

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE MEMBER CHAMPION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE 2020/2021

Youth Council/Youth Parliament and London Youth Assembly 2020/2021

This report covers the period from May 2020 to May 2021 and will update on different projects/campaigns from the Youth Council, Youth Parliament and London Youth Assembly. This year has been a challenging year with lockdowns, home education and separation from family and friends. Youth council meetings changed from face to face to virtual meetings and continued working and creating projects.

Youth Council/ Parliament Members met with:

- Mental Health Awareness Training (MIND Cllr C. White)
- TravelWatch TFL Campaign (zip cards)
- Visit to meeting by Cllr Tele Lawal
- Borough Commander visit – Q&A session
- Visit to meeting by IOPC – Independent Office Police Conduct
- Education re Black Curriculum
- Havering member LYA election – Youth Council elected for a member for London Youth Assembly this is a 2 year position
- BME Forum Chair – Felicia Borshin visited in October for Black History Month and shared her story
- Virtual Escape Room – Fun for Half Term!
- Tri Borough Police Engagement - meeting with youth forums from B&D and Redbridge and police
- Involvement with #bekindyoungoggin Campaign
- Visit from staff member regarding Housing Strategy
- CEO from The Black Curriculum visited to speak about the work being done to include black curriculum
- Police Engagement Meeting – discussion on recent events (Sarah Everad and Vigil)
- MYP delivered session on Plastics Campaign
- Visit by Safer Neighbourhood Board Chair and Team Manager of IASS (Integrated Adolescent Safeguarding Service)

Other meetings attended in Havering

- Community Engagement Forum – Youth Council involved with the Project and attend meetings and are part of different projects
- Havering Youth Council involved in a Tri Borough Project with B&D, Redbridge and Clinical Commission Group to form a questionnaire on how young people are feeling and coping during the lockdown. All three Boroughs had sub groups that met via Zoom. This report will go towards planning of services needed in the three boroughs. Concerns are around Education, future dreams and aspirations, mental and physical health and the uncertainty. In November there was Lockdown 2 survey which extended to North East London, including Waltham Forest, Hackney, Newham and Tower Hamlets.
- Youth Council Member attended READI Review

- MYP is member of Safer Neighbourhood Board and attended meetings over the past year
- 3 members of Youth Council are members of Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel



Members of Youth Parliament (MYP)

In September 2020 Havering youth representatives attended UK Youth Parliament Annual Sitting to debate the issues affecting young people. The issues are voted for the top 10 which is the Make Your Mark Ballot.

Make Your Mark is a UK-wide ballot which gives young people aged 11-18 the chance to decide what Members of Youth Parliament should debate and vote on in the House of Commons.

This year was quite different due to the pandemic and voting was online only in partnership with Parliament. These are the campaigns for the following year.

- **Free University** - *We should invest in the young people of today by providing free university. The alternative is that young people will suffer financial hardship and not reach their full potential. (Devolved topic)*
- **Support Our Mental Health** - *More money should be given for young people's mental health. We should be offered mental health support in schools and ensure that teachers know about mental health. (Devolved topic)*
- **Take Action on the Climate Emergency: Stop Plastic Pollution** - *If we do not take action now, it is predicted that waste plastics will outweigh fish in our oceans by 2050. Let's reduce single-use and non-essential plastics (UK wide topic)*

How Havering Voted: *Havering were in Top 5 in London*

HAVERING Votes:

<p><u>UK Issues for Havering:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Free university 2. Support our Mental Health 3. Increase racial awareness in the curriculum 	<p><u>Local issues included:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Domestic Abuse 2. Homelessness 3. Access to training and jobs
--	---

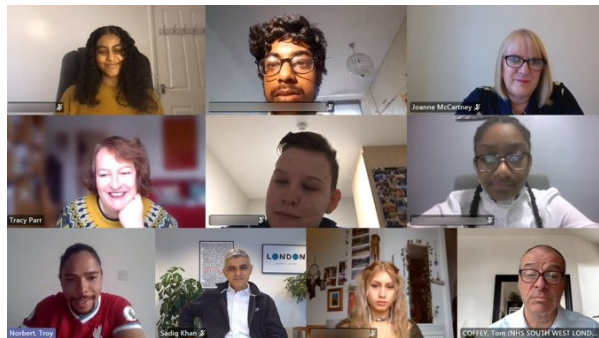
Due to the pandemic, all sessions were on line and the annual visit to House of Commons cancelled.

Havering MYP was elected by other MYP's in London, to represent them as lead in the campaign to Stop Plastic Pollution. She co-hosted an online Convention event with British Youth Council on Saturday 8th May for youth parliament members and youth representatives from London and South East – 4 young people from Havering attended.



London Youth Assembly

Havering have two members for a 2-year role. Both have attended meetings with other members across London and attended sub regional meetings for the North East Region. One member has been involved in Partnership for Young Londoners research regarding mental health and had a round table with Sadiq Khan.



She also spoke with Deputy Mayor Joanna McCartney regarding education and Black Curriculum. London Youth Assembly have also sent a survey over London to gather views on Education and impact over the past year.

March/April 2021 – Kooth Ambassadors

Youth Council members together with other young people in Havering attended workshops with Kooth (Mental Health app) to become Kooth Ambassadors. They presented to other young people about mental health and coping strategies. The plan going forward is for the ambassadors to present to other groups.



Other events that have been happening during the past year and during lockdown from Youth Influence and Participation Service via Zoom and some face to face work:

- Online sessions: Year 6 transition celebration for young people who are care experienced. Theme Afternoon Tea young people were sent cupcake making kits.
- Youth Club for care experienced young people moved online and 1 to 1 support if needed – Newsletters every 2 weeks with updates, things to do, mindful wellbeing support etc.
- Tea and Talk face to face meetings for very vulnerable young people in held at the myplace centre
- Outreach/detached work – to support young people in their communities throughout Havering. On streets, parks and in town centres. To give key health messages.
- ZOOM SEND sessions including exercise and well-being on a Sunday morning.
- LGBT plus groups- delivered on ZOOM. Guests, support, fun and referrals if required.
- Grl Academy – support and self-esteem group for young women.
- Goodfellas – online programme for young men. Safety, emotional literacy, relationship building and fun.
- Go Girls – delivered online to young women who have concerns around relationships, sexual health and body image.
- C-Card – condom scheme for young people to access at myplace – appointment only.
- The Children’s Inquiry – video performances of this amazing piece of work created by care experienced young people.
- Development of the “Pledge” by care experienced young people.

This has enabled young people to keep in contact and speak with one another, supporting with isolation and mental health.



Councillor Ciaran White