



Young Mayor Amelie Ferris Tuesday 28th May 2019

Hello

Today Youth Councillors took part in the Equality and Diversity training here at council offices. The training helped people to understand the issues and the knowledge will help people to have discussions and support education on diversity. I hope to provide easily available information, to help common misconceptions, specifically surrounding feminism. Through colleges and schools I hope to open discussions on issues such as sexism, homophobia and racism, this is my pledge for the year. This was a pilot of new training and the youth councillors who took part have fed back comments and the training will be amended before being rolled out to the rest of the Youth Council.

I selected my new Young Cabinet Members with the help of two experienced Youth Councillors, I have a mix of new and experienced Youth Councillors and I'm really happy with my team.

Youth Councillor Harsh Singh met with elected members to contribute towards the town centre consultation, the sub committee have concluded their investigation and we are looking forward to the findings in the report.

Oscar and I attended British Youth Council's Youth Development course at Swindon. It was good to meet other young people from across the country but especially the Youth Councillors and Young Parliamentarians from the North East.

I have attended the Tyne and Wear transport meetings with other Youth Councillors, working with a PHD student from Northumbria University studying Digital Civics. We are now at the stage where we are expecting to create a website that will pull together all of the information about buses and ticketing, so that information is accessible in one place.

I've attended some very interesting and exciting events organised by Feminist Activists at Northumbria University The first "Say Hi to the Hijab" was particularly informing where I heard first hand from the facilitators their own experience of daily discrimination in the area that they live in Newcastle.

I attended the Soundfest 2019 planning meeting and was part of a young panel who selected the 10 acts that will perform outside of the Spanish City Dome on Saturday 6th July. We are asking for sponsorship from local businesses and as usual the winner will perform at the Mouth of the Tyne Festival the following week.

I attended a very interesting Heritology event at the YMCA in North Shields on 1st May. The word Heritology is a mix of heritage and technology and the project is informing people about North Tyneside heritage by using technology, such as virtual reality equipment. This enables the participant to be part of the historical experience.

Straight afterwards I went on to take part in the Feminist Activism Symposium at Northumbria University, I was moved and inspired to hear from the young women who are currently studying at York University about their experiences in Saudi Arabia, Brazil and Italy.

Four Youth Councillors attended a Youth 7 project at The Miners Hall in Durham; they took part in consultations about inequalities in economics, environment, gender and technology. Young people from Newcastle and Stockton attended too and all of their views will be passed on to influence G7 Policy.

Deputy Young Mayor Kody and I enjoyed the NTDF Variety Show at Whitley Bay Playhouse. The performers put their heart and soul into the performances, it was brilliant.

In order to be inclusive I have begun to record a summary of what Youth Councillors and I are focusing on each month. We have already received feedback from students in special schools saying how they enjoyed my update. We will continue to do this and add the videos with subtitles on the Have Your Say page on the Council website.

Thank you