

Children's Services

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting

November 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 **Monthly Meeting**

At October's Monthly Meeting our guest speaker was the Head of Thurrock's Music Services. The purpose of the visit was to not only ask the Youth Cabinet for assistance with promotion of Thurrock Music Services work but to also explore members thoughts on how the music services could reach more young people, and how they can broaden their offer to young people of Thurrock.

In response to this, after some discussion, members felt that the Music Service needed to open these questions out further than just the Youth Cabinet. Members proposed that a youth music survey should be put together and shared to Thurrock young people to consult on. Our MYP, is currently taking a lead on this task and is in the process of pulling together a first draft survey in which cabinet members and the Head of Music Services will review and have an input into. We shall feedback our findings at the next meeting.

1.2 **Working Group Meeting**

At October's Working Group Meeting our focus group guest was Thurrock Council's Local Plan Manager. The aim of the focus group was to begin discussions and give feedback on the emerging local plan which is likely to have a big impact on the lives of all young people living in the borough as it will set out a development strategy for the next 15 years onwards. Therefore, it is important for members to get involved and have a say.

Over the course of the next few months, the Local Plan Manager will be attending our Working Group meetings to run 30-minute focus sessions for us to look at, discuss and

problem solve on various issues relating to the borough. Members are enjoying this work as they feel that their thoughts and views on the future of the borough are being heard, listen to, and included into plans that matter.

1.3 **Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Discovery and Design Project**

To further our work around this year's, Make Your Mark theme on Health and Wellbeing three members of the Youth Cabinet have been supporting a research project on Domestic Abuse. Tonic, a social research organisation, were asked by Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET) Local Authorities to help gain a deeper understanding of the experiences of people who have been affected by domestic abuse, and to use the findings to shape the design of future support. The three members of Youth Cabinet were particularly keen to help provide insight into the understanding of how young people understand domestic abuse, healthy and unhealthy relationships, and what support they think should be available. Next steps for this work, will be to engage all Youth Cabinet members in the design (co-production) phase of the project. We look forward to sharing our experiences of this at the next meeting.

1.4 **Youth Cabinet Recruitment Drive**

Thurrock Youth Cabinet is still looking to grow its numbers and gain good representation from Thurrock Schools/Colleges/youth groups. If you have any young people in mind that you think would like to be part of the Youth Cabinet, then please let us know at youthcabinet@thurrock.gov.uk

1.5 **Thurrock 11- 25 Strategy Group**

The Youth Cabinet chair and vice chair continue to attend the 11-25 strategy meeting to update Head Teachers on the positive work being achieved within the Youth Cabinet. The Youth Cabinet Recruitment drive was mentioned at the meeting and Head Teachers committed to driving the numbers up in their schools.

1.6 **Work on the horizon for Youth Cabinet**

- On Friday 4th November 2022, our MYP along with 300 other Members of Youth Parliament will take part in a debate in the House of Commons chamber. They will debate the issues chosen by the Make Your Mark ballot of 11–18-year-olds across the UK, and then vote to decide which issue should become the UK Youth Parliament's priority campaign. The debate will be chaired by Mr Speaker in the morning session, and his deputies in the afternoon. We are all hoping that Thurrock MYP will be selected and given the opportunity to speak at some point on the day.
- There are plans to link with the Strategic Lead for Economic Development as the team would like youth input into the refreshed Backing Thurrock strategy outlining the next 10 years. We shall report on this work at the next meeting.