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CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

Cabinet Meeting

Wednesday, 10 April 2019

Dear Councillor

CABINET - WEDNESDAY, 10TH APRIL, 2019

Please find enclosed the final version of the Youth Council Annual Report 2018.

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the democratic services team:

Tel 01902 550320

Email democratic.services@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Address Democratic Services, Civic Centre, 1st floor, St Peter's Square,
Wolverhampton WV1 1RL

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CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON
YOUTH
COUNCIL

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City of Wolverhampton Youth Council Annual Report 2018

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OUTGOING CHAIR'S STATEMENT

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Firstly, I would like to wish Anna the best of luck as Chair over the next year. Not only do I know she'll have a wonderful time in the role, I know she is a very capable will do her absolute best for the young people of Wolverhampton. I also want to thank the Youth Councillors, and to give my best wishes to all the new young people joining. I'm sure they will have a wonderful time. I look forward to seeing what Wolverhampton's Youth Council does next.

I am leaving both Youth Council and UK Youth Parliament in March 2019, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on my involvement in youth voice groups since 2016. The City's Youth Council

has given me and other young people some incredible opportunities. I've had the chance to represent the city at the UK Youth Parliament for two years. This experience has led to me speaking from the Dispatch Box of the House of Commons, I've made a group of lifelong friends both in the West Midlands and across this country. Our local campaign on lowering the voting age led to the Council officially backing Votes at 16. We've developed much stronger links with the council, been involved in interviews of council directors, and held our first series of Mini Scrutiny Reviews. Some of our achievements have served as inspirations to other youth councils across our region and the

country. I have been approached by members of other youth councils, to share our success in building a strong relationship with Scrutiny and our work on Votes at 16. I want to give a special thank you to the Participation Team for their continued support to the Youth Council.

I would also like to thank The City of Wolverhampton's Senior leaders and Councillors for their support and encouragement. I look forward to seeing what Wolverhampton Youth Council do in the future.



Amias Perry
Outgoing Chair

INCOMING CHAIR'S FOREWORD

I would like to start by expressing what a great year we have had at Wolverhampton Youth Council – despite it being the only year that I've been a part of the organisation. I would like to take some time to thank all our previous members, who have now moved on to different chapters in there, and give a friendly welcome to all of our enthusiastic new members, who I am looking forward to work with and get to know over these next few months.

I am hoping to inspire and encourage our new members to speak out and get involved in what Youth Council has to offer them, and I am looking forward to finding out what they are capable of as we work towards our aims for 2019, focusing on the results of last year's Make Your Mark vote.

After last year's success with our mini scrutiny reviews I am hoping to continue to carry out these insightful panels to ensure the views of our schools and organisations are represented and to maintain the strong connections we have developed with the rest of City of Wolverhampton Council and other organisations.



Anna Tabner
Incoming Chair

INTRODUCTION

City of Wolverhampton Youth Council is an organisation run by young people for young people. We aim to represent the views of young people, challenge negative stereotypes and promote diversity. We work with other organisations in Wolverhampton, develop campaigns and act as a platform for young people to express their views to decision makers. We meet at least once a month.

Following previous years successes, we adopted the same style of recruitment in November 2018, allowing schools and voluntary sector groups to elect two representatives.

This resulted in representation from 19 secondary schools and 3 youth groups across the city. These new Youth Councillors completed an induction at the end of 2018 which has included a Get to know the Council's Budget with Councillor Louise Miles, Cabinet member for resources and Claire Nye,

Director of Resources which also provided an opportunity for the Youth Council to be part of the council's budget consultation. During this induction the Youth Council also inputted into the new Council Plan. The induction ended with a Christmas Party with members of the Children in Care Council.

The experiences of the Youth Council were highlighted in short video we used this in schools to promote our work to other young people in the city.

We are pleased that our achievements have served as an inspiration to other youth councils in the country, who in particular are keen to develop stronger links with their City Council's scrutiny process.

This is our annual report which covers our key achievements for 2018 as well as looking forward to and considering our aims for the following year.



REPRESENTATION

	Youth Councillors	Youth Comm'r Reps.	Youth Comms. Officer	Youth Council Chair	Youth Council Vice Chair	Youth Council Secretary	Youth MP
Paldersley High School	● ●	● ●					
Colton Hills School	● ●					●	
Coppice High School	● ●						
Wolverhampton Girls' High School	● ●						
Wolverhampton Grammar School	● ●				●		
Heath Park High School	● ●						
Highfields	● ●			●			
The Khalsa Academy	● ●						
Kings' School Wolverhampton							●
Moreton School	● ●					●	
Moseley Park School	● ●						
The Royal School	●						

The City of Wolverhampton Youth Council is proud to have representatives from eighteen schools and five youth groups across the city.

	Youth Councillors	Youth Comm'r Reps.	Youth Comms. Officer	Youth Council Chair	Youth Council Vice Chair	Youth Council Secretary	Youth MP
Smestow School	● ●						●
Our Lady and St Chads	● ●						
Ormiston NEW Academy	● ●						
St Edmund's School	● ●						
St Matthias School	● ●						
St Peter's School	● ●						
Wednesfield High School	● ●						
B-Safe Team	●						
Youth Voice	●						
Hope Family Centre	●						

Ormiston South Wolverhampton Academy and West Midlands UTC didn't take part this year. Work will be taking place in 2019 to ensure representation from their school. Our aim is still for all schools across the city to have reps on the Youth Council.

WORKING WITH DECISION MAKERS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL

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- During 2018 we strengthened our relationship with the City Council’s Scrutiny process we attended every meeting for the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel and contributed to the Members Away Day. We attended the Confident, Capable Council to discuss Apprenticeships which discussed changing attitudes towards Apprenticeships. At these meetings we aim to contribute to all topics that are being discussed.
- For the first part of the year we spent time focusing on the newly developed Mini Scrutiny Reviews which were developed with the Scrutiny Board to look at the top issues from the 2017 Make Your Mark result which were Work Experience, Mental Health and Transport.
- In preparation, the Youth Council carried out additional questionnaires on the work experience and mental health to ensure they had a full understanding on the issues effecting young people before undertaking the mini reviews.
- We meet with Laura Shoaf the Managing Director of Transport for West Midlands to discuss issues young people raised with us regarding public transport.
- The work on Mental Health coincided with the Governments Green Paper titled “Transforming Children and Young People’s Mental Health Provision”. This paper provided a focus for the review and an opportunity for the Youth Council to respond to the Green Paper.



- Representatives of the Youth Council met to discuss Mental Health the review was chaired by Councillor Lynn Moran, Councillor Val Gibson (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People) Alicia Woods, the Commissioning Manager and Emma Cleary Programme Manager for Head start, attended the review to provide evidence.
- The Youth Council Scrutiny review on work experience 23 was supported by Councillor Bhupinder Gakhal. We received evidence from the Skills and Employability Manager (Young People) the Education and Enterprise Manager and The Director of Education.

- The recommendations from all the reviews were also discussed with the Council’s People Leadership Team, Educations Leadership team and Senior Management Board.
- We concluded this work by meeting with the Scrutiny Board to feedback Scrutiny, the Youth Council’s recommendations and included them into the work of the Council and Partners.
- The evidence and findings from the mini Scrutiny Review on Work Experience were also included in the British Youth Council National Youth Select Committee report on Work Experience.

- Youth Councillors were involved with the children's commissioner's 'Takeover Day'; with Members of the Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum where members had the opportunity to be involved in a range of experiences with decision makers from the City Council. During this day we discussed the regeneration plans for the city centre focusing on the West Side Development, and looked at knife crime as part of the City Council's Youth Violence Strategy as well as the Children's Services Practice week.
- The Youth Council have been attending the Community Cohesion Forum to ensure young people's voices are being listened to at this important meeting for community and faith groups in the city.
- During this year we have spent a considerable amount of time with the council's Directors that make up the Council's Senior Management Team. We were excited to be part of the interview process of the Council's Managing Director post. We have meet with the Council's Managing Director as part of a Youth Engagement event where we feedback our work and learnt more about the aims of the council, and how we could closer together.
- As part of this we have continued to develop are ongoing relationship with Emma Bennett the Director of Children's Services and with Cllr Paul Sweet the Cabinet member for children and young people.

LOCAL RECOGNITION

Members of the organisation continue to be recognised for their work in various arenas none more so that the Rotary Club Wolverhampton Citizen of the Year in which four of the finalists having links with the Youth Council with Millie Betteridge winning the award in 2018 that Emma Curran won in 2017. We are keen to ensure the volunteering that young people do for Wolverhampton continues to receive the recognition that they deserve.

NETWORKING WITH OTHER YOUTH VOICE GROUPS

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- The Youth Council has continued to engage with other groups by attending their meetings and meeting their members. These groups include The Way Youth Zone, the B-Safe team and the Children in Care Council. We have developed our relationship and contributed to the work of HeadStart, ensuring that the work we have done nationally has been feed into the work locally.
- The B-Safe Team, Children in Care Council and Youth Council attended a joint residential in August Condover Hall which give us an opportunity to get to know each other better and the work of each other.
- We have spent some time working with the Care Leavers Forum this year and are keen to continue to work with them in the future.
- This year we held a Joint Christmas Party with members of the CICC.
- Members of the Youth Council are encouraged to feedback to their School Voice Mechanisms.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL WORK

Youth Council supported the annual Youth Parliament Make Your Mark ballot with a total of 8582 votes by young people from 19 Secondary schools and 2 Youth Organisations. The top issues for Wolverhampton were Put an End to Knife Crime, Mental Health and Equal Pay for Equal Work. During the national Youth Parliament debates held at Westminster the Youth MPs voted and debated on the top 5 issues and decided that Put an End to Knife Crime and Votes at 16 as the national campaigns. We will be focusing on the top issues from Wolverhampton over the next 12 months.

**Make
Your Mark**



YOUTH POLICE CRIME COMMISSIONERS

Wolverhampton has two Youth PCCs who have seats on the Youth Council. This year the Police Crime Commissioner introduced an on-line voting system for elections across the West Midlands.

Two members of the Youth Council were elected to the role. The Youth Council continue to work with the office of the Police Crime Commissioner. The Youth Council attended the Youth Summit where young people from across the West Midlands attend. This year's theme was on Youth Violence with a particular emphasis on Knife Crime.

KEY CITIES YOUTH CONFERENCE

The Youth Council sent reps to the Key Cities Youth Conference and contributed to the Changing the Future document. Key Cities comprises of 20 of the UK's cities. Cities with a GVA £110 billion and population of 5.6 million when combined. Where possible we intend to attend Key Cities Events in 2019 to ensure the voice of Wolverhampton young people is being fed into the future plans of Key Cities.



CENTRO YOUTH FORUM

Through the work with Laura Shoaf the Youth Council developed links with the Centro Youth Forum. We attended meetings one of the meetings specifically looking at Birmingham New Street and the work of the British Transport Police at the station.

AIMS FOR 2019

- To be inclusive of all youth groups in Wolverhampton.
- To further increase the turnout of Secondary Schools and Voluntary Sector.
- To develop School involvement and commitment to the Coproduction Charter and Participation Strategy.
- To ensure that our members are Ambassadors for the city.
- To develop the links into the work of Key Cities.
- To increase the Youth Council's involvement in delivering Make Your Mark in schools to amplify our national voice further.
- To develop varied consultation methods with young people to inform views shared at scrutiny meetings.
- To develop engagement with Councillors by inviting more to our meetings.



This information can be made available
in a range of languages and formats

 WolverhamptonToday  @WolvesCouncil  WolverhamptonToday

wolverhampton.gov.uk 01902 551155

City of Wolverhampton Council, Civic Centre,
St. Peter's Square, Wolverhampton WV1 1SH

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