



**West
Northamptonshire
Council**

Youth Forum

Minutes of a meeting of the Youth Forum held at The Jeffrey Room - The Guildhall, Northampton, NN1 1DE on Wednesday 13 September 2023 at 4.30 pm.

1. Welcomes, Introductions and Apologies

Present: Lissy (NA), Tracy (NSG), Lola (NSG), Lilybo (GA), Haroon (NSB), Bella (GA), Aimee, Jamie, Morcea

Apologies: Kamron, Henry, Skye, Cllr Fiona Baker, Cllr David Smith

Haroon asked about the poster sent yesterday via Whatsapp. Forum asked to share the Lowdown/Free 2 Talk poster promoting new Youth Club in their schools/social media.

Reminder to feedback to Jamie re the Race Action Plan from last meeting.

2. Memorandum of Understanding

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

4. Youth Summit and Period Poverty-Workshop/Poster Update

Actions:

- Jamie to arrange Ngage visit on Tuesday 3 Oct.
- All to review the draft presentation shared by Lissy and add to it/comment
- Ngage to share some content for forum to see – would appreciate any feedback too.
- Teams planning meeting – Monday 25 September, 4.30pm on Teams. Jamie to share the link.
- All to send in any ideas for the substance misuse tool to Jamie. Summary photo sent out with minutes.

Discussion:

Ngage joined to discuss the workshop and interactive element.

Alcohol wheel to be replicated on topics of Nos, Cannabis, Vapes with aim to share health risks, environmental issues and a focus on prevention/intervention.

Aquarius suggested the forum a Tuesday fortnightly 4-7pm drop in to discuss with service users and look at material. 3 October.

Tracy – advise – will making the presentation colourful and interactive glorify the subject matter? A – No, some drugs are colourful so could be more recognisable that way. Aquarius can show the 'drug box' so you can see what they look like.

Lilybo asked what issues lead people to use drugs. A – trauma, mental illness, sleep, boredom, anxiety/ADHD and self medication.

Whilst Northampton has a good offer this comes at a cost and not all young people can afford it so can also become vulnerable to drugs.

Alcohol is also a societal norm in England and is central to most celebrations, weekends/bank holidays, grief etc.

Tracy - How do we reach wider demographic so that they share this back to peers? Tips – props such as the dopamine brain balloon and other interactive ideas. Use the group as a sounding board to sound out the presentation. Make a serious topic fun. Ngage will be at the Youth Summit and happy to support the workshop.

Lola – we don't want to lecture.

Tracy – varied age range attending – is there a good way to present to all of these across the board in one session? A – consider some will be aware and some wont. Can send some examples and ask for feedback too.

Instagram @ngage_aquarius there are resources on there that can give some good ideas. 10-18yrs target audience.

Lola - Jubilee youtube channel; questions asked to a group of people who then have to stand in a spot for 'agree' and 'disagree' the middleground. Good activity to include in the workshop. Include some debate

Structure

Line on the floor activity as a whole then answers within the PowerPoint.

150k die from smoking and alcohol deaths a year and young diabetes on the rise linked to sweet flavoured drinks/alcohols.

Lilybo asked if they can get health data for workshop – cost of drugs/alcohol on society. Ngage can get this from S2S (substance to solution).

Tracy – Are there any free events for children that they can refer to? Evolve and Ngage, Free2Talk and Frank Bruno Foundation. Ngage do activity days for people in the service and they make the decision on what they want to do, plan it and cost it.

Jamie suggested a teams meeting to make some more decisions and will get in touch to arrange.

5. **UK Parliament Week**

Date polled and agreed; Thursday 23 November, 5-8pm timings tbc.

Forum would like to host a panel of speakers and invite young people from across West Northants to attend. Young people would have the option to submit a question for the panel, questions will be selected by the Youth Forum.

There will be time for networking after the panel giving young people opportunity to ask questions not covered in the panel session.

Suggested topics to focus:

- Allocation of funding for schools and youth services
- The impact of austerity on young people
- Serious Violence Duty and Youth Violence
- Broader panel with no set theme/topic.

Panel members suggestions:

- University rep
- British Youth Council rep
- Youth Justice of the Peace
- Local MP

Will need someone to host the panel; either youth forum member or nominated individual chosen by the forum. Lola considering the role. Lissy also suggested.

Forum requested that audience advised of who panel members are and their role/responsibilities. Programme suggested for the event with information. Tracy suggested each panellist should provide 3 words to describe themselves. Agreed use of mics for the panel to ensure they can be heard.

Actions:

- Aimee to reach out to MPs to hold the date.
- Aimee to set up Eventbrite for the event
- Aimee to update room booking form

Next steps:

- Quote for cakes and refreshments
- Time on next agenda to finalise plans; format, topics, speakers, host
- Create poster to promote event to young people – social and in schools

6. Heritage Tours

Sunday 17 September, arrive by 11.45am
Tours to begin at 12pm – working in pairs to lead tours.

Confirmed to attend:
Kyla, Skye, Haroon, Tracy, Lissy (joining at 1pm)

Short 30 minute tours – Aimee/Morcea will be there to support.
Lunch provided – all will get a 30 minute break for food.

Please note that there may be disruptions to road due to the half marathon! They should be finished by the time we start but please allow extra time.

7. Community Information Exchange

8. Items for Future Meetings

Serious Violence Duty – request to visit youth forum

Relationships and Sex Education - commissioning
Youth Summit Planning session
UKPW planning session
Follow up session re. Disproportionality project

9. **Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 11 October, 4.30- 6.30pm

Upcoming interim meetings and events:

- Sunday 17 September – Heritage Open Day tours
- Monday 25 September – Virtual planning; Youth Summit
- Friday 11 November – Youth Summit
- Thursday 23 November – UK Parliament Event

The meeting closed at 18.30

Chair: _____ Aimee Luck _____

Date: _____ 13/9/23 _____