

Minutes of the Gedling Youth Council Meeting

Monday 19th February 2024

5.30 - 7.30pm in the Chappell Room, Civic Centre

1. Welcome, refreshments, apologies received

Apologies received from Aimee Kimpton and Leyla Abass. Freddie Vokes and Cllr Fox would be attending late.

*New members Charlie Rose, Sara Agabani, Molly Wright and Poppy Greentree were welcomed on board (*those in attendance).

2. Minutes of last meeting, actions arising

Minutes of last meeting were accepted as a true record, no matters arising that are not covered on the agenda.

3. Group chat discussions: subjects members want to raise.

None

4. Guests and Guest Speakers: Sean Ryan Kate Whitby, NCC Youth Service

Action Plan mission statement:

‘The Council will work with its partners to provide and promote a range of activities during school holidays that is accessible and engaging to young people of all ages and abilities’

- NCC Youth Club provision activities; priority focus of work with YP to address risks to, and social mobility of YP
- Increase support for local Voluntary Youth provision, especially for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- Holiday Activities and Food Programme for young people
- Enhanced young People’s holiday activities – Portfolio Holder Budget
- Events, Intergenerational activities
- Family Food Clubs rollout, engage with Childrens Centre developments

NCC Youth Service colleagues gave an overview of Youth Club provision during term times and ‘Holiday Activities and Food (HAF)’ out of school provision for young people available during holiday periods.

Sean Ryan advised that the HAF programme in Gedling includes 16 local delivery providers during holidays this year. Programmes are designed to ensure that young people are learning and engaging throughout. The programme includes outdoor and

indoor activities, climbing, water sports, music, design, preparing food and learning about nutrition and more.

HAF funding is confirmed for this year and next year, unknown beyond that.

Members put questions to officers:

How are the services promoted, and how are different age groups targeted?

The service is targeted at 13 – 16 year olds, promoted on social media and via youth club networks and on the County Council's HAF Webpage, where parents and young people can search for providers by area via the Notts Help Yourself self-serve portal.

Lack of awareness of the programme / need for better promotion was raised, which Katy Whitby agreed to take back.

What is available for those not wishing to participate in groups and for special educational needs?

Youth Voice and Participation delivered a lot of online activities during Covid, and the youth service will sometimes offer bespoke arrangements for online engagement where resources allow and a need has been raised, however this is not standard. Katy agreed to take this back for further consideration.

What is the criteria for a good HAF provider?

Sean Ryan advised that all providers must have a safety management plan/risk assessment in place, a detailed activity plan, a nutritional food offer, reasonable, clear costings and evidence of quality demonstrated in all aspects of the tender.

Is there a quality assurance feedback system?

Sean confirmed that inspections are carried out, a satisfaction survey and suggestions boxes at youth activity settings. Additionally, young people are trained to carry out visits, make and record their observations on service standards.

The Chair thanked NCC Youth Service representatives for their attendance.

5. GBC Equality and Diversity Policy Consultation – Francesca Whyley, Corporate Director

Fran advised members of the periodic statutory consultation undertaken on the above policy and put questions to members. The following summary responses were given by members:

What is Equality and Diversity?

- Everyone should feel equally comfortable to be themselves and not mask who they are
- Impact on mental health if not the case – people need to express themselves and who they are to be healthy
- Bullying has an impact, educate on that and teach people to be mindful

- Teach people how to actively accommodate different needs and abilities, perspectives – not make or rely on assumptions based on social norms
- Schools and agencies need to give people the tools to be inclusive, not just tell them to be so – this doesn't happen in schools at the moment, or if it does, not very well, improvement is needed.
- Educate the older generation, who may have preconceived ideas and fixed perspectives based on misinformation and historical bias
- Hidden disabilities and other protected characteristics can be attacked subliminally.

What could the Council do to improve Equality and Diversity?

- Wheelchair accessibility to the countryside, parks, streets and town centres.
- Raise awareness of hidden/invisible disabilities, i.e. Neurodivergent conditions
- Public education – media visibility of people of colour, people with disabilities
- Create opportunities for dialogue about different disabilities, races, religion and cultures, and ways/good practice awareness of ways to be inclusive in different Equalities scenarios.
- The Scout movement is very inclusive (shared experience from a YC member)
- Teach people early – the younger the better, but reinforce down the years
- School is the right place and should create space and time for equalities awareness, diversity and good practice.

Fran thanked members for their input, which she confirmed would be taken into account as part of the formal consultation.

6. Guest Speaker Expressions of Interest to attend future meetings:

JA informed members that The Gedling Climate Change Group: interested in attending a meeting of the incoming new Gedling Youth Council after the April inauguration, to discuss a Young People's Climate Change Conference at a local Secondary School later in 2024.

Action: JA to liaise with the group to agree a date for their attendance

Insp Mark Stanley, Gedling Policing Team had also proposed returning to continue dialogue and support promotion of their initiative to address violence towards women and girls and work on other safety issues for young people.

Action: JA to invite the Policing Team to the 22nd July meeting.

Comfort break – 15 minutes

Members retired to the Elizabeth Room for refreshments, and for new members to get to know each other.

7. Gedling Young People's Consultation Action Plan Review

Members reviewed the last three year's work programme, which consisted of calling to account a series of guest speakers from a range of services to address key mission statements in a Response Action Plan to the Gedling Young Peoples Consultation undertaken in 2020/2021.

Completed in 2022 - 2024:

- **Communications** – GBC Comms Team Lead Rob McCleary
- **Social Mobility (link to Employability, Entrepreneurship Equality and diversity in Consultation Action Plan)** - Lance Juby, Head of Service, Communities and Leisure – **Action arising:** nominate YC representative onto Gedling Social Mobility Commission)
- **Environmental Sustainability** - Sim Duhra, GBC Climate Change Office
- **Young People's Safety** – Mark Stanley, Gedling Policing Team Lead, Niki Pekal, GBC Community Safety Officer, Environment
- **Activities for Young People** – NCC Youth Service Sean Ryan - Gedling Team Lead / Pom Bhogal. Group Manager
- **Equality and Diversity** – Cllrs Fox and Barnes (feedback and discussion, Arnold Summer Fair Sat 24th June, Strategic Equalities Group priorities)

Outstanding action:

- **Review of Youth Mayor role – review feedback received from Freddie, Fatimah and Muhammad**

Members heard from prior and current Youth Mayors about their experiences in the role. In summary, whilst all three had gained some valuable and positive experience, there had been instances where Youth Mayors felt that they did not have enough information or guidance before attending an engagement, and there were concerns that the Youth Mayor role does not have enough of a profile. The variety and diversity of engagements was also discussed.

Action: JA and Democratic Services to review the comments and statements of past and present Youth Mayors and consider the following key areas for improvement raised:

- Introducing a Youth Mayor Induction.
- Preparing the Youth Mayor for an event.
- Youth Mayor invites / Diversity of events
- The Youth Mayors 'Voice for Young People'
- Comms - GYM social media profile.
- Travel arrangements/ expenses*

*(footnote: the Youth Mayor protocol does include allowable travel expenses)

8. Member of Youth Parliament Elections and ‘Make Your Mark’ – Amy Beckworth.

Amy updated members on the campaign, which enables Youth Council members across the County to vote on the top ten priorities for the National Youth Parliament.

9. Any Other Business.

None

9. Future meeting dates:

2024

22nd April (Inaugural meeting of incoming Youth Council 2024 – 2027/8)

Meetings beyond that date would be shared when available.