

# Children's Services

## Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting

### January 2023

## 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 Meetings

At November's Monthly Meeting our guest speakers were the Mayor of Thurrock, Cllr James Halden, and Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Education, Cllr Barry Johnson. They came to speak to Youth Cabinet about their roles and answered lots of questions we had. The Mayor also asked Members if they would like to use the Chambers for future Monthly Meetings in which we politely accepted.

At December's Monthly Meeting we met in the Chambers for the first-time post pandemic. We were very excited to be in the space. All Youth Cabinet Members felt it was a significant step forward in acknowledging the work we do and the importance of what we are trying to achieve in amplifying youth voice.

Our guest speaker at our December Monthly Meeting was the Cultural Education Partnerships Manager. The purpose of the visit was to not only raise awareness of Cultural Education Partnerships Manager role and remit but to also discuss what young people's priorities are for arts and culture. Some good discussions and feedback were given by Youth Cabinet Members, including the idea of linking in with our Youth Music Consultation (as spoken about in our previous update) and adding a few arts and culture questions to the survey that will be going out to young people in the new year. We look forward to having an on-going connection with the Cultural Education Partnerships Manager and potentially being involved in a culture conference next year.

### 1.2 Working Group Meeting

In November and Decembers' Working Group Meetings we continued our focus group sessions with Thurrock Council's Local Plan Manager. The aim of the focus group sessions are to discuss 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.

We are currently exploring identified issues within the borough that have been highlighted by the cabinet and finding potential solutions to these issues from a youth perspective. 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 **Youth Cabinet Good News and Promotion**

The Youth Cabinet have been working hard on promoting the Thurrock Youth Cabinet, specifically on who we are and what we do. Members have been working on text content to send to the Communications Team for them to share in the Residence e-newsletter, Inspire Bulletin e-newsletter and social media channels. Hopefully, you saw some of these features/posts in November and December (See Appendix 1 and 2).

The article that went out about our MYP's visit to the House of Commons (see Appendix 1) resulted in 85 clicks to the Thurrock Council Youth Cabinet webpage – that was the second highest link click stat in that week's edition. Members are pleased with this stat result as that is 85 people that are interested in what we are doing and are now aware of us. Our aim is to build upon the link click stats as and when more regular features are put out to the public. The Comms Team will be providing us with monthly link click stats for us to review and discuss. Members are excited to speak out and speak big about Youth Cabinet news so it will spread far and wide.

### 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](mailto: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. Head Teachers have committed to driving the numbers up in their schools.

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

- Another wellbeing walk is in the pipeline for February half term
- We are currently linking with Thurrock's Community Engagement and Project Monitoring Officer to development a Youth Cabinet consultation profile. This will allow Youth Cabinet members to carry out questionnaires/polls safely and also list Youth Cabinet current and past news features for people to read. Our aim is to ensure all news, past or present, is kept available to the public in one place at all times so they able to look back at and/or keep up with Youth Cabinet affairs.