

Youth Voice Executive – Meeting Report

March 2017

1. Background

In 2016, the Children’s Trust Board recognised the need for the creation of a North Yorkshire Voice Executive, to enable young people representatives from each of specialist groups to come together, have a voice and to work with each other and key decision makers, to make a positive difference to their lives and those of their peers. Guide to the Executive **Appendix 1**.

Prior to the first Youth Voice Executive, all youth voice groups were asked to consider six overall topic areas young people in North Yorkshire had previously identified (though taking part in the ‘Growing up in North Yorkshire’ survey and the British Youth Council ‘Make your Mark’ consultation).

The 6 topics were;

- **A Curriculum to prepare us for life.** - Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship Education (PSHCE) to include; Sex and relationships, Crime, Finance, Home life, Housing and Politics modules.
- **Transport.**
- **Careers Guidance and Post-16 Transition**
- **Risky Behaviours** including those related to use of modern technologies.
- **Developing Resilience and Emotional Wellbeing.** To include, improving the knowledge and attitudes surrounding Mental Health issues.
- **Pupil Voice influencing decisions**

2. Youth Voice Executive Meeting

The first Youth Voice Executive meeting was held on the 22nd February 2017, County Hall, Northallerton. See **Appendix 2** for the list of organisations and youth groups represented at the meeting.

The young people participating in the meeting were asked to discuss the 6 topics and through a series of shared discussions with the senior decision makers in attendance they identified the three topics that would shape the work of the Executive going forward.

The three topics are:

- A. Developing Resilience and Emotional Wellbeing, looking into the following issues:
- Help at specifically stressful times, i.e. exams
 - More accessible information/help.
 - Improved Attitudes – Educate adults and Young People

B. Transport, looking into the following issues:

- Cost
- Accessibility
- Staff training/disability awareness

C. Curriculum for Life, looking into the following issues:

- Compulsory Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) lessons with specialists.
- Finance
- Practical Skills

3. Youth Parliament Elections

To ensure the voice of young people is heard nationally as well as locally, young people were invited to apply to represent North Yorkshire in the British Youth Parliament, applicants to these posts had been shortlisted and invited to present their manifesto at the meeting, Members of the Youth Parliament (MYPs) and Deputies were being elected for the following areas within North Yorkshire:

- Central - Northallerton, Richmond and Selby
- East - Malton and Scarborough
- West - Harrogate and Skipton

The following MYPs and Deputies were confirmed after counting of the votes took place:

- **MYP Central** - Evie M. Stevenson
Deputy MYP Central - Shannagh Strudwick
- **MYP East** - Kitty Jackson
Deputy MYP East – Alexander Wright and Dylan Kennedy
- **MYP West** - Eden Maia Shackleton
Deputy MYP West Harrogate - Ella Bridgett-Tomkinson

4. Next Steps

- i. Creation of a task and finish group to develop an action plan based on the feedback.
- ii. Agree a date for the next meeting.
- iii. Elect a chair and vice chair.
- iv. Invite other organisations to be represented.
- v. Develop an effective communication structure across the county.

For further information on the North Yorkshire Voice Executive contact a member of the Voice, Influence and Participation team by e mailing VIP@northyorks.gov.uk or by calling 01609 532170.

Appendix 1

- **Background:**

The Children's Trust Board recognised the need for the creation of a North Yorkshire Youth Council Executive, with representatives coming from each of the each of the specialist groups and also the youth councils within North Yorkshire.

- **What will the Executive do and what will it be responsible for?**

The North Yorkshire Youth Council Executive will meet with the Executive Members and the Corporate Director for Children and Young People Services as well as Leaders from district councils, the police, health and local companies.

- **It will be responsible for:**

- Commissioning and Producing a Young and Yorkshire action plan.
- Overseeing and supporting the work of the various groups represented.
- Providing guidance to and engaging in consultation with Executive Members, the Corporate Director for Children and Young People Services, leaders from district councils, the police, health and local companies.
- The nomination of 3 members and deputies to the UK Youth Parliament.

- **How often will the Executive meet?**

The Executive will meet three times in a year; you will be expected to attend all of the meetings and if needed support will be provided with transport to and from the venue.

- **How can I get involved?**

Each of the county wide youth voice groups will be asked to choose two people from their group to represent them at the Executive.

- **What else will I need to do as a member of the Executive?**

Well as already mentioned you will need to ensure that you speak to your local groups about what is being discussed and planned at the Executive but more importantly ensuring the views and thoughts of those you represent are shared with the Executive Members and the Corporate Director for Children and Young People Services as well as Leaders from district councils, the police, health and local companies.

The executive will be supported by North Yorkshire County Council's Voice, Influence and Participation team. For further information contact Kathy Peacock - Participation Manager for Selby, Ryedale and Scarborough: 01609 532107 or Kevin Jeffrey - Participation Manager for Harrogate, Craven, Hambleton and Richmond: 01609 535931

Appendix 2

Organisations Represented

- Foundation Housing
- Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust
- North Yorkshire County Council
- North Yorkshire Police
- North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board

Youth Voice Groups Represented

- Flying High
- Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust - Young Peoples Panel
- Harrogate Youth Council
- LGBT
- Military Kids Club
- Police and Crime Commissioner - Young Peoples Panel
- Scarborough Youth Council
- Young Advisors
- Young Carers
- Young Peoples Council