



SOUTHEND YOUTH COUNCIL MINUTES

FOR A MEETING OF SOUTHEND YOUTH COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY 3RD JULY 2024 AT 5PM
@ COUNCIL CHAMBER

Apologies for Absence:

Josh, Shaun, Seb, Nellie, Mia, Hannah, Hannah

Youth Mayor, Deputy Youth Mayor & Member of Youth Parliament Updates:

Tom: Corporate Leadership team new report outlines importance of youth voice, bringing a positive future for the Youth Council, attended the Mayor's office, moving forward with the Make Your Mark campaign.

Edward: Attended event for the new Mayor at St Augustine's Church with the others.

Jocelyn: Make Your Mark meeting to be held 18th July with new YC Champions.

- The Mayor of Castle Point is setting up a new Youth Council in their area and would like a strong relationship with Southend YC
- Stansted YC reached out for an exchange trip, to be held later in the year.

Rules for Youth Council:

Respect, Responsibility, Ready

Officer and Committee Updates:

Noah and Annali: Annali's workshop will include a section for Men's Mental Health month.

Apollo: last week's pride meeting was a success, with badges and jewellery making ahead of Southend Pride.

British Transport Police – Jay and Steph:

The BTP Officers answered questions from the Youth Council, including:

1. What training is available for situations involving neurodivergent people?
 - Online training
 - Lots of research is available and accessible for officers
 - A disability network available for all BTP Officers to join
2. Information about safety on public transport?
 - Railway Guardian is a free app that had a tracking feature, ability to file live reports on incidents, file safety in areas.
 - BTP Website allows Walk and Talk sessions to be booked by the public
 - There is a C2C Video for primary school children and year sevens on staying safe on trains to go to school
 - 61016 text line, however this is not yet a free service. The BTP are working to make it a free text line.
3. Are there any safe spaces on C2C lines?
 - Not at the moment, however the BTP would be interested in setting these up
 - Help buttons are available at stations but are not overly effective, which the BTP is working on

- Looking to put in place ‘Guardian Zones’ in stations. The YC to help with this idea

Meeting to be arranged with SYC, BTP and C2C after the Summer holidays

BTP Officers asked SYC Members of their experiences using trains to and from school:

- Trains are more convenient than other modes of transport
- School kids jumping barriers, holding doors, having fights = big problem

If you have information about problems, make sure to **SHARE** them!

- The BTP are looking to put the ABC scheme in place, linking cameras to schools to stop behaviour such as physical fights on the train line

Wellbeing/Fun break:

A game of Daytime/Nighttime was played, of which both members and guests joined in for.

Brook Update – Chrissy and Faye:

- There are now multiple pharmacies in Southend offering free emergency contraception for all ages
- Brook have new opening hours for their clinic in the Victoria Shopping Centre
- There has been a significant increase in STDs in young people. Members were asked why this might be, and discussions were had on HIV.
- Thank you to Ollie who gave us information on HIV
- The C-card scheme is available for young people

To contact Brook: email, text, website, clinic, Facebook, twitter, SH:24

Summer Events:

- Saturday 13th July – Southend Pride. Sign-up has been emailed out to all members
- Tuesday 30th July – Trading Standards test purchasing
- Wednesday 28th August – Stubbers trip for Youth Voice
- September meeting – Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor elections.
A workshop will be held for anyone interested in these roles prior to the elections.

School Attendance – Jacqui and Hayley:

- School attendance has been low since Covid
- Suggestion of ‘personal days’ and the importance of taking time off for mental health reasons, among others
- The problem with taking time off school is the workload that comes with catching up on missed lessons
- All schools should have an effective way of catching up to ensure that it is completed

Members were asked for ways that information on school attendance could be spread:

- Make information as relatable as possible
- Not isolating students but understanding their needs
- School assemblies and presentations to students
- Ensuring the use of robots or similar for students who are off for a long time
- Ensuring that schools send information to both parents and students

Mock Elections:

- Green Party (represented by Annali): greener country, environmental concerns are the focus
- Liberal Democrats (represented by Apollo): a fair deal where all people win and benefit
- Conservatives (represented by Edward): reducing national debt, increasing teacher bonuses etc
- Reform UK (represented by Jocelyn): clear up mess from Conservatives, funding for NHS etc

- Labour Party (represented by Tom): economic stability, cut NHS waiting times, green energy etc

Members voted for the most convincing argument. The winner was Labour, congratulations to Tom!

Volunteer Awards:

Lucy and Emma gave out Youth Volunteer of the year awards to the following:

Annali, Miles, Tom, Jocelyn and Edward.

Congratulations to all of them on their awards!

If you have any queries, please contact: LucyBissell@southend.gov.uk or The Youth Mayor on: YouthMayor@Southend.gov.uk