

Minutes of the Gedling Youth Council Meeting held on Monday 4th July 2022

5.30 - 7.30pm in the Chappell Room, Civic Centre

1. Welcome, apologies received: Muhammad Malik, Chair

Apologies received: Cllr Viv McCrossen, Chloe Dring, Ruth Harding.

In Attendance: Muhammad Malik (Chair), Halle Sibanda, Fatimah Malik, Sophie Fuller, Caitlin O'Connor, Riley Kirton, Aimee Kimpton, Kieran Frankland, Leyla Abass, Sam Boulton, Cllr Kathryn Fox, Jane Ansell, Amy Beckworth.

Guest: Jacqueline Lockhart, Engagement Lead, Notts Police Violence Reduction Unit.

2. Group chat discussions – points raised by members

No items to report on this occasion, due to exam commitments.

3. Feedback from the Lord Lieutenant's Garden Party Saturday 25th June

Representatives Muhammad, Halle, Fatima along with Jane and Amy had attended the above event on behalf of the Gedling Youth Council, to receive the Lord Lieutenant's Youth Volunteering Award. Members were informed that the event was well attended by Gedling Voluntary Groups, all past winners of the award, and a wide range of Young People's groups and organisations from across Nottinghamshire received awards on the day. Gedling members spoke with Lord Lieutenant Sir John Peace, and invited him to attend a future meeting of the Gedling Youth Council. Youth Council members were also approached by a representative of the Magistrates Service, and offered the opportunity to join the service as Youth Magistrates, for which training is provided. The day was very successful and enjoyable.

Action: Muhammad will share the contact details for the Youth Magistrate opportunity in the group chat.

4. Appointment of incoming Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer

Nominees for roles as listed on the agenda each spoke about their suitability and experience for the role in question. Where there was more than one nominee, a secret ballot was held. Results were as follows:

Vice Chair: Halle Sibanda

Secretary: Caitlin O'Connor

Treasurer: Leyla Abass

5. MYP Manifesto pledges – feedback from Chair’s meeting Mon 27th June

Muhammad reported back on his MYP meeting with Jane and Amy held on 27th June, notes below:

New proposals going forward:

Setting priorities:

It was proposed that based on topics highlighted and the Chairs MYP campaign that the following topics become priorities for the Youth Council:

- **Mental Health-** i.e. Mental Health pop-up clinics
- **Public Transport** (Lead by MYP)
- **Bullying-** i.e. anti bullying consultation
- **Improvement in coms between councils and schools for different things-** i.e. question box or youth council newsletter
- **Diversity and inclusion in schools and across the borough,** i.e. refugee children from Ukraine, Syria, Afghanistan i.e. a community event

How are we going to work on these:

Going forward we are proposing a new meeting structure based on topics and group activity based discussions for the first half and the second half be focused on guest speakers and Q&A sessions from the same topics discussed in the first half or from previous meetings to ensure there is progress taking place. We are also proposing that as a youth council we take responsibility for the priorities and have 3 or 4 people for example assigned to each priority apart from Public transport which I will discuss later. This will require a group of youth councillors to plan and delegate responsibility to share resources to other youth councillors at meetings which they then take back to their schools and other extracurricular e.g. youth clubs. Together with this change it means those that are most passionate for their topic area can research and spread knowledge of activities and opportunities for the councillors to attend and share in the wider borough. The main aim of these changes is to encourage participation and make meetings more enjoyable and interesting for everyone.

The new meeting structure is difficult to describe but will make more sense in coming meetings when we do them.

MYP campaign:

As MYP I stood and was voted in to tackle rising public transport costs and safety on public transport. Although this can/would be a youth council priority and one from my campaign, it would be one I would work on independently due to resource limitation of it being a youth council wide project which could be focused elsewhere for example, Mental Health. This allows a level of separation but also a level of interest still connected to the youth council of my work and how that is creating change.

The Success of the Youth Council now depends on each and every single member’s contributions. The Impact you have as a council is in your hands.

Agreed actions

Action: Members to consider which of the above themes they would most like to engage with or lead on, based on their area of interest.

Transport theme

Muhammad will develop and scope the Transport theme, reviewing NCT Student Discount availability, Taxi services and other options with a view to advocating for safe, affordable transport for young people.

- **Action: Muhammad will take proposals to the Countywide Independent Board, Young People's Board and share updates in the group chat.**

Mental Health theme

Cllr Wheeler has offered to put members in contact with Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

- **Action:** Members to talk to their schools, identify and review existing plans for how schools currently address Mental Health, and also Anti Bullying protocols – share findings and discuss possible improvements
- **Action: Invite Cllr Wheeler, Sir John Peace and a representative of CAMHS to attend a future meeting. Discuss ideas for mobile pop up mental health clinics in Gedling.**
- **Action: Revisit the previous Bullying Survey using MENTI Youth Services platform.**

Jacqueline Lockhart suggested looking at 'contextual bullying' – whether online/social media, in school, out of school – what are the environmental factors?

Improved communication

Muhammad flagged the need to improve communication between the Youth Council and schools, and how we communicate to wider young people. Caitlin proposed focussing engagement on the top tier of student bodies, i.e. schools councils.

- **Action: A poster to be created detailing Gedling Youth Council priorities, giving a point of contact – Amy Beckworth to lead on promotion.**
- **Action: Members to research and collate mental health and other services to young people for populating Youth Service Instagram and sharing across Youth Service Social Media. Amy to act as conduit.**

Equalities

Cllr Fox informed members about Council's new Equalities Framework, Action Plan and Steering Group, which comprises of the Leader, Cllr McCrossen, Cllr Fox, Mike Hill, GBC Chief Executive, and cross party representation. Cllr Fox proposed that YC members feed in their ideas and suggestions to that process. A terms of reference is being developed. The aims are to raise awareness and develop good practice, offer training and engage with stakeholders and community groups to identify and address equalities issues, needs and concerns. The group will look at demographics and other data to inform developments and target services effectively.

- **Action: further details of the Equalities Framework and Action Plan to be tabled at the next meeting.**
- **Action: Engagement with Ukraine Refugee Young People**
Members considered a number of options for an informal social engagement

with hosted Ukraine Families. Due to challenging timescales, Jane informed the group that the Syrian Families are already currently working in partnership with GBC and, ideally, the Gedling Seniors Council and Youth Council, to host a meal at the Richard Herod Centre on Weds 26th October, to which Ukraine families and their hosts will be personally invited. The Gedling Play Forum will provide craft activities, and the Syrian families will prepare the meal.

- **Action: Youth Council members to attend and engage with Ukraine young people – identify representatives to join the Youth Council.**

6. Youth Council Members future focus, subjects for discussion and guest speakers:

- Request from young person to speak on Period Poverty – deferred to a future meeting.

7. GBC Updates: Gedling Young People's Consultation Action Plan

Jane gave feedback on the Holiday Activities and Food out of school activities programme, Council events, Public Protection engagement and support work with disengaged young people in Arnold area, the Climate Change Action Plan and Equalities Action Plan. Population of the County Youth Parliament Instagram was also discussed – see item 5 Improved Communication point.

Additionally, Sophie Fuller reported on her research into communication with young people to be produced during her Work Experience in the Communities Team 4th – 8th July. **Action: Sophie's report will be brought to the September meeting.**

8. Any Other Business

Jacqueline Lockhart, Engagement Lead, Notts Police Crime Reduction, advised members of her role, which is to engage partners in helping to reduce incidences of violent crime in the City. Work undertaken to address violent crime is informed both by data, and perspectives and experiences of people in the community. Jacqui introduced the Hope Collective, set up in response to the murder of 10 year old Damilola Taylor on 27 November 2000. The Hope Collective sets up regular 'Hope Hacks', where young people come together, hear well known, relevant guest speakers and participate in workshops, which feed into a 'Reimagined Report' that goes to Parliament.

Members were invited to attend an upcoming Hope Hack event taking place on 14th July at the Belgrave Theatre in Coventry. A coach with DBS certified supervision on board departs at 8.30am on the day and returns at 5.30pm. Jacqueline confirmed that letters for school absence can be provided.

Muhammad thanked Jacqueline, and advised members that he will round up interest and feed back to her names of any members wishing to attend.