

## **COUNCIL**

**16 JULY 2020**

# **MEDWAY YOUTH COUNCIL ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT**

Report from: Medway Youth Council

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(Vice Chair of MYC)

### **Summary**

This is a report from Medway Youth Council Annual Conference held in November 2019 on the subject of Climate Change and protecting the environment.

At its meeting on 2 June 2020, the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommended that the report be reported to Full Council.

### **1. Budget and Policy Framework**

1.1 The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed that a report on the outcomes of Medway Youth Council (MYC) Annual Conference be presented to the Committee on an annual basis.

### **2. Background**

2.1 The Youth Council, following a debate amongst members and as a direct result from the 2019 Make your Mark national youth vote, chose the topic of climate change and protecting the environment.

2.2 They explored three main areas looking at the impact of climate change on nature and the environment, what direct action can young people take, and who is responsible for climate change.

2.3 The report attached at Appendix 1 gives further details of the Conference and key findings from each of the three areas.

### **3. Conclusions of conference**

3.1 The conference provided an effective platform for the young people of Medway to voice their views on issues affecting climate change. With the use of teamwork and carefully planned workshops, Medway Youth Council were able to gather a reliable representative range of feedback from young people, enabling them to effectively represent and work on these issues.

3.2 The majority of young people at the conference considered climate change to be a critical issue and that everyone could do their bit to make an impact.

3.3 Medway Youth Council have detailed a number of actions that will impact on climate change, which include (and are set out at page 21 of the report at Appendix 1:

- MYC will work with schools and community groups to conduct an annual audit of the waste they produce, how much they recycle and other actions to support climate change and the environment.
- Following this, in partnership with Medway Council, MYC will suggest changes to improve recycling, reduce non-recyclable waste and encourage other positive environmental changes. MYC will also work in partnership to promote classroom climate education. All progress will be reviewed annually alongside the audit, supported by MYC members, school councils and community groups.
- MYC will encourage education that helps young people share knowledge with their families to improve recycling and making choices to help the environment.
- MYC will revisit these actions at each full council and members will build links with their schools to deliver the audit. The Portfolio Holder for Education and Schools has met with Medway Youth Council and he has agreed to support them with their aims and objectives, and school engagement.

#### **4. Risk management**

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

#### **5. Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 2 June 2020**

5.1 The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the report at its meeting on 2 June and a summary of the discussion is set out below.

5.2 The Medway Youth Council (MYC) Chair introduced the report which provided the Committee with the findings of the MYC Annual Conference on Climate Change. It had highlighted that protecting the environment had been a key priority for young people and provided an effective platform for the young people of Medway to voice their views on issues affecting climate change. The conference had enabled Medway Youth Council to gather a reliable representative range of feedback from young people, enabling them to effectively represent and work on these issues.

5.3 In terms of outcomes, the MYC Chair explained that MYC would work with schools and community groups to conduct an annual audit of the waste they produced and recycling levels. Alongside the audit MYC would monitor progress in relation to improvements in recycling, reductions of non-recyclable waste and help promote classroom climate education.

5.4 A suggestion was made that the report should be shared with primary schools and this was welcomed by the MYC Chair who undertook to explore ways of doing this.

5.5 The Committee thanked Medway Youth Council for the report and recommended that it be reported to full Council and the Climate Change Advisory Group.

## **6. Implications for Looked After Children**

6.1 The outcomes and ambitions of the report are relevant to all children and young people. Medway Youth Council will share the report with Medway Children and Young people Council and the Medway Virtual School to raise awareness.

## **7. Climate Change Implications**

7.1 The Annual Conference Report from the Youth council has implications for climate change. The actions from the report are about informing and educating young people about climate change and MYC plan to audit this on a regular basis to see if change has taken place.

## **8. Financial and legal implications**

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

## **9. Recommendations**

9.1 Council is asked to note the Medway Youth Council Annual Conference Report, attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

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### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Annual Medway Youth Council Conference Report 2019

### **Background papers**

None