

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

NORTHAMPTON YOUTH FORUM

Thursday, 11 April 2019

PRESENT: Councillor (Chair); Councillor (Deputy Chair); Councillors

APOLOGIES:

1. WELCOMES, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

Attendees: Harpreet, Lissy, Abi, Ayo, Tasnim, Zach, Jess, Morcea (chair), Aimee (NBC)

Apologies: Cllr Anna King (chair), Mary, Wiktorina, Ammiee-Leigh, Lucas (chair)

2. CADET AND YOUNG HEALTHWATCH UPDATES

Young Healthwatch have won a National award 'PENA' for their work with KGH. A number of their recommendations are being implemented at the hospital as a result of their work. A film showcasing the work is being screened at Cineworld on Tuesday 16 April and is open to young people, professionals and parents. You can book tickets here <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/young-healthwatch-northamptonshire-showcasing-event-tickets-58108759865>

3. AQUARIUS / NGAGE

Aquarius is a drug, alcohol and gambling service with a specific service for young people called 'NGAGE'. Ngage can work with young people who have problems with drugs, alcohol or gambling and also provide support to young people whose parents/family members are users. The organisation works closely with schools and will take referrals from teachers as well as self-referrals. Often gambling problems start in early teens and become an issue from the age of 16. Gambling does not just happen at the bookies; it is online and part of gaming these days.

They provide drug and alcohol awareness training sessions to professionals – if you think teachers or parents need this awareness training Aquarius can arrange this. Contact them directly on aquarius.org.uk or speak to Aimee who can pass this on for you.

Youth: Do you work with minority groups?

Aquarius: Yes, we have worked with Hindu and Muslim groups recently and can offer workshops to any group.

Youth: In Sikh culture drinking can be an issue and workshops would be really beneficial.

Morcea shared a contact with Chris for the Sikh community for Aquarius to arrange.

Youth: Young people don't usually see the consequences of drinking/taking drugs and focus on the short term. It helps when people come in and talk with young people.

Aquarius: This is exactly the ethos of Ngage and they can/do come into schools and talk to young people. A problem is that teenagers often feel they are 'invincible'. Have to find what is important to them as a way in.

Young person raised a concern about the expulsion system where young people are excluded for bringing drugs in etc whereas they really need the help.

Aquarius: Ngage work closely with school exclusion teams to pick this up and work with these young people.

4. YOUTH AND CRIME

PC Lee Stevens attended the forum to talk about youth and crime as requested by the forum.

Aimee handed out a sheet with data about youth and crime over the past two years (attached): Children as victims has increased by 13% whereas children as offenders has decreased by 36%.

Youth: Can you explain who is included in 'children as victims'?

PC: Any crime against child 10-18 years old.

Street robberies are quite prevalent around school time.

The forum were surprised that children as offenders is lower than they expected- based on what you see in the news- perception that youth crime is really high.

Reminded that it doesn't mean that there aren't young people with drugs etc but some schools deal with matters themselves so these incidents would be missing from stats.

Youth: There is a lack of reporting particularly around sexual violence and the portrayal of the police can frighten people and put them off. Maybe the process can be made more transparent and normalise reporting.

PC: How individual officers deal with these types of incidents varies between really well or poorly. The process can often seem detached from people and focussed on process but Voice is definitely helping to deal with this and provides support for the victim.

Youth: It would be good to get into schools and make people feel comfortable reporting.

Action- Aimee to take the point around reporting to Secondary school planning meeting.

Morcea shared information that black youths are 8 times more likely to be stopped in stop and search. It is not always clear to people what the reasons are and the powers. Face to face training initiatives are helping Northants Police get it right with stop and search. Community members, Morcea and Mark Dean, are involved with this process. A national stop and search group also go through the searches and do checks to make sure these are being done correctly.

With knife crime on the agenda and article 60a coming into place for blanket stop search allowance it is important for people to understand this process and how to respond. If you think you are being stopped unfairly or unjustly, take the Officers collar number and report this later.

The floor was opened up for the young people to ask any other questions.

Youth: There was a spate of robberies recently, has this gone down? Particularly gold burglaries.

PC: some significant arrests were made linked to gold burglaries and this has since reduced. Police do dedicate teams to dealing with this as a serious matter.

5. YOUTH PROVISION

Aimee explained that the borough are part of a working group looking to apply for funding for youth provision. The forum discussed youth provision in the town and filled in a survey.

Action: Aimee to share survey monkey link. Jess to share with Healthwatch, Morcea to share.

6. ACTION PLAN

UPDATED- to pick up youth day finalisation next meeting.

7. PFCC YOUTH COMMISSION

The OPFCC stands for the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, and is separate to the police. The PFCC, Stephen Mold, holds the budget and produces the plan for police and fire.

Dale Willis attended to talk about the OPFCC about setting up youth commission for the

county. Dale's job is currently to recruit up to 30 young people between 14-19yrs for a youth commission. A second mini commission for 10-13 yr olds which will also run but for a short time in September. The purpose is to find Young People from range of backgrounds to help PFCC understand the issues for young people.

The young people on the commission will go through the PFCC's plan and give views and chose key topics. The PFCCs job is to then get information on those topics. The commission will host a training day to bring people up to speed on what this looks like in Northampton. A survey to find out how young people feel about how issues are being policed and the impacts on young people will aim to reach 1000 young people. The information will then be presented to the key police staff through different media (presentation, film etc).

The PFCC has invited the youth forum to have 2 spots on the commission who will be able to feed back what is going on.

Well done to Lissy and Tasnim who have applied to be on this and represent the youth forum ☺

The meetings will be held at FHQ at Wootton Hall. A request has been made for transport fund to get people there.

8. LUNCH

9. YOUTH DAY/PROJECT WORK

Brief discussions about ideas for performers and special guests to invite for Youth Day

Action: Morcea to follow up some contacts for Saints players and Matt Smith (Dr Who).

Everyone was interested in having the photo booth, possibly a fashion show and some food and crafts activities.

Action: Aimee to book photo booth and get in contact with the Northampton fashion designer who showed at London fashion week recently.

We are still waiting on confirmation of what space we have on the day and if the outside wall is available for a graffiti painting project.

The forum broke off into groups of 2 and 3 and took some surveys out in the town to ask other young people what they would like to see at this year's International Youth Day event.

Action: Aimee to collate and put information back to professional partners and make arrangements.

We will pick this up next meeting and make final decisions.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11. NEXT MEETING

Thursday 30th May

The meeting concluded at 2pm