



## NOTES OF THE MAIN MEETING ON:

**Date: Monday 14 February 2022**

**Time: 16:30**

**Venue: Council Chamber, Ebley Mill**

### **YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:**

#### **VOTING MEMBERS**

Cate James-Hodges <b>(EN)</b> (Archway School)	P
Emma Champion (Berkeley Vale Youth Forum)	A
Saul Traquino (Berkeley Vale Youth Forum)	A
Fin Smith* (Cainscross Youth Forum)	P
Maxie Wells <b>(HWB)</b> (Cam & Dursley Youth Forum)	P
Gabe Lowery (Chalford Cubed Youth Forum)	A
Ely McFadden (Chalford Cubed Youth Forum)	A
Ben Stone <b>(L)</b> (Marling School)	P
Alfie Stick (Marling School)	AP
Megan Land (Nailsworth & Minchinhampton YF)	P
Evie Urquhart (Nailsworth & Minchinhampton YF)	A
Morgan Smith (Rednock School)	P
Charlie Hayward (Stonehouse Action 4 Youth)	AP
Alice Standing (Stroud High School)	A
Lily Haines** (Stroud Town & Five Valleys YF)	P
Tom Wickham-Bassett <b>(LD)</b> (Stroud Town Five Valleys YF)	P
Brandon Watkins <b>(AB)</b> (Thomas Keble School)	P
Carina Marlot (Thomas Keble School)	A
Phoebe Davies (Wotton Youth Forum)	A
Lily Stothard (Wotton Youth Forum)	AP

#### **DEPUTY MEMBERS**

Conner Roberts (Cam & Dursley Youth Forum)	A
Ellie Archer (Cam & Dursley Youth Forum)	P
Kai Bullivant (Chalford Cubed Youth Forum)	A
Olivia Burke (Nailsworth and Minchinhampton YF)	A
Billy Smeaton (Nailsworth and Minchinhampton YF)	A
Joel Clark (Wotton Youth Forum)	A

#### **EX-OFFICIO**

Helen March	A
Claire Gee	A
Millie Radford	A
Archie Gent	A

#### **CO-OPTIONS**

**\*\* = Chairperson \* = Vice-Chairperson (L) = Leader P = Present A = Absent AP = Apology given # = present for part of meeting**

**Principal Members: (AB) = Anti-Bullying; (HWB) = Health & Wellbeing; (EN) = Environment; (LD) = Local Democracy**

#### **Others Present**

Steve Miles, Senior Youth Officer (Stroud District Council)  
Seb Williams, Youth Work Officer (Stroud District Council)  
Georgia Spooner, 2030 Community Action Officer (Stroud District Council)  
Jack Blakey, Member of Berkeley Vale Youth Forum  
Katie Bray, Member of Berkeley Vale Youth Forum  
Jacob Bray, Member of Berkeley Vale Youth Forum  
Misty Taylor, Member of Cainscross Youth Forum  
Rachel Cole, The Eddystone Trust  
David Powell, Rights Respected Schools Programme

## **1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed members, in particular those attending for the first time and the following guests to the meeting: Georgia Spooner SDC, 2030 Community Action Officer; Rachel Cole, The Eddystone Trust; David Powell, Rights Respected Schools Programme. Introductions were given by those in attendance. Apologies are listed on the record above.

## **2. Minutes of the last meeting on 24 January 2022**

Minutes were formally presented and agreed as a true and accurate record. Proposed by: Brandon Watkins. Seconded by: Cate James-Hodges;

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **a) Recruitment & Selection of new Youth Participation Officer - update**

Steve gave an update on the process to recruit to the vacant youth participation officer role. Unfortunately, following the shortlisting it was agreed by those officers carrying out the task, that the remaining part of the process would not take place, due to candidates not being suitable. A review of the vacancy was taking place and a future recruitment plan would be agreed as soon as possible. Members were asked for their continued support and consideration towards the capacity of the youth work team during this time.

### **b) Youth Voice Training Events – Update**

Seb outlined the plan to hold up to two mental health first aid training courses before end of March 2022. Information was being shared informally, in search for those that were interested. Each course would be free of charge. One would be for those aged over 16 only, as this was an accredited course with some legal requirements to be met. The other would be a more open shorter introductory course, aimed at those who hadn't undertaken one before. The course provider would be Ace Wellbeing, who had delivered the courses in the past. Members were asked to contact Seb urgently.

Training with regards to the C-Card, would be covered in agenda item 5.

## **4. Correspondence**

### **Retirement of Members**

The following members have retired from their role:

**Carina Marlot** – Thomas Keble School;

**Billy Smeaton** – Nailsworth and Minchinhampton Youth Forum;

**Emma Champion** and **Saul Traquino** – Berkeley Vale Youth Forum.

They were all thanked for their services.

### **Gloucestershire Youth Climate Group**

Information was received and shared regarding the Gloucestershire Youth Climate Group, a recently re-launched group for young people looking to be proactive regarding climate change. Commissioned by Gloucestershire County Council, Creative Sustainability are facilitating this county-wide group, that aims to take action to make a positive impact for a low carbon and resilient Gloucestershire that reduces inequalities and centres on the needs of people and the environment. Whilst it was noted that the SDYC Principal Member would probably take a place on the group as the official representative, others may wish to join them now or in the future.

### **SDC: Local Government Association (LGA) Peer Challenge Review**

SDYC have been invited to attend the LGA follow-up review at SDC on 9 March. This is likely to involve some small group work to look at the following aspects from a youth voice perspective: *Local priorities and outcomes; Organisational and place leadership; Governance and culture; Financial planning and management; Capacity for improvement.* It was agreed that members of the Leadership Team would consider this opportunity in more detail.

## **5. Sexual Health Services and C-Card in Gloucestershire – Rachel Cole, The Eddystone Trust**

Rachel was welcomed to the meeting. She began by highlighting how much she was looking forward to returning in the future to deliver training, with regards to the condom distribution scheme (C-Card) but was keen to give an update on the services which The Eddystone Trust deliver, given the impact of the covid pandemic. She went on to present a range of aspects to their service, including the raising awareness work with approx. 200 organisations in the county. Whilst outlining how the C-Card scheme works, with 'registration points' existing as well as 'distribution centres', the focus on condom safety and contraception remains important. The scheme is currently under review by the Trust, once complete they will be looking to develop C-Card Champions involving mystery shopping type work, plus other aspects for those aged over 16. However, they also want to include 13 to 15 year olds in the future.

Discussions amongst members and Rachel, included the matter of a shortfall in sexual education, leaving various organisations in the voluntary and community sector to deal with the consequences. Members called for more publicity on the location of the distribution centres. Rachel felt that SDYC could help with the review of their website, plus other matters and asked members to complete a short survey. It was likely that the review would conclude this summer. The SDYC Health Focus Group would be best placed to support these opportunities.

Rachel was thanked for her attendance and presentation.

## **6. UNICEF Rights Respected Schools Programme – David Powell**

David was welcomed to the meeting. He began by explaining that 'children's rights' started at the end of World War 2. The charity, Save the Children was created to support displaced children and young people. In 1945, the United Nations (UN) was formed, which began to incorporate this aspect of work started by Save the Children – it evolved into the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). David went on to briefly explain how he got involved through his earlier working life as an educationalist, including head teacher at various secondary schools and work for UNICEF that took him overseas. The UNCRC includes 54 articles, which are grouped under 4 headings: *Survival; Protection; Participation; Development*.

David explained more about the UNICEF Rights Respected Schools Programme, which recognizes the achievements of schools in placing the UNCRC at the heart of its practice and relationships to improve well-being and outcomes for every child/young person. An award programme features bronze, silver and gold accreditations which last for 3 years. Costs are approximately £2000 - 3000 per school. Rodborough Primary School is the only one in Gloucestershire to have received accreditation. David is currently working with York and Dorset Councils regarding their school's participation in this programme.

Members were generally enthused by this programme, in light of many saying that schools do not make children's rights and the UNCRC as an important feature in the school curriculum – many claimed that they didn't recall being taught these at all in school.

David was thanked for his attendance and presentation. It was agreed by members that this information will be further considered by the Local Democracy Focus Group and Leadership Team.

## **7. 2030 Community Engagement Board: Introduction and Overview – Georgia Spooner**

Georgia was welcomed to the meeting to give an overview of SDC's 2030 work programme stemming from their 2030 strategy. She began by highlighting that SDC had been a carbon neutral Council since 2018 (the first in UK) and since then, several Climate Action Networks have emerged across the district – some of which have interacted with local youth forum groups and SDYC. Georgia added that the most recent development was that of a Community Engagement Board involving people selected from a variety of different backgrounds, experiences and working sectors. She highlighted that two places on the board had been allocated to SDYC. The importance of communicating with all communities was vital and therefore a community action communications plan would be developed – it was felt that SDYC could assist with the design aspect. Georgia acknowledged that SDYC had been involved with the 2030 work already and wished to ensure this continued in the future. Cate stated that she would be attending the forthcoming Community Engagement Board meeting.

Georgia was thanked for her attendance and presentation.

## **8. Updates from School & College Councils and Local Youth Forum Groups**

Archway School – Cate highlighted that a plan to recruit / elect representation from school, to SDYC was underway.

Berkeley Vale YF – three new representatives had been elected, with Katie, Jacob and Jack all present at this meeting. The group were getting involved with the town council's commissioning process to select a new youth work provider for open access provision in the town.

Chalford Cubed YF – no representatives were present.

Cainscross YF – no report available

Cam & Dursley YF – the group were pursuing their plan further their work on a pedestrian safety project in Dursley, including the aim to campaign for lower speed limit in the town.

Hardwicke YF – no representatives were present.

Katharine Lady Berkeley School – no representatives were present.

Maidenhill School – no representatives were present.

Marling School – no report available.

Nailsworth & Minchinhampton YF – recruitment was underway, with another new member joining recently plus further interest. Communication with Nailsworth Town Council had begun, regarding general promotion of the group, plus enquiries about local projects.

Rednock School – emails have been sent to various tutors in search for a response to the previous efforts to communicate with them on the opportunities to have increased student representation on SDYC.

Stonehouse Action 4 Youth – no representatives were present.

Stroud High School – no representatives were present.

Stroud Town & 5 Valleys YF – communication with the town council was still a little difficult in terms of progress on the bench project.

Thomas Keble School – three new representatives had been elected and would hopefully attend the next meeting.

Wotton YF – no representatives present.

## **9. British Youth Council (BYC) Report**

There was very little information received via the newsletters that related to non-UK Youth Parliament youth voice representation – members were disappointed and wanted to express the need for this to change in the future.

## **10. Local Democracy Focus Group Report from meeting on 17 January**

Statutory Youth Voice – develop a draft structure: The group clarified the following; 'what SDYC were looking to create?', 'who are SDYC looking to influence and work with?', and 'what the broad benefits were of a youth voice system and structure for Gloucestershire?'. They also carried out some short research into the different models and types of youth participation, including what was 'non-participation'.

Members were asked to consider the following proposal: *That the project campaign rationale (reason for doing) is under pinned by the following statement: 'Children and young people cannot be adequately safeguarded, unless they know their rights and are able to exercise all their rights according to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).'*

Manifesto Mondays: The group received an idea from the youth work team, of how the SDYC Manifesto could be further promoted. Essentially, it would involve publishing one manifesto statement via social media every Monday, with it referred to as 'ManifestoMonday' – the choice of which statement would (when appropriate) be linked to any national themed profile weeks or months. It was acknowledged that this would be like 'ThrowbackThursday' which has been a featured on youth voice social media for a few years.

Members were asked to consider the following proposal: *That the SDYC Manifesto is further promoted via social media, with one statement posted every Monday under the title of 'ManifestoMonday'.*

Following a vote, the report was approved.

## **11. Dates of Forthcoming Meetings and Events**

- a) **Votes at 16 Coalition Meeting – 23 February**
- b) **SDYC Local Democracy Focus Group – 28 February**
- c) **Local Strategic Partnership Meeting (Theme: Health) – 4 March**
- d) **LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Review – 9 March**

- e) **SDYC Leadership Team Meeting – 7 March**
- f) **C-Card Champion Training with The Eddystone Trust - TBC**
- g) **Mental Health First Aid Training – TBC**
- h) **Safeguarding Section 11 Standards Review Workshop - TBC**

## **12. Any Other Business**

### **Litter Recycling Bins**

Comments were made in relation to the large multi-compartment litter recycling bins at various location across the district, which featured the SDYC logo – the main issues being that they all are now looking very 'shabby' and not a good portrayal of SDYC. The history of these bins was also questioned. Steve gave a short overview and suggested that an email came from Ben as SDYC Leader, in which to pass onto the SDC Waste and Recycling Team.

**15. Date of the Next Meeting:** Monday 21 March 2022 (Annual Review)