

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

30th July 2013

Report of the Derbyshire Youth Council

Derbyshire Youth Council – (Children and Young People)

1. Purpose of Report

To inform Cabinet of the work undertaken by Derbyshire Youth Council (DYC).

2. Information and Analysis

Aims

The current Youth Council has been in office since April 2012 and has four key aims:

1. To improve the lives of young people in Derbyshire, particularly through the improvement of services offered to young people by Derbyshire County Council.
2. To ensure that young people are directly consulted on all issues that are likely to have a significant impact on their well-being, and providing a system through which this consultation can occur.
3. To encourage more young people to become involved in their local community.
4. To promote the views held by young people about wider issues, such as the environment and global responsibility.

Action Groups

The Youth Council has recently set up five action groups concerning Transport, Youth Opportunities, Environment, Drug Abuse and Publicity to help achieve those aims listed above. Details of their work can be found in the minutes from the DYC Cabinet meeting of 21st May 2013. Each group can be contacted through the DYC.

Other Projects

The DYC is currently organising a “SleepOut” event to be held in Chesterfield in November to raise funds and awareness for homeless

young people. A Special Schools Forum has recently been set up to ensure that young people with special needs are fully represented. The DYC is also strongly interested in both the development of the new Services for Teenagers website and the plans for the New Youth Offer, and will ensure that young people are adequately consulted on both issues and that the final outcomes meet the needs of young people in Derbyshire.

Future Plans

The DYC is reforming its system of procedures in order to increase the organisation's independence and self-sufficiency, as well as its effectiveness at meeting the needs of young people in Derbyshire. The formation of the action groups was a part of this process. Particular areas of focus are: establishing firm procedures for administration, such as minutes and agendas, improving cohesion between the DYC full council, Cabinet and district forums, improving the public awareness and transparency of the DYC and establishing firm procedures for communication and co-operation with other areas of DCC, in issues such as requesting finance. The DYC may look towards the procedures of DCC and DCC Cabinet when addressing these aims.

A Youth Council Cabinet meeting was held on 21st May 2013 and a number of key issues were discussed. Minutes of the meeting are attached.

3. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered – prevention of crime & disorder, equality of opportunity, and environmental, health, legal & human rights, property and transport considerations.

4. Background Papers

Minutes of the DYC Cabinet meeting, 21st May 2013

5. Key Decision?

No

6. Call-in

Is it required that the Call-in period be waived in respect of the decisions being proposed in this report? No.

7. Recommendation

Cabinet to note the work of Derbyshire Youth Council and accept the minutes of the meeting on the 21st May 2013.

**Ruairidh South
Derbyshire Youth Council**



Derbyshire Youth Council Cabinet – 21st May 2013

Meeting Minutes

Present: Youth Councillors: Abbie Hall, April Lucy Jordan, David Lovell, Hugh Raymond Wood, Isobel McNulty, Jacob Hawker, Kieran Bradley, Liam Clarke, Luis Sutton, Marco Williams, Martyn Bonham, Ruairidh South, Sam Thompson, Storme Presland, Thomas Harvey, Will Walker, Robert King (Youth Scrutiny). Staff: Cllr Kevin Gillott, Cllr Jim Coyle, Ian Thomas (CAYA Strategic Director), Bish Sharif (Head of Services for Teenagers), Chris Campbell (Integrated Youth Support Manager), Rachel Sidebottom (Integrated Youth Support Officer), Wendy Eyre, (DCC Communications Manager), Claire Hannon (DCC Assistant Communications Officer), Ed (FluidIT), Hayley Homer, Neil Onyon, Ruth Pownall, Linda Piper, Errol Squire, Heather Miles, Chris Wright (DCC District Youth Workers).

Apologies: Adam Hoyes, Helen Greenall, James Benton, Aiknaath Jain, Joe Ramsay, Rebecca Saunby, Jordan Stringer, Danielle Hutton (Youth Scrutiny), Cllr Damien Greenhalgh, Mel Meggs (Assistant Director, Universal and Targeted Services).

- 1. Congratulations to Liam Clarke:** Ian Thomas started the meeting by thanking Liam Clarke for all of his hard work over the past year as Chairman of the Derbyshire Youth Council (DYC). The Youth Cabinet also thanked Liam and wished him well for the future.
- 2. Minutes from previous meeting:** Liam Clarke gave out the minutes from the DYC Cabinet meeting on 26th March 2013 to be approved by the Cabinet. Bish Sharif made an amendment to the first item, as the

minutes stated that Derbyshire schools would provide careers advice from December, whereas the date should have been September. The Cabinet accepted this amendment. The Cabinet then approved the minutes as being an accurate representation of the meeting. Bish also apologised that the cost benefit analysis for UCAS Progress was not yet available. This was due to the difficulty of the analysis.

3. **Welcome to new County Councillors:** Liam Clarke welcomed the two County Councillors who were attending the meeting: Kevin Gillott, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, and Jim Coyle, Deputy Cabinet Member.
4. **Special Schools Forum Terms of Reference:** Jacob Hawker submitted the proposed Terms of Reference for the new Special Schools Forum for approval by the Cabinet. **They were approved unanimously.**
5. **Action Groups:** Liam Clarke asked representatives from each of the Action Groups to feedback on their progress. Chris Campbell told the Cabinet that she will be contacting Derbyshire County Council (DCC) departments to provide them with the action plans.
 - a. **Transport:** Marco Williams told the Cabinet that the Transport Group aimed to make public transport cheaper, explore the possibility of using phone apps to improve service, and providing a universal bus ticket.
 - b. **Publicity:** April Jordan told the Cabinet that the Publicity Group was contacting local officials to make them more aware of the DYC and they were also planning a Question Time and workshops event to raise publicity.
 - c. **Environment:** Martyn Bonham told the Cabinet that the Environment Group had decided to focus on renewable energy. The group will explore the possibility of linking the DYC with a renewable energy pressure group, contact DCC for details on their renewable energy policy and create a presentation on renewable energy. The group has also set up a blog.
 - d. **Drugs:** Abbie Hall and Luis Sutton said that the Drugs Group would raise awareness of the consequences of taking drugs in order that young people can make informed decisions. They will also work to improve the support given to young drug users.

- e. **Working Life:** Sam Thompson and Jacob Hawker told the Cabinet that their group would focus on improving the quality and availability of work experience placements. They will work with the new website development and UCAS Progress teams to explore the possibility of a work experience database.
- 6. **Youth Offer branding competition:** Sam Thompson reminded the Cabinet about the competition to rebrand the New Youth Offer. Please promote it widely as the closing date is 14th June and the winning prize is an I-Pad2. Ian Thomas told the Cabinet that the new Labour County Council had paused the New Youth Offer, but that the competition would still go ahead. He also informed the Cabinet that DCC had promised an extra £250,000 of spending on Youth Services.
- 7. **New Youth Scrutiny members:** Liam Clarke presented Isobel McNulty and Martyn Bonham as the two new members of the Youth Scrutiny Group. They were elected at the DYC Conference on 11th May 2013.
- 8. **Transport Survey:** Marco Williams presented a survey on transport issues to the Cabinet for suggestions. Ruairidh South suggested that more check boxes should be used. David Lovell suggested that a question on disabled accessibility should be included. April Jordan suggested that the term "Mango Card" should be changed, as the card isn't available across Derbyshire. Marco accepted these amendments.
- 9. **Services for Teenagers website:** Wendy Eyre (DCC Digital Communications Manager) introduced Claire Hannon (DCC Assistant Communications Officer) and Ed from FluidIT, the company designing the website.
 - a. **Research:** Ed described the research that had taken place, including two focus groups and a usability testing session. The focus groups gave feedback on colours and titles.
 - b. **b_Line:** Ed explained that they had decided to use the b_Line brand. Several members of the Cabinet were opposed to this, as they felt that b_Line was outdated and had bad connotations. Martyn Bonham supported the b_Line brand as it is already well established. Ruairidh South suggested that the website should use the same branding as the New Youth Offer. Wendy said that

she would take on board negative comments about the b_Line magazine.

- c. **DYC Involvement:** Liam Clarke expressed concern that the DYC logo was not included in the website, and he felt that the DYC had not been consulted as fully as possible. Ed explained that the website was always evolving. Wendy said she had taken on board input from the DYC.
- d. **Further Questions:** Sam Thompson said that he hoped for a work experience section to be included. Isobel asked how the website would be promoted, and Wendy responded that she would develop promotion with the DYC. Bish Sharif questioned how accessible the website would be to parents and isolated groups. Jacob Hawker asked if Special School pupils had been consulted.
- e. **Future Plans:** The Cabinet voted on whether the website team should work with the Publicity Action Group in the future rather than the full Cabinet. The vote was **passed** with **For: 12 Against: 4**

10. AOB

- a. **Disabled Accessibility:** David Lovell brought up the issue of improving accessibility for disabled young people in Derbyshire. It was suggested that he should work with the Inclusion Team and the Youth Scrutiny Group to examine the current situation.
- b. **Publicity:** Storme Presland expressed her concern that there is not enough public awareness of the DYC. Liam Clarke suggested that she work with the Publicity Action Group to improve the situation.
- c. **Councillor Kevin Gillott:** Cllr Kevin Gillott told the Cabinet that he was extremely impressed by their work and conduct. He said that he and Cllr Jim Coyle had listened carefully to all the issues raised. He also wants to develop a mechanism for DYC issues to reach the DCC Cabinet.