness within Barnet regarding the health risks of using Shisha, to sitting as a member upon our Children's Partnership Board and debating at a national level with the British Youth Council our young members have undertaken their roles with dedication and diligence.
- 1.5 James spoke at the annual sitting at York University in July 2016 to petition his fellow Youth Parliament members to add the subject of supporting young refugees arriving in the UK onto the list of possible subjects for the UK Youth Parliament Make Your Mark Ballot. His project has developed, with research and contact made with national charities who support young refugees. Further

contact with them has explored how he can help make the transition easier for young people seeking refuge in the UK. For example, including where they can get support from around education in the UK and a guide to using public transport in and around London. In addition to his own project, and additional attendance on Barnet Youth Board, he has also gone on to sit on the Children's Partnership board where he is able to represent the views of young people in Barnet.

- 1.6. Rai has developed his campaign around travel safety and is in the process of delivering travel safety training workshops to schools throughout the borough. He has written and created workshops as a result of his involvement with the Youth Travel Ambassadors at his school. Rai has secured the support of his school drama department in creating sketches which will be performed in schools to educate young people about travel safety. They will then be incorporated into a workshop around the project. He has been accepted to sit on the Transport for London Youth Panel and has secured a 10 minute slot at each session to feed back to the panel on how his project is progressing. The recommendations and feedback he receives helps further develop his project, whilst sharing his achievements with young people from across London.
- 1.7. In September 2016 the national Make Your Mark campaign reached just under 7,000 young people in Barnet where they were able to 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 *'Tackling racism and religious discrimination and that all young people should work together to combat racism and other forms of discrimination and ensure we know the dangers of such hatred'*. As a result of this plans have been drawn up as a direct impact of discussions with Barnet Youth Board members to create a project, which will be led by young people themselves, which will cover the main areas which they feel will educate and inform the young people of Barnet on areas of racism, religious and disability discrimination. This will be a project which will be developed by young people, for young people. James and Rai were integral to ensuring the effective roll out of Mark Your Mark and its impact upon developing a response to the

issues identified.

- 1.8. James and Rai attended the House of Commons sitting in November 2016 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 2017

Review of Barnet's 2017 Youth Parliament Elections

- 1.9. The 2017 UK Youth Parliament elections saw 39 young people aged 11 – 17 across Barnet stand to be elected to the UK Youth Parliament. Our candidates were drawn from 17 different schools, academies and colleges. This positive participation evidences the strong appetite schools, pupils and young people have to have their voices heard. Just under 8,000 young people voted from across 26 schools, academies, colleges, voluntary and community groups during the two week election period – further which 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.
- 1.10 It is of note that all 4 Youth Parliament members campaigned upon issues (detailed below) that were more broadly raised by children and young people within the borough as part of the wider Youth Perception Survey and a further consultation and engagement programme seeking the views from young people upon CAMHS and 0-19 provision, including Youth Services. These issues are: improving emotional wellbeing services for young people, tackling discrimination and improving employability opportunities.

2017 Members of Youth Parliament

- 1.11. The 2017 Members of Youth Parliament are aged between 14 – 17 years. Each campaigned upon their own manifesto:

- Ruby seeks to tackle racism and stereotyping of young people by bringing faith schools together to take part in projects. **Actions:** Ruby's manifesto will be supported by the Voice of the Child Team and Lesley Holland, Equalities Lead, Commissioning Group, in order to design, produce and deliver a series of schools and community based workshops which seek to harmonise inter faith knowledge between children and young people and dispel popular myths and stereotypes.
- Shannon seeks to raise awareness around confidence and emotional wellbeing. She aims to create and deliver programmes/ workshops for young people to build up skills and resilience to support each other and their peers emotional wellbeing. **Actions:** It is anticipated that Shannon's manifesto will be supported by the Voice of the Child Team and colleagues within the CCG and Public Health. The THRIVE programme, which will be delivered in partnership between 6 schools and Public Health, seeks to: improve the emotional resilience of pupils in Barnet and schools' understanding of the risk and protective factors involved in mental health; promote positive mental health in schools; prevent the development of mental illness in school pupils and demonstrate and further develop the links between positive mental health and achievement. Shannon's insights and views will be crucial in ensuring the THRIVE programme is child friendly. In addition the Voice of the Child Team will support Shannon in applying for funding to develop her own programme of workshops that have their own unique objectives with learning taken from her wider engagement with Public Health and CCG colleagues. Lastly, the CCG will be involving Shannon within the forthcoming implementation and evaluation of an online counselling and support service called KOOTH which goes live on 22nd May. KOOTH was commissioned as a result of a wide ranging recent consultation engagement programme with child and young people that sought to gather their insights in to CAMHS and 0 – 19 service transformations.

- Hejran is planning to improve the careers guidance given in schools, to create a network for careers advisors and mentors throughout the schools in Barnet and to share opportunities and support for students across the borough. Key areas will be around CV writing, interview skills and planning for the future.
 - Manal would like to develop young people's life skills by creating a number of Life Lessons workshops which will be incorporated into schools and include industry experts deliver sessions such as money management and finding out from these experts what their jobs entail.
- Actions:** Both Hejran and Manal will be supported by the Voice of the Child Team and Cambridge Education in order to bring their manifestos to life. Cambridge Education will provide a unique opportunity for them both to have their manifestos shaped under Cambridge Education's expertise and knowledge of best practice.

1.12. The new Members of Youth Parliament are commencing their terms in office by attending a weekend residential with the British Youth Council and hundreds of their peers in April where they will commence their 'Youth Leadership Programme'.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Committee is asked to note the report 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

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.

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

- 5.2.1 The services provided for the UK Youth Parliament is contained within the existing budgets within Family Services.

5.3 Social Value

N/A

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.4.1. As Outlined in the Council's Constitution, in the Responsibility for Functions, Annex A, the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee is responsible for those powers, duties and functions of the Council in relation to Children's Services (including schools).

5.5. Risk Management

- 5.5.1 There are no risks directly associated with this decision. The risks associated with the delivery of the respective UK Youth Parliament are reported, mitigated and governed through the Children & Family Services.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

- 5.6.1 The UK Youth Parliament members are a group of children and young people from diverse backgrounds which include, disabilities, religions and genders thus meeting equality and diversity considerations as laid out in the 2010 Equality Act.

5.7 Consultation and Engagement

5.7.1

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.

5.8. Insight

N/A

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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