



Young Mayor Amelie Ferris Update to Mayor and Cabinet 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Hello

I hope you've had a great Christmas and are looking forward to a successful year ahead!

The Young Cabinet Member for Community Safety Abbie Armstrong visited the open day at Acorns Project, in North Shields, they work with children and young people who are affected by domestic abuse. She really valued the therapeutic environment & support on offer.

During their December meeting, Youth Councillors helped with Make Christmas Special, by wrapping gifts for the participants. We hope the events went well!

In December some Youth Councillors took part in tree planting at the Rising Sun Country Park. The Environment group are expecting delivery of a further 210 trees, they have been donated by the Woodland Trust, these will be planted in March. The group are working with the Biodiversity team at the council to identify the best place to plant them.

Youth Councillors took part in another bag pack at Morrisons in December, this time raising £609.73. It was agreed with Morrisons beforehand that half of the money raised would go towards their chosen charity. This meant £304.86 went to the Teenage Cancer Trust as well as the other £304.87 going into the fundraising pot for St Johns Ambulance.

My pledge when I was elected last year was to, "Help support further education on diversity. To provide easily available information, to help common misconceptions, specifically surrounding feminism. Through colleges and schools, I hoped to open discussions on issues such as sexism, homophobia and racism.

I'm pleased to tell you that we held a successful Equality and Diversity Conference last week, there were over 100 young people from a variety of schools, colleges and young people 's training providers participating.

Show Racism the Red Card and North Tyneside Women's Voices supported the day with presentations and activities. The discussions from the young people were very open and the feedback has been positive. I hope the conferences will continue and look at some of the other strands of the Equality and Diversity Act, such as disability and hate crimes generally.

Claire from the Financial Planning and Strategy Team came to our last Youth Council meeting to talk about the council's proposed budget, Youth Councillors asked questions after hearing the plans and were pleased that they could contribute to the consultation.

Young Cabinet Member for Environment Abi Tang along with Councillors Earley and Johnson visited Head Teachers Briefing last Friday, to ask for their help with increasing the amount of recycling in schools. It is vital that our schools & young people get on board to help us all achieve our ambitions to save the environment.

On Saturday some Youth Councillors and Young Cabinet members attended the British Youth Council's North East Convention which was held at Tyne Met College in Battle Hill. They met up with other young people from the region and attended workshops on Knife Crime, Mental Health and the Environment.

We received 11 nominations from young people wanting to become the next Young Mayor for North Tyneside. Online voting is now open and on 31<sup>st</sup> January we will know who the top four candidates are who received the most online votes. The top four candidates will go forward to the paper ballot at the beginning of March which will be held in Middle Schools, High Schools, Colleges and Customer First Centres.

Thank you