



## Young Mayor Max Update to Cabinet 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Hello Everyone,

I'm sure we would all agree that MYP Hannah Clarke-McKeran's speech was very powerful, and we have all congratulated her on her delivery. Hannah is working with the Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Committee and the Ready for Life Committee on the resources that we have, that can support young people's mental health in the borough. She has also met with Director for Public Health and her team to learn about what is already being provided in North Tyneside.

Earlier today I enjoyed my visit to Hadrian Park Primary school to help them with planting trees. The school are registered with the Eco School Award and today's activity will score them points in achieving the award and ultimately their Green Flag status.

I'm continuing to attend the Carbon Net Zero Board meetings, it's very interesting to hear about the many things that have been put into place by North Tyneside Council and the ongoing campaign to persuade people, to change their behaviour.

Youth Councillors took part in a Litter pick at the Rising Sun Country Park. This location had been recommended by Youth Councillors however they found it very clean with not a lot of litter to collect. People passing by who are regular users of the park, thanked them for picking and many said they often pick up litter themselves when they see it around the park. It's very encouraging to hear that people are taking social responsibility for their spaces.

We are planning a Swap Shop upstairs in North Shields Library on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December to coincide with Northumberland Square Christmas Fayre. It will run from 11pm until 2pm and we hope that lots of people will bring unwanted clothes and books to the swap shop and take away swapped items too. This will save lots of items going to landfill. Anything left over after the swap has finished, will be taken to the local charity shops.

On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> of October the Children in Care Council hosted their first annual awards celebration night dedicated to children and young people who are in care and to recognise the amazing things they've achieved throughout the past year. The awards that were presented in memory of foster carers who

lost their lives during the pandemic, and individual awards which were presented by the Director of Children's Services, Julie Firth to the winning young people. It was a fantastic evening which recognized accomplishments, from hard work ethic and career development to sporting triumphs. The young people really enjoyed the evening, and this will be organised annually by the young people on the Children in Care Council.

On the 17th of November I joined 16 young people from North Tyneside's Children's, Youth, SEND and Children in Care Council taking part in a consultation session. Facilitated by the participation team and Suzy Kitching, an Independent Children's scrutineer, young people shared their views on what safeguarding means to them and who is involved in this. Within the session we explored our understanding of North Tyneside Safeguarding Children's Partnership and provided our thoughts on their priorities for the year ahead. This consultation session will feed into further research being explored by Suzy on how effectively safeguarding arrangements are working for children, families and practitioners. Whilst there were many views on the priorities explored, transitional safeguarding and neglect were areas that most young people felt should be a focus moving forward.

I presented Alexander Kinney with the Young Mayor's Award as part of the Spirit of North Tyneside Awards. Alexander has carried out a lot of environment volunteering at his school.

It was a great honour for Youth Councillors and I to lay wreaths at 5 of the memorials and cenotaphs around the borough on Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday.

Some Youth Councillors and I attended the State of the Area Event, it was a good opportunity for us to have our say in the workshops. This year the event focused on the rising cost of living.

Finally, Youth Councillors have been collecting food donations from shoppers in Morrisons in Whitley Bay for the charity Walking With. Everyone has been very generous with their gifts, and we were overwhelmed by the kindness of shoppers, 37 large bags of groceries were donated this time and we are planning another collection in Morrisons on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December.

The Walking With volunteers were also thrilled to receive the donations and have said they will be gratefully received by those in need.

Thank you