

# Member of Youth Parliament – Report on Achievements and Performance 2014 - 2016

## Children's Health, Social Care and Education

### Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2016

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Author: Head Of Children, Families & Community Health & Interim Director of Children's Services

Wards: All

Locality Affected: All

Parishes Affected: All

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### 1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 This report provides the Children's Health, Social Care and Education Committee with an update of performance and key issues relating to the Member of Youth Parliament (MYP). This will be the last report from the current MYP as the term of office ends in February 2016.
- 1.2 A key purpose of Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview & Scrutiny Committee is to hold Commissioners of Children's Health and Social Care Services to account.
- 1.3 Any Commissioner of Children's Health and Social Care Services in Swindon is required to provide information on the planning and provision of children's health and social care services within the Borough and consult with the Committee on any planned substantial changes or developments to service provision.

### 2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the report.

### 3. Detail

- 3.1 What challenges did you face?

Top Priorities	Process	Outcomes
<b>Ellie James</b> – MYP Adapting and changing a campaign to represent as many people as possible	A survey was conducted with young people to find out their views	The development of a DVD highlighting how difficulties can be overcome to achieve potential
<b>Wilfred Steenbergen</b> – Deputy Member of Youth Parliament (DMYP). How to affect change is	Remain accountable and follow processes	Production of an Anti-Bullying Poster and dissemination and sign up from secondary and

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Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Claire Smith, Direct Dial Telephone Number 01793 465815, cesmith@swindon.gov.uk.

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challenging		special schools
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#### 3.2 What have you done well?

Top Achievements	Next steps
<b>Ellie James</b> - I have grown significantly in confidence and my ability to speak publicly to a wide range of audiences has improved massively	I am planning to go to university in September 2016 and have been offered conditional places at both Durham and York. I am going to study Politics / Sociology and Anthropology.
<b>Wilfred Steenbergen</b> - I think that I have grown in confidence and that I can now speak in public (something I could never have attempted 2 years ago).	I have applied to University and will be studying creative writing

#### 3.3 Supporting Information

##### 3.3.1 Ellie James – Member of Youth Parliament

##### **Campaign successes**

My original campaign was 'education before procreation' with a focus on teenage pregnancy and how it can affect an individual's future prospects in life. However I quickly realised that to fulfil my role as an MYP for Swindon I had to adapt and change my campaign to be more relevant (to the young people of Swindon) and to reach / represent a wider audience.

My campaign developed a focus on education and achievement. Following a survey carried out to discover what was preventing young people in Swindon achieving their potential I discovered that the two main factors were a lack of confidence and fear of failure. I decided to make a film with the support of ITV Fixers (who offer a service to all young people who have a campaign they want to broadcast). The short 90 second animation highlights how difficulties can be overcome to achieve your potential. This film is now available on the internet and I have sent links to all secondary schools across Swindon and I am hoping that the schools will use the clip during PSHE lessons to inspire and motivate young people to succeed.

##### 3.3.2

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#### **Other opportunities**

- I have had the opportunity to work with Angus MacPherson, Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon, also peers from Wiltshire regarding the 'curriculum for life' agenda and how Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE), lessons can be adapted so that all young people across Swindon and Wiltshire receive the same learning, this is a piece of work that hope to continue post my role as Youth Member of Parliament.
- Attending the House of Lords and meeting the speaker of the Lords.
- Attending the House of Commons and experiencing live debates and being chosen to speak from the dispatch box.

#### **3.3.3**

#### **Biggest learning experience**

- That you have to adapt and change your campaigns to represent as many people as possible.
- That sharing a resource (my 90 second film) is difficult to publicise and get out to the masses.
- Be prepared to be challenged, not everyone shares your views.
- Being part of regional and national meetings has given me the opportunity to have a voice in the decision making process for regional and national campaigns.

#### **3.3.4**

#### **Shaping me for the future**

I believe that without this experience I would not be the person I am today; I have grown significantly in confidence and my ability to speak publicly to a wide range of audiences has improved massively. I have met peers who have inspired me to push myself academically and who have motivated me to achieve. I have met an amazing group of young people from diverse backgrounds who I hope will remain friends for life.

I am planning to go to university in September 2016 and have been offered conditional places at both Durham and York. I am going to study Politics / Sociology and Anthropology with a view to a career in International Development with a large charity or Non Profit Organisation. My ultimate dream is to work for the United Nations.

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#### **3.3.5 Wilfred Steenbergen – Deputy Member of Youth Parliament**

##### **Campaign successes**

My campaign was focused around 'zero tolerance of bullying'. Working with Swindon Young Carers and Swindon Youth Forum we devised an anti-bullying poster that was sent out to all secondary schools in Swindon. The poster is now displayed in all these schools and each school has signed up to supporting the campaign.

#### **3.3.6**

##### **Other opportunities**

Being part of the Thought Tank Participation Group for disabled young people has enabled me to have a voice when it comes to shaping services for disabled young people across Swindon. I have learnt that young people can influence change and that adults do listen to what young people are telling them. Thought Tank feedback on changes that were being proposed regarding the Aiming High service, received some of our feedback that actually changed the paper that went to Cabinet.

With Thought Tank I had the opportunity to become a 'young inspector' and we have been asked to inspect 3 groups that are delivered by Aiming High.

I find it challenging to mix with my peers but Thought Tank has shown me that it is something I can do.

Shadowing Robert Buckland gave me a real insight into what it's like to be an MP attending the House of Commons.

#### **3.3.7**

##### **Biggest learning experience**

That the process of how to affect / make change is complicated, it's not an easy business and you have to stick to due processes and be accountable for the decisions you make.

#### **3.3.8**

##### **Shaping me for the future**

I think that I have grown in confidence and that I can now speak in public (something I could never have attempted to do 2 years ago). Being a Youth Member of Parliament has enabled me to gain a sense of independence, I now

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realise that I can achieve things and that if I give things a 'go', I actually do enjoy them, something as simple as catching a train to regional meetings.

I have applied to university and will be studying creative writing; I love the written word and cannot imagine my future without it. My ultimate dream is to become a published author but writing articles through journalism would be great in the interim.

I have decided to defer starting university until September 2017 as I feel that even though the past two years has helped me to develop the skills I need to go to university, I want to continue my work with Thought Tank so I can be even more prepared to take that step towards independence.

3.3.9

### **Member of Youth Parliament Elections**

The Election for a new Member of Youth Parliament is currently underway. Six young people ranging in ages from 12–15 years from the following schools attended a recent candidate day and all expressed an interest in standing for the next election.

- Warneford Academy
- Swindon Academy
- St Josephs
- Churchfields

The election results will be announced on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2016 in the Council Chambers, Civic Offices from 5pm. Do please feel free to join the event.

The newly elected Member of Youth Parliament and Deputy will report to the Committee in due course.

## **4. Alternative Options**

4.1 None

## **5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management**

### Financial and Procurement Implications

5.1 None

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#### Legal and Human Rights Implications

5.2 None

#### All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

5.3 None

#### Diversity Impact Assessment

5.4 None

#### Risk Management

5.5 None

### **6. Consultees**

6.1 The Board Director, Resources (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

### **7. Background Papers**

7.1 None

### **8. Appendices**

8.1 None