

## Children's service Overview and Scrutiny

### Briefing Note: Youth Cabinet Update – December 2020

**Purpose of the briefing note:**

The Youth Cabinet would like to provide committee with an update of their work.



- 1.1 This year, we have been working with the British Youth Parliament to carry out Make Your Mark campaign which is a yearly event where young people get to vote on important topics. The highest scoring topics are then brought to the Houses of Parliament for debate. Usually, the Youth Cabinet will send out ballots and tallies to schools for them to get students votes however, due to COVID 19, this year votes will be cast via an online form which takes only 5 minutes to fill out. These can be used as good PSHE topics for students to learn about important events in their community. The closing date was 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020 and we have ensured all schools and colleges were contacted via the link [tinyurl.com/y39p45uc](https://tinyurl.com/y39p45uc)
- 1.2 The Youth Cabinet members will be piloting a working group with EWMHS and NHS mental health workers, to explore the barriers to BAME young people accessing mental health services. Youth Cabinet members will design the questions and lead the working group around mental health. Once this has been piloted with young people in Thurrock, we will share this model across wider Essex.
- 1.3 Members have been sharing their thoughts with Young Thurrock to shape their provision for young people. An example of this, we suggested a chill out online session for young people to chat informally and get to know other young people during lockdown two which has been included in the term time provision.
- 1.4 In October, we were able to speak with Roy Dignum Acting Head of Thurrock Music Services about the decline of music lessons within Thurrock. Roy came with several questions that we were able to work through together and consider

new ideas and provide useful feedback for the team. A member of youth cabinet will sit on the music hub board in the New Year to provide further youth representation.

- 1.5 We are currently developing a system to provide 'curriculum for life' content to schools to encourage them to teach students about topics such as finance and sexual health. It will be designed for young people by young people. Our current plan for the system to feature larger umbrella topics with many five-minute subtopics underneath them. These subtopics can then be joined together into longer lessons so that schools can host a lesson anywhere between 5 minutes to an hour long. We will have consulted to find out what topics SEND and non-SEND young people would be interested in.
- 1.6 Brighter futures are updating their strategy plan and they are asking young people about views on a range of things that affect, or would improve their health and wellbeing. This will be through short video clips from different young people across Thurrock that will be collated into a short film.
- 1.7 Young Thurrock will be launching a new project called Young Inspectors which aims to ensure young people across Thurrock are getting the best service. Young inspectors will be a group of young people who will carry out inspections of services and produce a report with ratings and recommendations. This will be piloted in the New Year with a SEND cohort.

**For any questions regarding this briefing note, please contact:**

**Name:** Roberta Fontaine

**Telephone:**  click this box once - type the telephone number of the report author

**E-mail:** [rfontaine@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:rfontaine@thurrock.gov.uk)