

Part I  
Item No: 0  
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All Wards

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
SOCIAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 16 JANUARY 2020  
REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR (HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES)

**YOUTH PARTNERSHIPS ANNUAL REPORT**

**1 Executive Summary**

- 1.1 Between April and December 2019 the delivery of partnerships work around young people was undertaken by our Youth Partnerships Co-ordinator.
- 1.2 The team has successfully engaged with the local community, and especially with young people across the borough. New partnerships, projects and relationships have also been developed with local, county and regional organisations.
- 1.3 Successes so far this financial year include; the delivery of a borough wide Year 12 business skills initiative called Challenge 12, the Borough's first Youth Mental Health Conference, BIG Summer '19, the creation the Welwyn Hatfield Youth Strategy and action plan and new Youth Council LGBTQ+ social media campaign.

**2 Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the content of this annual report.
- 2.2 That the Committee endorses the Youth Strategy and supports the implementation of the associated Action Plan.

**3 Explanation**

The Service's key activities and events over the past year are set out below:

**3.1 Challenge 12**

- 3.1.1 Created and delivered entirely by the Team, Challenge 12 was the replacement project for the Dragons Apprentice Challenge which the Council delivered for the past six years.
- 3.1.2 This new and unique initiative offered all Year 12 students across the Welwyn Hatfield Schools' Consortium the opportunity to gain business related skills and learn about the importance of decision making, teamwork, finance and communication in a practical and interactive way. The objective of Challenge 12 was for each school team to compete against each other and create a

fundraising event plan based on a charity theme that had pre-determined for them.

- 3.1.3 The key benefits of the Challenge 12 model is that it enables all year 12 students approx. 550 to participate rather than Dragons Apprentice which was limited to approx. 50 students.
- 3.1.4 The winning team from each school competed in the Challenge12 final which took place in May 2019 at Barclays Head Office, Canary Wharf, London whereby they were asked to develop an idea, concept and delivery plan for the WGC centenary celebrations finale event. The winning school for Challenge 12 2019 was Chancellors School who's idea of a "Afternoon Tea" event impressed the judges both as a creative idea and also with their pitch.
- 3.1.5 The event will take place again in January 2021 after agreement from all schools.

## 3.2 Youth Strategy

- 3.2.1 The Community Partnerships team worked with partners across the borough and council to populate the first Youth strategy for Welwyn Hatfield. The process also included a comprehensive consultation which took place in July and August 2019.
- 3.2.2 The strategy highlights the issues, potential barriers and challenges faced by young people aged 11-19 living in the Borough of Welwyn Hatfield and sets out what the council can do, both independently and in co-operation/ partnership with local statutory and voluntary groups, to ensure that young people living in Welwyn Hatfield have the opportunity to maximise their full potential and thrive.
- 3.2.3 Alongside this strategy is an Action Plan which will be reviewed and updated by the Welwyn Hatfield 11-19 Partnership every few months. Any significant issues or blockages relating to the delivery of the action plan will be passed up to the borough's Responsible Authority Group (Community Safety Partnership Strategic Group) which will work with strategic leads to review those actions.
- 3.2.4 This Action Plan will ensure that the council and its partners continue to drive forward actions seeking to improve the wellbeing and long term outcomes for young people in Welwyn Hatfield and ensure that the council is actively engaged with partners both locally through its 11-19 group partnership, and regionally.
- 3.2.5 The strategy and action plan will be updated annually and reported back to this committee, ensuring that the work delivered locally is specific to the needs of our local young people.
- 3.2.6 As highlighted in recommendation 2.2 it is hoped that this committee approves the strategy for publication.

## 3.3 BIG Summer'19

- 3.3.1 Following the success of the BIG Summer '18 over eight thousand people enjoyed taking part in various activities across the borough.
- 3.3.2 Summer 2019' campaign ran from 1<sup>st</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> August, a total of 51 local partners put over 400 individual sessions on over those three weeks, which were held at various locations across the borough.
- 3.3.3 Highlights included events such as: BIG SUMMER Presents, Skatefest events in both Hatfield Town Centre and Campus West, Live and Creative, Girls Football Tournament, basketball sessions plus summer camp activities at Mill Green Museum and the Jim McDonald Centre.
- 3.3.4 This year more investment and time from this council was made in the provision of activities directly aimed at teenagers as a response to an increase in ASB issues in local parks. Diversionary activities included a Pump Track at King George V Playing Fields, paddle boarding at Stanborough and weekly climbing wall sessions in local parks.
- 3.3.5 BIG Summer '19 was supported by a comprehensive marketing campaign including targeted radio advertisements through Heart FM and an interactive web calendar which was promoted widely to maximise participation figures.
- 3.3.6 Some of the activities trialled in the summer have results in longer term projects such as the new skate sessions at Campus West, Sunday youth club in Hatfield and new basketball sessions at the Ridgeway Academy.
- 3.3.7 Work towards BIG Summer '20 is already underway with planning and marketing proposals being pulled together. 2020 will be slightly different as we hope to incorporate some more cultural activities given that it is Herts Year of Culture.

#### 3.4 **Welwyn Hatfield Youth Council**

- 3.4.1 There are currently 18 members of the Welwyn Hatfield Youth Council who meet on a bi-weekly basis to discuss relevant issues, and contribute to improving the lives of young people within Welwyn Hatfield.
- 3.4.2 The schools represented on the youth council are Stanborough, Monks Walk, Bishops Hatfield Girls', and Onslow St Audrey's Schools. Important to note that we have had previously representation from The Ridgeway, Chancellors and Oaklands College, however this year we do not have any students from those three education establishments. Annual visits to all schools (and the college) are made to inform and encourage participation.
- 3.4.3 The Youth Council have been continuing to work on their priorities for 2019/20 and continue to deliver excellent outcomes:
  - LGBTQ (Creation of a new LGBTQ awareness and support campaign which launched in March 2019)

- Mental Health (Creation of the #JUSTTALK social media schools week campaign, February 2019)

3.4.4 In addition to the above targeted campaigns Welwyn Hatfield Youth Council have been represented at a number of community/national events such as; Year 9 Crucial Crew, BIG Summer '19, Healthfest and Herts PRIDE.

3.4.5 During these events, members engage with other young people to ensure that they continue to represent the views of young people and raise awareness of their key priorities.

3.4.6 The Youth Council also attended their annual visit to Houses of Parliament in June 2019 where they had the opportunity to meet with their local MP Grant Shapps and quiz him on topics relating to their agreed priorities.

3.4.7 The Youth Council is currently looking at plans for 2020 which might include a Question Time style event.

### 3.5 **Mental Health Campaigning**

3.5.1 "Talking shows strength" was the key message of the successful #JustTalk campaign that launched in January 2018 as a partnership driven initiative led by HCC Public Health and Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council as one of its stakeholders.

3.5.2 The campaign, which was initially created to engage with boys, as boys are less likely to seek help and advice about their mental health, continues to be promoted through schools, the Welwyn Hatfield Youth Council and the 11-19 Partnerships Group. The Welwyn Hatfield Youth Council delivered a targeted social media campaign which saw a different message every day over a ten day period

3.5.3 30 October 2019 saw the council deliver the borough's first youth focused Mental Health Conference called Positive Youthful Minds. There were about 150 attendees ranging from professionals, teaching staff, parents, carers and young people. The day started with key note talks from young people, professionals and academics, all focused on how the mind develops, grows and is impacted by the world around us. The afternoon saw targeted streamed workshops e.g. self-harm, suicide prevention, county lines, supporting Special Educational Needs (SEN), managing stress and anxiety.

3.5.4 The aim of the conference was to enhance the local communities' knowledge and understanding and how to access services that support the mental health of our young people. Without doubt, for those that were there, the conference met its target and some more. It was a huge success and a great opportunity to increase learning for all those that attended.

### 3.6 **Herts Cultural Education Partnership**

- 3.6.1 Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council is a part of the newly formed HCEP and this summer provided some match funding along with several other organisations in a bid to received significant support from the Royal Opera House Bridge.
- 3.6.2 The HCEP was successful in that investment from Royal Opera House Bridge to develop and build capacity and infrastructure for delivering high quality arts and cultural provision to children and young people across five identified areas across Hertfordshire.
- 3.6.3 Hatfield has been identified as a priority area for both the Arts Council and HCEP. As such the ward has been identified as one of the areas that will benefit from the two year county programme which focus on four specific. There will be a needs analysis completed by University of Hertfordshire and then programme of activity will then be commissioned to address the identified needs. The commissioned work will be developed specifically for the children and young people in Hatfield through a trial and test model. A working group has been formed and the needs analysis will commence over the coming months.
- 3.6.4 The Community Partnerships Team along with our colleagues across the council are working to ensure that Hatfield maximises this opportunity.

### **3.7 Welwyn Hatfield 11-19 Group**

- 3.7.1 Now boasting a membership of over 40 different individuals from over 30 different organisations.
- 3.7.2 The 11-19 group not only looks at operational activities that involve young people but it also works with new organisations who have something new or different to offer either the professionals themselves or the young people they are working with.
- 3.7.3 One of the big successes of this partnership is the delivery of the newly named "Facts & Futures" fair which is held at the Fielder Centre, Hatfield in March. Important to note that this is a Council funded event.
- 3.7.4 The event provides an opportunity for young people in year 9 from our local schools to find out what their community can do for them and what they can actively get involved in as well as getting an understanding about what the next steps might be post school.
- 3.7.5 The 2020 event will again be taking place at the Fielder Centre, on the Thursday 19 March.

### **3.8 Holocaust Memorial Day**

- 3.8.1 In 2018 after conversations with the local Interfaith Group, the team was tasked with delivering the borough first youth focused Memorial Day working closing with the national Holocaust Memorial Day Trust. The success of the 2019 event at Campus West which focused on 'Torn from Home' the team will be delivering the event again on 27 January 2020.

- 3.8.2 Once again the event organised in partnership with the Welwyn Hatfield Interfaith Group, it will see students from our secondary schools, plus Oaklands College come together to give a series of short performances in the Hawthorne Theatre, Campus West around the theme 'Stand Together.'
- 3.8.3 The theme encourages the audience to think about how we need to stand together with others in our communities to stop division and the spread of identity-based hostility.
- 3.8.4 A short Civic Memorial Service will follow on The Campus arena/roundabout which I will include a reading and the releasing of symbolic peace doves.
- 3.8.5 Running alongside the two events, will be an Art Exhibition, which will include submissions from local artists, art groups, Secondary Schools, the University of Hertfordshire and Oakland's College.

## **Implications**

### **4 Legal Implications**

- 4.1 There are no legal implications directly relating to the content of this report.

### **5 Financial Implications**

- 5.1 There are no financial implications directly related to the content of this report. The Service has its own budget which is agreed annually as part of the Council's overall budget process.

### **6 Risk Management Implications**

- 6.1 There are no risk management implications directly relating to the content of this report.

### **7 Security and Terrorism Implications**

- 7.1 There are no implications for security and terrorism arising from this report.

### **8 Procurement Implications**

- 8.1 There are no procurement implications arising from this report

### **9 Climate Change Implications**

- 9.1 There are no climate change implications directly relating to the content of this report.

### **10 Link to Corporate Priorities**

- 10.1 The content of this report is linked to the council's corporate priority 'Our Community' and specifically to the objectives 'promote inclusive and safe communities' and 'improve public health and wellbeing'

### **11 Communication Plan**

11.1 For nearly all of the work undertaken a separate communications plan is put together. Examples of successes is the BIG Summer campaign when the team took over the council's Social Media accounts to promote the opportunities available to residents. There is strong coverage in the local media and through magazine such as Heads Up and Life.

## **12 Health and Wellbeing**

12.1 One of the key priorities for this area of the work undertaken by officers is to ensure that all young residents are provided with the best opportunities in life to live a long and healthy life. In order to work do this we are constantly working in partnership with our Public Health colleagues as well as other council team and outside agencies.

## **13 Equality and Diversity**

13.1 The EqIA on the Youth Strategy identified that there is the potential for positive impacts on Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage & Civil Partnerships, Pregnancy & Maternity, Sex and Sexual Orientation here because the strategy focus entirely on young people and providing them the best possible stances in live. The strategy aims to understand barriers, to review statics and ensure that partners and partnerships are working together to improve their lives and remove inequality.

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### **Appendix One**

Welwyn Hatfield Youth Strategy and Associated Action Plan