

## **Youth Forum**

Minutes of a meeting of the Youth Forum held at The Jeffrey Room - The Guildhall, Northampton, NN1 1DE on Wednesday 8 November 2023 at 4.30 pm.

### **1. Welcomes, Introductions and Apologies**

Attended: Tracy (NSG), Lola (NSG), Harron (NSB), Bella (GA), Skye (NA), Lissy (UON).

WNC Officers; Aimee Luck & Jamie Wells.

Guests: Alex Paulley, (WNC) Rachel Long (OPFCC) and Debbie MacColl (WNC).

Apologies: Cllr Baker, Cllr Smith, and Morcea stopped by to apologise in person on route to a DLL event.

### **2. Serious Violence Duty**

Rachel, Alex and Debbie talked to the Young people about the Serious Violence Duty and what is happening locally. The Duty came into force in January 2023 and since this time data has been collected to understand the local picture. Priorities from the data in order are; Sexual Violence, Robbery and Knifecrime.

#### **Question/Answer:**

**Lola** - are issues location specific or general, and all ages or particular age groups?

**A** - more sexual abuse reports seen in low income/deprived areas but looking at projects to prevent across the board work in secondary schools but also needed at primary school level.

**Alex** – Part of the strategy is to improve messages on social media which don't feel quite right yet. What are the preferred platforms?

**A** - TikTok is the main social media for young people.

**Tracy** - important to use messaging in schools as well as social media as algorithms will feed users opposing messages based on who/what they already follow/what is popular.

**Lola** – suggest using good influences, thinking the opposite of Andrew Tate for example.

*No immediate influencers came to mind for the task.*

**Tracy** – there is a need to building a community for young people. Andrew Tate followers want a community to belong to, you need to provide something to oppose this.

**Lola** - suggested a forum campaign where people share experiences such as the 'everyday sexism project'.

**Bella** - avoid large assemblies for too many people the message gets lost people get

bored and stop listening those that need to hear the messages end up being removed

**Lola** – there is a culture shift with boys between primary and secondary particularly from year 7 group going into year 8, where the biggest changes happen.

**Lola** - sexual crimes often committed by more affluent groups not just the deprived as more likely to have influence or power over others and people less likely to want to report this.

Group discussed appropriate early intervention as priority. All agreed they felt safe to report when uncomfortable, and who they could speak to.

#### **Reasons for under reporting issues and experiences**

- issues build up gradually/increase over time. Made to feel that it's not serious enough to report early on and the smaller misdemeanours not worth reporting.
- May get into trouble maybe because they are at a party that they were not allowed to go to or in a situation that perhaps the parent would be unhappy with.
- Victim blaming repercussions.

#### **Education**

- teachers often deliver the sessions which is not preferable to the young people
- would prefer not to know the teachers of the subject and this would make I'm more comfortable to discuss any issues
- young people would prefer the delivery of issues such as knife crime to come from victims or ex gang members
- Topics delivered on should have a follow up session after young people have had time to reflect
- other topics; drug use, again more impactful if it's an external person with experience

In terms of diversionary activity they would like to see options other than just sport and music, and to include early information and things that raise aspirations.

**Bella** – Suggested that there are often a lot of programmes, information and opportunities provided for people from a deprived background (which is definitely needed) but often means that a lot of children don't fall into that category and miss out on opportunities and improved aspirations. We need to be able to raise aspirations for all young people.

### **3. UK Parliament Week**

Our UKPW event will take place on Thursday 23 November.

**Attending:** Tracy, Bella, Lilybo, Skye, Henry, Lissy, Kyla, Kamron, Haroon

#### **Timings:**

5pm - Youth Forum to arrive & set up.

5.30pm - Attendees and guests will arrive

5.45pm – Youth Forum introduction

6pm – Question Time panel

7pm – Breakout session in small groups with panel members

**Panel members:**

- MP Andrew Leadsom
- Andy Glenn – Detective Inspector for Serious Violence
- Jodie Lowe – University of Northampton/ Free 2 Talk
- Tbc – Representative from the Justice system

**Youth roles on the day:**

- Signing people in as they arrive
- Get all attendees to reply to our priorities questionnaire
- Introduction to all
- Running microphones to those asking questions
- Reading out questions on behalf of others
- Supporting young people on breakout tables – encouraging discussion
- Taking brief notes on any themes coming up on table discussions
- Voting activity – give out slips and make sure people vote.

We need a big push to young people to encourage sign ups to the event as numbers started low.

Forum members know lots of people interested – **Action – All to ensure those interested sign up via the Eventbrite link / share the poster (hardcopy) and on social media stories.**

4. **Youth Summit**

On Friday the 10<sup>th</sup> November, members of the youth Forum will be running a “Substance Misuse” workshop for this year’s Youth Summit. During the meeting we ran through the overview of the event, including times and other key information. Members got chance to review the presentation and add any changes they would like. Overall the young people were happy with the structure and will confirm times of arrival in the next 24 hours

**ACTION** - Members attending the event to arrive by 9am latest to allow a practice run of the presentation.

**ACTION** - Jamie to share slideshow for young people to comment on.

5. **Items for Future Meetings**

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)  
Planning policy input  
Christmas fun!

6. **Date of Next Meeting**  
Wednesday 13 December, 4.30pm – 6.30pm

The meeting closed at 6.30pm

Chair: \_\_\_Aimee/Jamie\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_16/11/23\_\_\_\_\_