

APPENDIX

Bristol City Youth Council End of Office report 2016 Chair

Within this report I am going to cover what we have achieved as a youth council during our term of office. We've achieved a lot over the last two years and so I'll try to cover as much of it as possible.

- In February 2015 over 10,000 young people voted on who they wanted to represent them on the Bristol City Youth Council. Since then we have had some of our young people leave to pursue various opportunities like university and so we voted in some new members.
- Our manifesto has been used to contribute ideas towards various different strategies, including the Children and Families strategy.
- After Nigel Evans from Ofsted took part in the regional UK Youth Parliament Question Time debate myself and a previous member of Youth Parliament for London, who now lives in Bristol, attended a regional meeting of Ofsted, to give ideas on student voice and how to listen to young people during Ofsted inspections. This led to young people who represent youth voice in the South West being offered the opportunity to elect representatives to the FES Reference Group. This group represents colleges of further education, independent learning providers, independent specialist colleges and providers of community learning and looks at how well Further Education providers are doing and how Ofsted inspects them.
- Members of the Youth Council were involved in interviews for positions of the Safeguarding Board.
- Members of the transport subgroup met with First Bus to discuss issues facing young people who use public transport
- Members of the Youth Council have been involved in the Councillor Shadowing Scheme working alongside councillors and attending special events. At the end of this they were invited to the Lord Mayor's Mansion House in celebration of the programme.

- In order to keep up to date with how well the youth services of Bristol are running we secured quarterly updates from Bristol Youth Links. This meant we were in constant contact with BYL and rather than them just coming to chat to us and then nothing coming from the conversations it meant that we got to know the outcomes of any suggestions or ideas.
- Bristol Young Heroes Awards is an annual gala dinner to celebrate the best of Bristol as found in the lives of its young people. We were invited to the dinner in both 2015 and '16 and have had members nominated for awards and presenting at the awards.
- We've also had members who made the Rife Magazine list of 24 Influential Bristolian's Under 24 in both 2015 and '16.
- Prior to the mayoral elections earlier this year we attended a mayoral hustings at the Station specifically aimed at young people. It was a really useful and informative evening.
- Earlier this year a couple of us attended the Learning Everywhere conference in which we had conversations about learning outside the classroom. Many of the adults in attendance were staff of primary schools so it was very useful being there as we gave the perspective of slightly older students.
- We sent representatives to the British Youth Council Annual Council meeting in Coventry and submitted three motions: 'Stop and Search Rights', 'Corporate Sustainability' and 'Involvement in local level politics', all of which passed.
- We have taken part in many consultations including the Budget Consultation, the Youth Strategy Consultation, the Young People's Housing & Independence Plan consultation and the Place Scrutiny Consultation offering the viewpoints of younger people.
- Finally, we hosted a debate recently on whether Bristol should be a SugarSmart city. The debate covered some interesting points including education and advertising.

Whilst this final report covers a lot of what we have done it is only a very short list of points and we have taken part in a lot of special events. If you have any questions about anything else we may have achieved we would be happy to answer them.

Youth Mayors

In our one year's term as Youth Mayors, I would say that Elise and I have played a part in making progress on several key issues, including Mental Health, Work Experience, and Education. I would summarise our key achievements as:

- Working alongside the Mayor to ensure that providing a range of high quality work experience placements is a priority for businesses in Bristol. This was achieved, in part, by raising it at the 'City Office', a network of some of the largest employers in the region, so that they understand how crucial Work Experience can be in preparing young people for working life.
- Raising the profile of mental wellbeing for young people in Bristol, in a number of ways. After discussing the issue with the Mayor, we decided that the best way to improve awareness of mental wellbeing was to improve education for young people in Bristol, both in terms of maintaining positive mental wellbeing, and recognising signs of mental health conditions in themselves and others. Following on from this, Elise and I have drafted a letter detailing how we feel the city should go about this, and we intend to send this letter to city leaders on the subject, to try and create some traction. Going forward, I feel the best way to achieve a tangible change would be to meet with the Primary and Secondary Heads' associations, to try and encourage them to adopt mental wellbeing education as part of their curriculum.
- Engaging more young people in discussions about diet and health. Elise and I were recently involved with running a debate for young people, regarding the idea of Bristol becoming a 'Sugar Smart' city. The debate enabled us to discuss the issue on local television and radio, which will hopefully start conversations locally about sugar intake, and diet more generally. I would like to see the Youth Mayors play a large part in the development of the 'Sugar Smart' initiative, as it is an issue that disproportionately impacts young people, and having a young person's input could help it be as successful as possible.
- Supporting the Mayor in his efforts to make PSHEE a compulsory part of the school curriculum. Improving Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) provision in Bristol schools was a priority for me and Elise going into our term of office, and seeing it being taken so seriously not only by the Mayor, but also the Police and Crime Commissioner and other city leaders is a positive step in achieving real change. We plan to take this further, not only by meeting with the PCC, but also by contacting other youth councils regionally and nationally, to try and put it firmly on the political agenda.
- Utilising the Mayor's influence to improve youth engagement in politics. Working with Marvin, we have tried to improve communication with schools, and encouraged them to participate in schemes such as the UK Youth Parliament's Make Your Mark Ballot, and Bristol's Big Youth Vote (which takes place in February). We also organised a successful event with the Speaker of the House

of Commons, John Bercow, who spoke to, and answered questions from, young people representing several youth groups and forums. The ambition behind these efforts is to reduce youth disengagement in politics, a key issue in the years ahead. In future, I would like to see more work done in this area, especially in terms of improving political education and communication between schools and democratic bodies (the City Council/Local MPs).

Over the course of our term of office, I feel we have successfully campaigned on a wide range of issues, including those we prioritised at the start of the year. Against a backdrop of budget cuts and political uncertainty, the progress we have made in our campaigns is more significant than I had expected, and I hope that this continues in the last few months of our term of office, and beyond.

I would like to close this report by thanking the City Council for its continued support of the Youth Mayors, and youth democracy more generally.

Ella Marshall

My time as a Member of the Bristol City Youth Council has been the most formative and empowering period of my life so far. I would not be the confident, outspoken person I am today, and I would definitely not have gained the contacts and support network I now have without BCYC and tireless work of Martin, Claire, Carl and Pete. In terms of the impact we have had as a political, democratically elected body, I am slightly more skeptical. Often it has felt as though the Youth Council are overshadowed by the roles of the Youth Mayors and this has left little room for us all to have our voices heard. Moreover, I feel our campaigns have been limited due to us not being allocated money to spend - and I would strongly advocate the creation of a budget to be spent by the Youth Council campaign groups in the next term. I also believe there is work to be done in terms of improving communications with the wider youth community in Bristol. I believe it would be in the Bristol City Council's best interests to invest some time in raising the profile of the BCYC, which would not only increase the number of young people who vote in the next election but would also provide a more far-reaching and credible platform for them to consult young people in the future.

In instances where individual Youth Council members have discovered their areas of interest and pursued these, I think we have been hugely effective - with one example being my own founding of Freedom of Mind Festival. Without being a Member of the Bristol City Youth Council and a Member of Youth Parliament, Freedom of Mind C.I.C. simply wouldn't exist. Through the UKYP mental health campaign, I became familiar with a whole network of mental health campaigners and groups in Bristol, which allowed me to express and act on the frustrations I had based on my own and my peers

experiences of stigma and insufficient mental health services. The platform of the Bristol City Youth Council also allowed me to access and bid for funding, which was crucial in making Freedom of Mind the large, citywide event that it became. My original vision was largely regarded as too ambitious but, along with the strong team of volunteers I recruited along the way, we pulled it off. I would encourage the council and all its related committee boards to fully invest in and support any future “ambitious” ideas that Youth Council members have from the offset - more than verbally, if possible. Freedom of Mind Festival was an all-encompassing eleven day series of events that initiated conversation, education and change around the way that many Bristolians view and speak of their own mental health. It fostered positive attitudes and deconstructed stigma - every one of our events was either nearly full or oversubscribed, and many we were able to put on for free due to the generosity of various organisations. Freedom of Mind is testament to the power of young people in terms of making change - and I look forward to continuing the Freedom of Mind partnership with the Bristol City Youth Council for years to come.

Jack Payne

In February, I was elected as one of the MYPs for the city of Bristol. Since speaking in May to the newly elected Bristol city council, I have achieved a lot. I was elected to be the youth parliament representative for the south region on the NHS National Youth Forum. The campaign I was elected on for the NHS Youth Forum was disability rights which coincide with my youth parliament campaign. I have so far been on two residential with the NHS Youth Forum. In July I went to the annual sitting where I passed a motion which went into the UK Youth Parliament Manifesto. The motion was passed on the idea of a more inclusive politics for disabled people. In October I was chosen to deliver a speech at the dispatch box at the annual UKYP sitting at the House of Commons. This speech was based on a better kinder democracy, but focused on the idea of a more inclusive politics for disabled people. I delivered the speech on the 11th of November at the dispatch box in the House of Commons. In Conclusion, I have triumphantly campaigned for the issues that I was elected on, Disability rights. From speaking at the House of Commons to being involved in an national NHS policymaking group, this year has been successful.

Ebony Clark

I'm a member of Bristol city youth council representing South Bristol it's been a busy year not just for me but for all of the youth council and I can safely say I've enjoyed

every minute of it and im pretty sure everyone else has too! These are memories I will carry with me for life.

I have recently been named as one of Bristol's 24 most influential people under the age of 24 –that; and being named Bristol's overall young hero for 2016 is an honour and a privilege and in having the privilege to be Bristol's overall young hero for 2016 it has only proved that people are not only passionate about giving young people in Bristol a voice but also opportunities as well.

Many of the Youth council took part in the councillor shadowing scheme where we shadowed our local councillors I shadowed Helen Holland it was a great insight into the daily politics of Bristol and what goes on in our neighbourhood. Shadowing Helen was very fun I learnt a lot and had experiences that will last a lifetime, infect it was so fun that we went over the hours we were supposed to we were supposed to do 10hrs worth but ended up doing about a months' worth! Through the shadowing scheme we have developed links with some of our neighbourhood partnerships and we hope we can develop these contacts in the future.

In this time I have become a learning city ambassador in which every month there's a new theme and at the start of the year I created my learning story.

We have taken part in many debates including the recent should we become a Sugar Smart City which I have to say was very fun. We have had the chance to take part in many presentations and I've also recently attended the listening partnership and I sat in front of many important people at that meeting.

I have worked at developing links with the listening partnership and have worked with developing new youth groups for young disabled people. In which I have made contacts with people like Nikita Singh and many others.

I have become an equalities Champion in my community, whereas young people we looked at ways of tackling discrimination. It is my hope that the new youth council will roll this out into more communities within our city, So that we can all take a lead on challenging discrimination in all forms.

We have sat on interview panels interviewing people from doctors to many of your managers to some of the highest people in the council , many of us have contributed to Young Healthwatch and have been involved in decision making, we've sat on the shadow safeguarding board and have done so much more.

I have recently started writing for Rife magazine on disability. This is just another way of getting my voice heard and speaking out for many other young disabled people in Bristol. Recently I have learnt to embrace my disability and through rife I can help young disabled people who read the magazine.

In the two years I have been on the youth council I have become a more confident person and with the elections coming up in February there's an opportunity for more young people's voices to be heard. I am standing again so hopefully ill be speaking to you all and nagging councillors again soon.

Neha Mehta

I represent the North of Bristol. Two years ago Thanushan and I were elected as Youth Mayors on our campaigns of tailored work experience and improved careers advice. We were fortunate enough to have the opportunity to sit on the learning city partnership board with key influential leaders that represent all sectors in the city from education to business. Within merely two years I feel I have learnt so much and achieved a lot.

Thanushan and I both became learning ambassadors where we helped develop, promote and celebrate the learning opportunities in Bristol. We attended meetings where we discussed new ideas and strategies to really advocate learning throughout all ages and ways to bring communities together by learning.

I had the amazing chance to share my learning story and speak at the Bristol Girls Make It campaign launch, an organisation that encourages the uptake of STEM subjects by women and challenges the stereotypes associated with these careers.

Another highlight from our two-year involvement with the board was inputting and observing the development of the Engagement Hub. At meetings we discussed the imminent and potential problems and ways to fully utilise the space to fit students' needs. At the Engagement hub launch I was able to ask Leigh Hughes from Bouygues UK about how to develop the local workforce and what his company has done to do that. I also asked Sally Apps from Bristol Metropolitan why she thought it was important for young people to have experience outside school and how her school creates these opportunities.

We have both thoroughly enjoyed our time on the Learning City Partnership Board and have really got an insight into how much work and planning goes on behind the scenes.

We want to thank all the board members and look forward to seeing what Bristol Learning City will look like in the future.

Molly Flitcroft

Hi. I'm Molly. I am going to talk about the Bristol Safeguarding Childrens Shadow Board. So far this year we have been working on recruiting people to join the board and the 'our opinion' survey. We have made a model of what the board will hopefully look like. We hope to have a chair and vice chair, 5 people from equalities groups, one person each from: a charity group, a health group, a homelessness group, a neighbourhoods group, schools, from BCYC and a media rep. All of these people will represent their groups and feedback to and from them, they will also all have deputies in case they are not able to make the meetings. We will also have adults to support the young people. We created an application form, to send out to schools and different youth groups, from our membership criteria. After we have had the application forms back in, we aim to have a 'mock' meeting for the short listed applicants and individual interviews. We have decided to have monthly meetings rather than our original once a quarter meetings. So far this year we have also been working on the 'our opinion' survey. This is a survey about safeguarding that will be sent out to schools around Bristol which we aim to have sent out soon along with the application forms.