

Children's service Overview and Scrutiny

Briefing Note: Youth Cabinet Update – February 2020

Purpose of the briefing note:

The Youth Cabinet would like to provide committee with an update of their work.



- 1.1 As O&S will be aware last year - we have been working with the British Youth Parliament to carry out the Make Your Mark campaign, which is a yearly event where young people get to vote on important topics. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, the turnout was low in Thurrock with votes at 0.57%. However, across the country, the votes were substantially lower than in previous years as it was around 3.10% nationally compared to 14% from 2019. This year the issue that came out on top for the UK and devolved topics was free university, and the top local issue topic was domestic violence.

- 1.2 In January, the cabinet was invited to Thurrock Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE). Members had the chance to talk about their experience of Religious Education (RE), and whether they found it engaging or not. We had the opportunity to provide suggestions on how RE could be improved, to give a higher satisfaction to students. We felt many young people did not find RE lessons as engaging as other subjects. SACRE has asked for the Youth Cabinet input to be regular.

- 1.3 We are currently developing content for our 'Curriculum for Life' programme for schools. We have decided our Umbrella topics are; Essential life skills, Young Thurrock services, What is SEND?, Criminal Exploitation, Getting a job, and Funky Finance. Each topic has subtopics that provide options for schools to

teach or share with their pupils. Therefore, making it accessible to all schools, especially in the time of virtual learning. We hope to have this up and ready for schools to use before the February half term. The chair has discussed this project with Head Teachers of local schools who are willing to use the resources.

- 1.4 The last O & S meeting, the committee asked about the impact of Covid-19 on young people. The Youth Cabinet has created a survey that has been sent out to young people in Thurrock. So, we can have a better perspective of the impact on young people. The Youth Cabinet will provide a verbal update on findings during the meeting.
- 1.5 The Young Thurrock team has been contacting SEND young people for wellbeing check-ins as it has been identified, they are struggling with the feeling of loneliness. They are providing SEND only virtual sessions, as well ensuring all virtual offer is accessible to all young people.

For any questions regarding this briefing note, please contact:

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