



North Tyneside Council

Minutes

Meeting: Youth Council

Present: Young Mayor Amelie Ferris Chair (YMAF)
Member of UKYP Oscar Daniel (MYPOD)
Young Cabinet Member for Environment
Abi Tang (AT)
Young Cabinet Member for Ready for Life
Abigail Akinyemi (AAK)
Young Cabinet Member for Anti-Bullying
William Beattie (WB)
Young Cabinet Member for Health &
Wellbeing Hannah McKeran -Clarke (HMC)
Adviser to Young Cabinet Aaron Speirs (AS)
Beth Hargreaves (BH)
Daniel McTiernan (DMc)
Daniel Swabey (DS)
Adam Tang (ATa)
Tom Reid (TR)
Lily Hanson (LH)
Suzie McKenzie (SMc)
Max Godfrey (MGo)
Ela Nicholson (EN)
Harsh Singh (HS)

In Attendance part of meeting Vicki Nixon
Support Staff
Julia Bradwell (JB) Anne Grimes (AG)

Location Council Chambers 4.01`

Minutes of Last Meetings: Agreed

Matters arising: None

Date: Monday 2nd September 2019

CC: Apologies

Deputy Young Mayor Kody
Walker (KoW)
Karly Walker (KW)
Dylan Liakris Sparkes (DLS)
Alexander Cosgrave (AC)
Emily Doughty (ED)
Libby Doughty (LD)
Connor Burn (CB)
Bakhita Joseph (BJ)

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Young People's Entitlement: As part of the Children and Young People's (CYP) Plan, slides were produced to show young people their entitlement. The Youth Councillors were asked to give their views on the slides and contributed to some changes that they thought should be made to simplify the information.

Young Carers Update: There was no update made.

Environment Challenges: AT and the Environment Group Members have been meeting with Cabinet Member for the Environment Councillor Johnson and officers from the Environmental Sustainability department to look at ways that we can support the work that they are doing. North Tyneside Council (NTC) is already making massive changes and is on track to meet the target to reduce the carbon footprint of NTC. NTC contributes to only a small portion of the boroughs carbon levels and the rest of the borough needs to help reduce the overall amount too. AT updated the members about some of what is already happening and asked members what they can pledge to do!

What can schools do? Suggestion about having non meat days for school dinners. John Spence already does this they have a week of vegetarian with two days vegan. St Thomas More RCA also have one day a week meat free. Would other schools follow this example?

How will we show the changes we've made? We can influence the changes by shouting about what we are doing! Writing a feature for Our North Tyneside magazine this can show what we are doing. Use social media to get messages out and create a catchy hashtag which can become widely used. The Participation, Young Mayor and MYP twitter accounts can be used and then retweeted by other Youth Councillors. Social media can have an impact on people's behaviour.

All Youth Councillors are asked to find out who the key contact person would be in their school to become the Environment champion for the school. They will be contacted by Laura from Environmental Sustainability department to discuss what the school can do regarding recycling. Youth Councillors from St Thomas More RCA, George Stephenson High and Whitley Bay High agreed to find out the name of the contact person in their school.

Working Groups Update & Plans: AT Environment Group, They will create a list of link teachers with contact details who can become the environment champions. Agree on a catchy hashtag from youth councillor's ideas needed by 9th September for meeting. Date of next meeting to be agreed.

AAk Ready for Life working group, they have sent out the Political Education Packs to schools, currently working on St Johns Ambulance fundraising, St Johns Ambulance First Aid Training for Youth Councillors will be arranged for an evening in November awaiting confirmation. The date of next meeting to be arranged.

HMC Young People's Health & Wellbeing group continuing the work of the MH2K the group will meet on Thursday 5th September 5pm -7pm

WB Anti bullying group informed everyone that the Anti Bullying Creative Writing and Poetry Competition is open now for entries from young people aged 11 to 18 years. Entry Form flyers were given to Youth Councillors for them to take to their schools. Entries close on 30th September. Equality and Diversity conference planning meeting is on Wednesday 4th September from 5:30pm - 7pm

Member of UK Youth Parliament update & Make Your Mark, OD explained about Make Your Mark ballots that have been sent to schools. Youth Councillors were asked to ensure that students

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in their school participate. Youth Councillors can ask their form teachers when everyone will be voting in the Make Your Mark Ballots? Completed ballots must be returned back to Oscar c/o Participation Team at Council Offices NE27 0BY before 9th October.

Regional Youth Transport Forum Update: DMc informed members that over the summer break they have been working on creating a transport website at Newcastle University Open Lab. There is further work to be done to complete the website.

Fundraising plans: Youth Councillors who have helped make up sweet cones and then sold them to staff at Quadrant and took part in the bag pack at Morrisons in Whitley Bay were thanked. £553.89 for St Johns Ambulance has been raised so far. Another Bag pack has been arranged for Sunday 15th December 10am until 4pm. All Youth Councillors were asked to commit to spending two hours on that day to help with the bag packing. Members were asked to put the date in their diaries now so that you don't end up forgetting or committing to other things, also remember to discuss with parents and carers so that they know you have a 2hour commitment on that day.

Adult Council Meetings there are meetings on September 26th, November 28th 2019 and 16th January 2020 at Council Offices, if Youth Councillors haven't already observed an adult meeting it's recommended that you go along to one. They are on Thursdays and start at 6pm, but you should arrive for 5:45pm until around 8pm, the meetings can go on longer than 8pm but Youth Councillors can come out before the meeting finishes at a time that doesn't disturb the business of the meeting. Let staff know if you are going to attend.

Christmas plans: it's been suggested that we go out for a Christmas meal. Taking into account of cost, people's dietary needs and accessibility Sambucas at Percy Main next to the metro line will be booked for 18th December. If Youth Councillors would like to attend they are asked to pay a £2 deposit before 31st October to secure their place. The rest of the payment will be covered by NTC. If members haven't paid the deposit by 31st October it will be assumed that they do not want to attend. If you do want to attend but can't afford the £2 then speak to staff separately outside of the meeting about this.

Issues that Youth Councillors want to report: Northumberland Park has had a few incidents of youth anti social behaviour recently. A large group of young people swearing at adults & using threatening behaviour.

Another report was of groups of youths climbing over the fence at Marine Park First School and drinking alcohol. The information has been passed on to North Tyneside Council Teams.

Any Other Business: AT will be the new admin for the Whats App group. Youth Councillors added their names and numbers to the list. If other Youth Councillors want to join the group let AT know.

Discussion about the annual debate and the changes to this year of activities during Local Democracy Week, the invitation that has gone out to Middle & High schools is:

Young Persons Annual Debate – Tuesday 15th October, 1 until 3pm

We now want schools to play an active part in this event. You will get the opportunity to debate for or against one of the topics.

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The debate topics are;

- Climate change is at crisis point and civilisation as we know it is at risk, therefore councils and governments should make radical changes to ensure we are living more sustainably.
- Period poverty is still a problem for many people; all locations that provide toilet facilities should also provide a selection of free sanitary products.
- It should be compulsory for all young people to take up a sport or exercise for at least 30 minutes every day to ensure that people are fitter & obesity levels are kept under control.

If your school would like to be involved please email participation@northtyneside.gov.uk to express an interest.

Youth Council Debate Topic “Police should be allowed to stop and search anyone at anytime.” A short debate took place and a vote at the end showed that 3 Youth Councillors present believe that police should be allowed to stop and search anyone at anytime. The majority of Youth Councillors present were against the motion.

**Date of next meeting
7th October 2019 5:30-7:30
Meet at Council Offices room 0.02**