

Progress Update of Youth Participation

Children's Health, Social Care and Education

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 6th July 2016

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Wards:	All
Locality Affected:	All
Parishes Affected:	All

The Member of Youth Parliament and Deputy Members will attend the meeting to introduce themselves to the committee, present and discuss their progress together with topics they have been working on with the Swindon Youth Council and Thought Tank.

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 youth participation; Swindon's Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs), Swindon Youth Council and Thought Tank.
- 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.
- 1.4 This work links to the following One Swindon Priorities:
 - Everyone is enjoying sports, leisure and cultural opportunities
 - Improve health and wellbeing for all by widening participation in sports, leisure and cultural activities.
 - Living independently, protected from harm, leading healthy lives and making a positive contribution
 - Increased community involvement so that everyone is able to make a positive contribution

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2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Continue to support the work of the Members of Youth Parliament, Swindon Youth Council, Thought Tank and the wider youth participation agenda across Swindon.
- 2.2 Make available opportunities for young people to contribute to the work streams of Health, Adults & Children Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.3 Agree when a further report on progress should be brought back to the committee.

3. Detail

Swindon Members of Youth Parliament

- 3.1 Swindon's new Members of Youth Parliament for the next two years were announced at a ceremony on Tuesday 23rd February at the Civic Offices. Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs) are elected in every part of the UK.

After months of campaigning by the three candidates, Chloe Townsend aged 15, who attends Swindon Academy gained the honour of representing Swindon's children and young people as our new Member.

Due to having two complementary campaigns with our new MYP, it was decided that Swindon will have two Deputies, Danielle Wells from Churchfields Academy aged 13, and Jacob Patterson from Highworth, Warneford aged 13.

Councillor David Renard, Leader of Swindon Borough Council, attended the evening to present the results of voting carried out across the Swindon area in schools, colleges and youth groups. In all, 9 secondary schools, 2 special schools, both colleges and for the first time 2 primary schools chose to take part and over 5,200 votes were cast showing that the campaigns and issues being presented by the prospective members are worth talking about.

Chloe's campaign is centred on improving support around emotional wellbeing, and reducing the stigma associated around mental health in children and young people. Jacob's campaign is centred on improving health choices for children and young people, aiming to ensure there are cheaper and accessible leisure facilities for the young, disabled and disadvantaged. Dani's campaign is centred on ensuring young people with additional needs are supported in education. She would like to improve how dyslexia, autism and other learning difficulties are diagnosed and supported in schools. The overarching MYP campaign will

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support the social, emotional and physical wellbeing of children and young people. All 3 MYPs have attended their first regional conference, and have made a start on their campaigns.

MYP Elections 2016 - Ballot returns & count sheet

	Chloe Townsend	Dani Wells	Candidate Withdrew	Jacob Patterson	Total
Catch 22 (EOTAS)	0	0	0	0	0
Churchfields Academy	208	195	10	130	543
Crowdys Hill School (Special)	16	20	11	9	56
Dorcan Technology College	0	0	0	0	0
Highworth Warneford School	117	59	10	670	856
Isambard Community School	138	101	96	148	483
Kingsdown School	0	0	0	0	0
Lydiard Park Academy	281	109	121	171	682
Hospital School (EOTAS)	0	0	0	0	0
New College	14	8	5	6	33
Nova Hreod School	110	72	81	144	407
Oakfield Project (EOTAS)	0	0	0	0	0
Riverside Centre (EOTAS)	10	3	3	3	19
St. Joseph's Catholic College	284	132	56	144	616
St. Luke's (BESD)	0	0	0	0	0
Stratton Education Centre (EOTAS)	0	0	0	0	0
Swindon Academy	548	9	9	32	598
Swindon College	202	101	4	92	399
The Commonweal School	0	0	0	0	0
The Ridgeway School & Sixth Form College	175	105	26	145	451
Uplands (Special)	11	7	3	12	33
Westrop Primary	7	2	0	17	26
Nythe Primary	9	2	0	5	16
	2130	925	435	1728	5218
Did not engage in process	41%	18%	8%	33%	

Swindon's retiring MYPs, Ellie James and Wilfred Steenbergen attended the results event to offer their advice to the newest additions to the UK Youth

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Paul Dobson, Direct Dial: 01793 714042, email: swindonsteppad@aol.com

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Parliament. Both told of how the last two years of being an MYP had been 'the best experience of their lives so far' and said they had made connections that would support them throughout their careers.

Over the next year our MYPs will also be supporting UK Youth Parliament's 'Don't Hate, Educate!' campaign to challenge negative attitudes around race and religion; work with others to educate their communities in order to tackle ignorance around race and religion; and promote integration in their communities. MYPs will be visiting a number of schools to talk to tutor groups about this campaign, and will be encouraging school councils to adopt this within their own communities.

Swindon Youth Council

- 3.2 Through the newly formed Swindon Youth Council (9 Members), we encourage young people to get involved with projects and campaigns in their schools.

The Council have met 3 times this year and are supporting our MYPs and their campaigns; they have worked together on a questionnaire around emotional support, the questionnaire will be sent out to schools, colleges and Education other than at school (EOTAS), at the beginning of July and followed up during the autumn term. The Council has determined their priorities:

- Anti-Social Behaviour / Community Safety – a meeting has been requested with the Police Crime Commissioner
- Improving the perception of Swindon's Young People in the Media – the Youth Council have been visited by a reporter from the Swindon Advertiser to write an article on them. We hope to follow this up with the young people and meet with the editorial team.

Alongside this, all Council members have undertaken 'Young Inspectors' training in order to support the Thought Tank Young Inspectors and aim to carry out 3 joint inspections of leisure and health services.

We are continuing to recruit from schools, and other youth organisations to ensure the best possible representation of Swindon's youth population.

Thought Tank

- 3.3 The Thought Tank group have continued to support the local Special Educational Needs, Disabilities (SEND) reforms by creating the 'You tell us' survey, this survey aims to assess the impact of publicity and service improvement following the reforms. Currently, 78% of the 132 young people who have taken part have stated that they feel services have improved for them over the last year.

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The results of this survey will feed in to the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and Ofsted Local Area Inspection in identifying and meeting the needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.

Alongside this, the group have reviewed the Great Western Hospital website and made recommendations to make it 'young person friendly'.

Young Inspectors

- 3.4 At present the 'Young Inspectors' programme has been funded through the Aiming High team and been made up of Thought Tank members with the purpose of Inspecting services on offer through the 'Aiming High' provision.

To date, the group have carried out three inspections.

Twelve young people received training, regarding inspection processes and helped to redesign the evaluation and feedback sheets to be used during the inspection process (Appendix 1). Six young people carried out inspections which are now uploaded onto the Swindon Borough Council's 'Local Offer' website.

Following the inspections and submissions of their reports, all young peoples' recommendations have been actioned by the individual provisions to the satisfaction of the young people.

Swindon Borough Council has committed funding to the mainstreaming of 'Young Inspectors' for 2016/2017.

Wider Youth Participation

- 3.5 A dedicated 'youth participation worker' role has been created to build relationships and be in regular contact with schools (and other youth organisations). We are already seeing a greater uptake/interest in youth participation projects – all schools have been visited and work is commencing around support of School Councils.

Further to the recommendation suggested by Cllr Maureen Penny, workshops have been carried out within Westrop Primary and Nythe Primary to create a 'Primary Anti-Bullying Vision' (Appendix 2). The posters have been printed and will be distributed to all primary schools before schools break for summer.

4. Alternative Options

None

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5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

5.1 There are no financial or procurement implications arising from this report

Legal and Human Rights Implications

5.2 There are no direct legal or human rights implications arising from this report.

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

5.3 There are no implications arising from this report.

Diversity Impact Assessment

5.4 A diversity risk assessment is not required as this is an ongoing service.

Risk Management

5.5 A risk assessment has not been completed as this report is not recommending a specific amendment to a policy or strategy.

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 Appendix 1 – Young Inspector's Reports

8.2 Appendix 2 – Anti Bullying Vision – Primary Version