



Young Mayor Amelie Ferris Update to Mayor and Cabinet 25th November 2019

Hello

The Local Democracy Week activities all went very well, the Annual Debate involved schools this year, and the young people voted for the debaters who they thought made the most convincing arguments. John Spence High School won the vote and the award. The Primary School Council event had 15 schools participating across the day. The Young People's Question Time was interesting, Adrian Pitches from the BBC hosted again. The Youth Council also attended a Democracy Café event held in Newcastle and was enjoyed by the young people who participated.

Youth Councillors helped with the Assistant Director of Education's interviews, they were very impressed by all the candidates, they were able to give their views about who they thought performed the best. We think that is something that should be done for anyone who interviews for a job to do with children and young people.

Deputy Young Mayor Kody was pleased to attend VODA's Annual General Meeting where he presented an award to the Young Volunteer of the year.

Four Youth Councillors attended the It's Our Future Event held at the Institute for Civil Engineers at Westminster in London. In partnership with Barnardo's, young people attended from across the country. The event gave young people the chance to imagine and realise a better, fairer future. Through discussions and fun activities, they talked about Brexit, mental health services, what we need to do about social media and how we can tackle climate change. Their views will be used as part of a larger research project into youth voice and will form the core of Barnardo's campaigns and lobbying.

A group of SEND Youth Forum members took part in a Council for Disabled Children planning event at the Parks Leisure Centre. The planning event has helped them to focus on what they want to achieve for their own event in March 2020. One of the group members has been invited to deliver a similar event in Northumberland. The group also received the Innovation Award at the North Tyneside Customer Services Awards.

Young Cabinet members and I attended Remembrance Sunday services around the borough and laid wreaths at Forest Hall, North Shields, Wallsend and Whitley Bay.

On the 11th November, Youth Councillors from George Stephenson High School attended the Jigsaw Memorial at Killingworth where they laid a wreath.

The Anti-Bullying Group members have been busy and presented awards to the winners of the Creative Writing & Poetry competition. The group are working very closely with me helping to support my pledge to have more discussion around feminism, sexism and homophobia. This will be achieved at the conference in January.

Youth Councillors attended an Emergency First Aid Course with St Johns Ambulance here at the Council Offices, you will remember that this was one of the actions that came from the Ready for Life Working group.

Young Cabinet Member for Community Safety Abbie Armstrong has been selected as a Knife Crime Ambassador. More information will follow once the role has been established more fully, but she is looking forward to working on this very important issue.

The Make Your Mark 2019 vote concluded in mid-October. This is the largest young people's consultation in Europe. This year almost 900,00 young people took part nationally. 2019 Make Your Mark changed this year and young people had three votes.

The results for North Tyneside National vote are Protect the Environment and To End Knife Crime. The Make Your Mark consultation is the first step to decide which topics would be debated at the House of Commons. On Friday 8th November UKYP members debated the top five topics which were voted nationally. The Climate Emergency, Tackling Hate Crime, Young People's Mental Health, Knife Crime and a Curriculum for Life. At the end of the debates Members of UK Youth Parliament voted by a huge majority for The Climate Emergency to be the main campaign for 2020.

The theme of this year's State of the Area Event was The Climate Emergency. It was a good day with the workshops being very solution focused. There were lots of ideas put forward about what we can all do in our lives to become more environmentally sustainable. We look forward to the final report which will outline changes that can be made.

The environment group is continuing to look at ways that we can improve things in North Tyneside. We are preparing a joint letter to government. We are working closer with the Council's Environmental Sustainability team in highlighting that we must all take responsibility to make changes, we are compiling a list of small changes that will make a difference and we will promote these where we can.

Thank you