



CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

6 JUNE 2019

MEDWAY YOUTH COUNCIL – ANNUAL REPORT

Report from: Medway Youth Council

Authors: Angela Taylor, Youth Participation Worker
Thomas Baldock, Chair, Medway Youth Council
Roli Enonuya, Vice-Chair, Medway Youth Council
Teri Reynolds, Democratic Services Officer

Summary

The report set out at the Appendix, prepared by the Medway Youth Council (MYC), provides the committee with information about the work undertaken by the Medway Youth Council in the term of 2018-19.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

1.1 The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee has responsibility for scrutinising services relating to children and young people in Medway and it was agreed that the Medway Youth Council present this report to the Committee to demonstrate its work over 2018-19.

2. Background

2.1 The Medway Youth Council (MYC) was founded in 1999 as the Medway Youth Parliament, and is celebrating its 20th year of being founded. MYC has requested to share with the committee the work it has completed in the term of 2018-19, providing information about its role in championing the voice of young people.

2.2 MYC hosts annual elections for cabinet positions, the leadership of MYC, the report attached at the Appendix gives further details of the work undertaken by this administration.

3. Key points from 2018-19

- 3.1 Medway's Make Your Mark Result 2018 was 10186, meaning over 10,000 young people voted on the most important issue to them. This result represents a 100% increase on the 2017 result and 37% of the youth population that we represent.
The top 5 issues from Medway were:
- Put an End to Knife Crime (2334 votes)
 - Mental Health (2253 votes)
 - Equal Pay for Equal Work (1003 votes)
 - Let's Tackle Homelessness (965 votes)
 - End Period Poverty (887 votes)
- 3.2 Medway Youth Council established a new system of membership, allowing any young person to become consulted on issues through our network without the responsibilities of being a full member.
- 3.3 MYC established an online platform by which members communicate and can run consultations, helping to make the organisation increasingly accessible.
- 3.4 MYC was represented at the National Citizen Service (NCS) Political Question Time event alongside local politicians presenting an a-political youth perspective on issues.
- 3.5 The MYC Chair now meets on a regular basis with the Operations Manager of the Youth Service, working on projects to increase the empowerment of young people.
- 3.6 MYC also supported the Youth Service's 'Hearby Right' scheme.
- 3.7 MYC's 2018 Conference 'Are You[TH] Safe?' was a big success, with the report distributed widely and work being undertaken to address the concerns of Medway's young people. It was also presented to Medway Safeguarding Children Board (MSCB) by our Chair.
- 3.8 MYC took part in several community events throughout the year, including, Holocaust Memorial Day, Celebrating Votes for Women, Meeting the crew of HMS Medway and hosting the Youth Speaks competition.
- 3.9 MYC continues to collaborate with other youth forums such as YPAG (Youth Police Advisory Group) and Medway Children and Young People Council (MCYPC).
- 3.10 MYC worked again with Arriva raising the views of young people on their services and will collaborate to tackle them.
- 3.11 We also worked with the Medway NHS Foundation Trust, as young people continue to have strong views on the health services.

- 3.12 MYC worked with Medway Council on the Medway Young Champions project.
- 3.13 MYC organised the Medway's UK Youth Parliament elections, MYPs are 2 elected representatives who attend the National Youth Parliament run by the British Youth Council. For the first time these elections were open to all young people in Medway meaning greater legitimacy for the candidates once elected.
- 3.14 The previous Members of Youth Parliament attended the 2018 House of Commons sitting, where they brought forward the views of Medway's young people nationally.
- 3.15 Cabinet members of MYC played an active role on the CYP O&S Committee making many contributions throughout the year.
- 3.16 Throughout the year MYC was able to get its message out into the wider community with features in the Medway Messenger, Medway Matters, The Political Medway, KMFM, Medway Today, Twitter, and on YouTube.
- 3.17 The Medway Youth Council hosted a 20th Year Anniversary Celebration inviting former members to share their experiences and memories of their time, while also reflecting on the impact we have made over the last 20 years.
- 3.18 MYC held a meeting with Chatham & Aylesford Member of Parliament Tracey Crouch and will meet with Kent Police & Crime Commissioner Matthew Scott.
- 3.19 MYC is working with Medway Youth Service again for the 2019 Medway Youth Awards, an event that celebrates the outstanding young people and adults in Medway.

4. The Conclusion of 2018-19

- 4.1 In summary the MYC felt it had another successful year of giving a voice to the young people in Medway who do not have the vote. We have increased awareness of the youth council within Medway and see our membership become increasingly diverse in all sorts of characteristics. Awareness of MYC has increased throughout the community amongst both adults and young people.

5. Risk Management

- 5.1 There are no specific risk implications for Medway Council arising directly from this report.

6. Legal and Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no legal or financial implications for the Council arising from this report.

7. Recommendation

7.1. Members are asked to note the Medway Youth Council Report 2019, attached at the Appendix to this report.

Lead officer:

Andy Willets - Head of Early Help and Targeted Services
Tel: 01634 338197 Email: andrew.willets@medway.gov.uk

Appendices

Appendix – MYC Annual Report 2019

Background papers:

Medway's Make Your Mark (2018) - <https://questor-cms.s3.amazonaws.com/MYC/PDF/MakeYourMarkReport.pdf>

Arriva Medway Bus Service Report - <https://questor-cms.s3.amazonaws.com/MYC/PDF/BusSurvey.pdf>

MYC Annual Conference Report (2018) - <https://questor-cms.s3.amazonaws.com/MYC/PDF/MYC2018ConferenceReport.pdf>

MYC Marketing Report (2019) - <https://questor-cms.s3.amazonaws.com/MYC/PDF/YouthCouncilMarketingReport.pdf>

MYC O & S Minuted Contributions Report - <https://questor-cms.s3.amazonaws.com/MYC/PDF/O%26SMYCMinuted.pdf>