



WOLVERHAMPTON CITY
YOUTH
C O U N C I L

City of Wolverhampton Youth Council Report for Scrutiny

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.

The last 12 months have been a period of change for the Youth Council. The City Council has continued to support the work we do alongside internal changes. Following our successful 2015 elections, we followed the same style of recruitment in 2016, allowing schools and voluntary sector groups to select two candidates each in internal elections; this has resulted in representation from 18 schools and groups across the city. These new Youth Councillors attended an extensive induction at the end of 2016, and are enjoying their new roles.

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

Representation:

The City of Wolverhampton Youth Council is proud to have representatives from eighteen schools and voluntary sector groups across the city:

- Aldersley High School
- Coppice High School
- Wolverhampton Girls' High School
- Wolverhampton Grammar School
- Heath Park High School
- Kings' School Wolverhampton
- Moseley Park School
- The Royal School
- Smestow School
- South Wolverhampton Bilston Academy
- St Edmund's School
- St Matthias School
- St Peter's School
- B-Safe Team
- Children in Care Council
- The WAY Youth Zone
- Regener8 Youth Club

We have meet with Julien Kramer to identify how we can engage some of the schools that have no representatives on the Youth Council. We have become part of the WAY/YOW networking group to encourage greater engagement with the voluntary youth sector in the city. In future, we aim to encourage membership from Wolverhampton North East Schools, an area where our representation is currently not as effective.

Internal Achievements

- Youth Council continued to engage in the scrutiny process– attending every meeting for the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel and contributing to the Scrutiny Away Day.
- Youth Councillors were involved with the children’s commissioner’s ‘Takeover Day’; where members had the opportunity to be involved in a range of experiences with decision makers from the City Council; including presenting to the councils leadership team, consulting on the Westside development, shadowing workers at the magistrates’ court and meeting with Councillor Steve Evans.
- Youth Council continued our new approach to the Youth Elections, resulting in representatives from thirteen secondary schools, four voluntary sector groups and The Way Youth Zone. The Mayor declared the results at a celebration announcement in the council chamber. This representation enables substantial engagement with secondary schools in the city.
- An induction programme was delivered for new Youth Councillors consisting of two workshops and a Christmas social to allow young people to develop crucial skills for their roles and get to know each other.
- Youth Council took a considerable role in the School Nurses consultation– feeding back the strengths, weaknesses and potential improvements of the current school nursing system.
- 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 at Condover Hall and held a conference to feedback on areas of work and discuss issues.
- We 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.
- Youth Council produced and presented a video at the city’s Children’s Trust Board about young people’s experiences and work that the Youth Council has planned for the future.
- We have developed a relationship with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and have been working with the Children’s Commissioner Officer; as part of this involvement we have inputted into the CAHMS strategy.
- We worked with Bite the Ballot to encourage young people’s electoral participation, which this year included the EU Referendum.
- We have been involved in the interview and recruitment process of key council positions.

- The Youth Council has developed a page on the council's website and has begun to design its own website to make it easy for young people to find information and see on-going work.
- The Youth Council has discussed and fed-back to decision makers on many key areas of concern to young people; including substance misuse, work experience, improving PSHCE lessons, tackling obesity and mental health.

External Achievements:

- Youth Council launched its' annual Make Your Mark ballot and managed to collect 5,614 ballots from young people from 17 schools and youth groups, allowing them to take part in the UK's largest annual ballot.
- Our two Youth MPs attended the annual youth takeover in the House of Commons chamber and both Darram Kooner and Sarjan Hira were invited to speak in the debate.
- MYPs attended regional meetings with Youth Councils from the West Midlands and continued to engage with British Youth Council's scheme of work.
- Members of Youth Council met with all three Wolverhampton MPs to discuss the issue of racism and religious discrimination and began to plan a lesson plan for schools on the issue.
- Youth Council elected two Youth Police and Crime Commissioners who have begun work on a campaign to improve public transport and a campaign regarding child sexual exploitation and pornography. Members of the Youth Council attended the annual police event for Youth Councils across the West Midlands.
- The city's MYPs worked on the mental health campaign with UK Youth Parliament. They researched all the mental health services available for young people in Wolverhampton for a national report to be sent to the government.

This Year's Aims:

- Hold Youth Elections in schools and voluntary groups during UK Parliament Week and carry out an induction for these new members.
- Encourage representation from Wolverhampton North East, an area where our representation is lacking.
- Engage further with city councillors and widen the scale of work the group performs.
- Support the nationwide Youth Parliament Votes at 16 Campaign through our work as a group.
- Collect as many Make Your Mark ballots as possible to amplify our national voice.
- Continue to consult with young people and present their views at scrutiny meetings, and develop engagement with Councillors by inviting more to our meetings.

- Continue to develop links with the council and other organisations for young people, such as The Way and Children in Care Council.
- Support Wolverhampton HeadStart and develop closer links with HeadStart and B-Safe.
- Engage with the newest national Youth Parliament campaign, 'on Votes at 16 where we have been asked to encourage Wolverhampton Council to formally support Votes at 16
- Update our manifesto to reflect new and relevant issues.
- Launch the new Youth Council website, with Facebook & Twitter pages being looked into.
- Continue to engage with as many schools as possible, developing effective feedback with school councils, following exemplar practice from group members.
- To continue to be a member of Youth Organisations Wolverhampton (YOW) and promote any opportunities we have to YOW members.

APPENDIX- Schedule of Meetings:

**Youth Council 2017
Schedule of Meetings**

1. 9th January 2017
Andy Jervis to discuss Councils Waste Strategy and Environmental Issues
Emma Curran Youth PCC- Wolverhampton Safety Partnership 2017-2019 plan
2. 30th January 2017
Education- Julian Kramer to meet the Youth Council and to discuss Education vision for 2030
Youth Parliament Campaign- Votes at 16 debate.
3. 13th Feb 2017
Cllr Councillor Bhupinder Gakhal to discuss the Apprenticeship Scrutiny Review Prep for Scrutiny Board Meeting
4. 13th March 2017- YC business only
Scrutiny Board- 14th March 2017
5. 3rd April 2017
UKYP Elections – Elect two Youth MPs from Youth Council
6. 24th April 2017-
Transforming Libraries Service Update tbc
Guest Speaker tbc

7. 8th May 2017
Guest Speaker tbc
8. 12th June 2017
 - Healthy Child Programme Update tbc
 - Update on HeadStart programme tbc
 - CAHMS Update tbc
9. 10th July 2017
10. August residential tbc
11. 11th September 2017-
 - Youth Council, AGM
 - Make Your Mark
12. 9th October
 - Invite Julien Kramer to meeting (Director of Education) tbc
13. 6th November- Prep for Declaration Event

Youth Council Induction in November/Early December.
14. December-
Youth Police Crime and Commissioner Event and Meal
Xmas Social

KEY DATES for 2017

- August- Launch of Make Your Mark Ballot
- September- Voting for Make Your Mark Ballot in Schools and Launch of Elections for Youth Council.

- 9-15 October 2017 – European Local Democracy Week
- 13 – 19 November 2017 Parliament Week
- 10th November- Youth Parliament House of Commons Debate (tbc)
- 15th November- Announcement of new Youth Council November tbc subject to Council diary.
- 17th November Take Over Day tbc