

Children's Services

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting

Tuesday 16 January 2024

Youth Cabinet Update



Purpose of the report: The Youth Cabinet would like to provide members with an update of their work.

1.1 House of Commons visit

On Friday 17 November 2023, Thurrock's Member of Youth Parliament (MYP), along with over 300 other MYPs from across the UK, travelled to London to take part in a series of debates in the House of Commons. The debates were chaired by Mr Speaker in the morning session, and his deputy in the afternoon. The day saw UK Youth Parliament debate on the following motions around the Food for Learning Campaign:

- Holiday hunger
- Quality of food
- Standardisation
- Financing and funding
- Additional pricing

To our delight, Thurrock's MYP was selected by Madam Deputy Speaker to voice his views on Holiday Hunger from the green benches. It was a very proud moment for us all.

Following the debates, MYPs then voted to decide which area they would like to focus on for the remainder of the Food for Learning Campaign. They voted for finance and funding free school meals.

Here is a quote from Thurrock's MYP, reflecting on his experience of the day.

"On Friday 17 November I left Thurrock early in the morning for the Youth Parliament House of Commons sitting. I spoke to over 300 MYPs from all parts of the UK including devolved nations, overseas territories and crown dependencies to prioritise the issue of Holiday Hunger following a consultation of young people in my constituency. It was a privilege to speak and was a great day and reminded everyone of the importance of youth voice!" See Appendix A images.

1.2 **SEND Youth Voice**

Thurrock Youth Cabinet are currently in the process of developing a new strand to our work to encompass SEND Youth Voice. We have felt for some time that this is an area of growth to ensure that the voices of SEND young people are captured in our work.

The Youth Cabinet recently planned and facilitated a Youth Voice drop-in event for SEND young people in November 2023. Hosted by five Youth Cabinet members with the support staff, the event saw a number of young people sign up to take part in the new group. The first meeting will be in the February Half Term 2024.

We are still looking for more sign ups. Please promote the opportunity within your networks and encourage eligible students to sign up. *See Appendix B image.*

1.3 **Thurrock Music Services**

Recently Thurrock Youth Cabinet has been supporting Thurrock Music Services with the development of a new Youth Music Advisory Board to ensure youth voice is at the heart of emerging music education plans.

The new group will help to shape the future of music education in Thurrock, aiming to bring bigger and better music experiences to the young people of Thurrock. Members of the new group will research and provide insights that will help create a vision and new opportunities for Thurrock young people. Please promote this opportunity to your contacts. *See Appendix C image.*

Work on the horizon

1.4 **Make Your Mark and Member of Youth Parliament (MYP) Elections**

Next year the Make Your Mark campaign will run again. Running since 2011, Make Your Mark has reached millions of young people. It is the largest UK wide youth consultation. It gives young people aged 11-18 the opportunity to vote for the topics they feel are the most important to them locally and across the UK.

We are inviting schools, colleges, and youth groups to sign up and take part in Make Your Mark 2024 between Monday 29 January – Friday 1 March 2024. During this time, we shall be busy encouraging Thurrock young people to vote. Every vote matters!

Make Your Mark is a great opportunity to gather young people's views on a local level and generate conversations around youth democracy.

Alongside Make Your Mark, elections for Thurrock's new Member of Youth Parliament (MYP) will also take place. Thurrock has eight MYP candidates that will be running in 2024. We shall be hosting a results night at the end March to announce the Make Your Mark and MYP results.

1.5 **Thurrock Youth Cabinet Recruitment**

Thurrock Youth Cabinet's recruitment drive is currently in progress. We are looking for student representation from the following schools:

- Ormiston Park Academy
- Harris Academy Riverside
- St Clare's School
- The Gateway Academy
- Thames Park Secondary School

If you have connections with these schools, please ask them to get in touch at youthcabinet@thurrock.gov.uk to book a meeting. The Youth Cabinet lead worker is happy to attend the school to discuss the Youth Cabinet with students.

Appendix

Appendix A

Thurrock's MYP, Lionel, at the House of Commons



Appendix B

New Youth Voice Group supported by Thurrock Youth Cabinet



YOUTH VOICE GROUP SUPPORTED BY THURROCK YOUTH CABINET

Are you 16-25 years old?

Would you like to have a say on life,
learning and living in Thurrock?

If so, Thurrock Youth Cabinet would
like to hear from you!

Do you identify
as neurodiverse,
additional needs,
special needs, SEND

(Special Educational
Needs and Disabilities) ?

Join a new Youth Voice group and turn your ideas into action.

- Attend three times a year at Grangewaters in South Ockendon
- Lunch, drinks and an activity provided
- Meet new people (16-25 olds with additional needs)
- Collaborate with Thurrock Youth Cabinet members and staff
- Have your say and be listened to!



To sign up or find
out more, email today at
youthvoice@thurrock.gov.uk

Appendix C

New Youth Music Advisory Board opportunity



**Are you 13 – 18 years old,
living in Thurrock and
passionate about music?**

**Join the NEW Youth Music Advisory Board
and help shape the future of music
education in Thurrock!**

Your role would involve:

- Attending termly meetings
- Sharing your ideas to make positive change
- Connecting with like-minded young people to create a new vision
- Creating new music opportunities for young people in the borough

Meetings will be held in Purfleet at
High House Production Park

To find out more email
music.services@thurrock.gov.uk



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