

Children's Services

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting

September 2022

Youth Cabinet Update Report

Purpose of the report:

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



- 1.1 **Make your Mark Campaign and Thurrock Teenage Mental Health Walk** – In February the Make your Mark campaign took place where Thurrock young people voted on a topic they cared about the most. Results of the national voting were released in early March. After 434,492 young people voted from over 780 schools, colleges and youth groups we now know that health and wellbeing is the biggest issue facing young people in the UK. At Youth Cabinet Working Group meetings, members have been exploring ideas on how they can support the theme and promote health and well-being to Thurrock young people. One of the ideas was to run a well-being walk over the summer holidays. Over the past few months' members have worked to set up the walk including creating posters, promoting the opportunity, planning the walk route and Q&A's about mental health to raise awareness. The walk took place on Wednesday 25th July at Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre in which a group of 16 young people walked around the lake and spoke about mental and what it means to them on route. The day was a great success with lots of discussions about well-being, young people sharing their thoughts and feeling connected to others. Members would like to run another well-being walk later in the year. Our work on Health and Well-being will continue at our next Working Group meeting in September
- 1.2 **Interview Panel opportunities** – Youth Cabinet members have had the opportunity to sit on numerous interview panels this year. The most recent was for the recruitment of the Assistant Director for Regeneration and Place Delivery in early July. The two cabinet members found the experience to be enlightening. They enjoyed sitting on the panel being

part of the selection process. It provided them with some valuable insight into the how interviews take place. All good experience for when they eventually go for interviews as young adults themselves.

- 1.3 **Thurrock Youth Cabinet Mid-Year Elections Outcome** – The Thurrock Youth Cabinet Chairperson has recently left due to finding and moving onto full time employment. Members are thankfully for all the work and commitment during her time with us. A mid-year election will be held in early September to re-elect to the vacant Chairperson role.
- 1.4 **British Youth Council June Convention** – Unfortunately, the June BYC Convention was cancelled to the rail strikes taking place. However, this has been moved to October 8th in London. The day will be an opportunity for the young people to network with other areas, attend workshops, listen to guest speakers, join campaign workshops on health and votes at 16, Make your Mark focus sessions and much more.
- 1.5 **Annual Conference July 2022** – At the end of July the UK Youth Parliament Annual Conference took place at Hull University. Thurrock's MYP attended the event to represent Thurrock Youth Cabinet. Here is a short paragraph summarising his experience of the weekend.

"On Friday 22 July I arrived in Hull to a breezy check-in, orientated myself to my room and collected lunch to eat with some MYPs from other regions. I enjoyed the opening ceremony with politicians, the Bank of England youth forum and Joe Seddon. I then had the regions and nations session with everyone in the eastern region discussing what we have done what we plan to do and our policies we would be speaking on in the following days. I also took the opportunity to voice my discontent with the structure of the big vote which was respected and dealt with. I enjoyed a relaxing evening of dinner and activities with newly made friends.

On Saturday I had several sessions of the big vote with multiple opportunities to speak of support or against other's motions. On Sunday, I spoke on my motion it passed with an overwhelming majority of 96%.

All in all, it was an amazing experience with lots of networking, debate and fun moving forward I am planning meetings with various politicians regarding my projects, running a focus group with children in schools with moderate and severe learning disabilities and completing things already in motion"

- 1.6 **Work on the horizon**
- Linking with Local Plan Manager for members to have an input into the local plan strategy
 - Youth Cabinet Recruitment Drive
 - Linking with Comms Team to explore the development of a Youth Cabinet Podcast

For any questions regarding this update report, please contact:

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