

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Slough Wellbeing Board

DATE: 21 January, 2016

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WARD(S): All

PART I **FOR DISCUSSION**

SLOUGH YOUTH PARLIAMENT

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To advise the Wellbeing Board on the work of the Slough Youth Parliament (SYP) regarding their manifesto priority to campaign to reduce the stigma around young people's mental health needs.

2. Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action

2.1 That the Wellbeing Board endorses the work being undertaken by the SYP and notes the recommendations of their presentation.

3. Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy (SJWS) priorities, JSNA and Council's Five Year Plan

3(a) Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy (SJWS) priorities

The SYP's priority and campaign to reduce the stigma around young people's mental health needs will have an impact on the delivery of the following SJWS priorities:

Health - Reducing inequalities and improving the health and wellbeing of our children and young people (and their families and carers) will help them live more positive, active and resilient lives.

3(b) JSNA

Mental health is a key element of healthy lifestyles as identified in the JSNA. There are approx. 13,000 people with common mental health disorders between the ages of 18 and 64 in Slough. Nationally, one in ten young people between 5 and 16 years have a mental health condition, of which 25% will need to access professional help (this figure increases to 72% of young people in care and 95% of young people in custody). In Slough approx. 2,170 children aged 5-16 are estimated to have a mental health disorder (including emotional, conduct, hyperkinetic, attachment and eating disorders, as well as substance misuse problems).

3(c) Council's Five Year Plan Outcomes

SYP's campaign will have an impact on the following Five Year Plan outcomes:

- 5 - Children and young people will be healthy, resilient and have positive life chances
- 6 - More people take responsibility and manage their own health care and support needs

4. Other Implications

- a) Financial - There are no financial implications directly resulting from the recommendation of this report.
- b) Risk Management – There are no risk management implications directly resulting from the recommendation of this report.
- c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications - There are no Human Rights Act implications directly resulting from the recommendation of this report.
- d) Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) – There are no EIA implications associated with the proposed actions.

5. Supporting Information

Background

5.1 In 2014 the Slough Children and Young People's Partnership Board (CYPPB) approved the implementation of an elected Youth Parliament for Slough. Building on the existing Youth Cabinet, which was made up of young people nominated to sit on the group, the CYPPB was keen for young people in Slough to have a truly representative group, democratically chosen by young people, which was able to influence decision making across the town.

5.2 The Young People's Service were charged with taking this forward as part of the wider Youth Voice agenda and worked closely with schools to implement the borough's first Youth Parliament.

Selection process

5.3 In the autumn of 2014, The Young People's Service worked hard to ensure schools were fully engaged in raising awareness about the Youth Parliament amongst their pupils. There was a positive response, and most schools committed to providing support to their students, enabling and encouraging them to either stand or vote.

5.4 12 secondary schools (including the specialist school Arbour Vale), and East Berkshire College participated in this process. Any young person aged 11-19, living in Slough was able to nominate themselves to stand as a candidate on behalf of their school or college. Each participating school was an election ward, and held elections, where every student was able to vote. In the end over 120 young people put themselves up to stand for elections which took place in January 2015.

5.5 5,596 young people voted for their chosen representatives with some schools achieving over 90 per cent turnout in their elections, and the average turnout for the borough was 61 per cent. Using the first past the post system, the two candidates with the highest number of votes at each school become Members of Slough Youth Parliament.

5.6 Slough's Youth Parliament (SYP) is currently made up of 34 young people aged 12-19 elected for a two year term of office. As well as the members elected through schools and colleges, representatives from 'co-opted' groups from under represented young people are also represented on the Youth Parliament. This includes lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender young people, service users and young carers. Activities are also to build closer ties with the Children in Care Council.

Progress to date

5.7 At a weekend residential held during February half term SYP's worked hard to draft their manifesto (a copy of which is attached at Appendix A), develop a code of conduct and elect an executive committee. The SYP also elected their representatives to a number of local strategic groups and local decision making bodies, including Slough's CYPPB, the Slough Safer Partnership, Thames Valley Police Community Consultative Group and the UK Youth Parliament (UKYP).

5.8 SYP have also been involved in the drafting of the new Children and Young People's Partnership Plan for Slough, assisted with the public consultation on Slough's new Child Poverty Strategy, attended community events and successfully lobbied for Slough Council to support votes at 16.

5.9 In September, SYP also hosted a conference on education and employment. This event included presentations from the council's economic development team, Herschel Grammar School, Heathrow and the Young People's service.

Young people and mental health

5.10 SYP have been consulted on the development of a new mental health self help app for young people and will help promote it locally during 2016.

5.11 Most recently SYP members have helped coordinate Slough's annual response to the UKYP's 'Make Your Mark' ballot, in which young people voted for one of their top priorities. A total of 6,487 11-18 year olds across Slough took part in this ballot (which is a 55 percent turnout and a tenfold increase from last year's participation rate). This was only Slough's second year in taking part in this survey, making us the most improved Local Authority in the country. We also had the 7th best turnout nationally and were top for the whole of the South East region, beating neighbours such as Reading, Bracknell and Windsor and Maidenhead.

5.12 This ballot gives a mandate for members of the UKYP to debate five topics in the House of Commons and two issues then become national campaign in the year ahead. In 2015, almost 969,000 young people voted in this ballot. More than 108,000 young people nationally voted specifically for mental health services as

their number one issue of concern. Following debate the UKYP voted for young people's mental health services to become one of their priority campaigns for 2016.

5.13 A SYP representative was also given the opportunity to participate in this debate in the House of Commons in November, which was chaired by the speaker Rt. Hon. John Bercow MP and broadcast live on BBC Parliament.

5.14 Finally, The British Youth Council's Youth Select Committee also undertook an inquiry into mental health services for young people between April and May 2015. Their report on this issue, which was published in November (see background paper A) also backs up the recommendations of UKYP and the SYP.

Next steps

5.15 Youth Parliament representatives will be attending the Wellbeing Board meeting on 21st January to deliver a presentation regarding the work and recommendations of the SYP on young people's mental health.

6. Appendices

A – Slough Youth Parliament Manifesto

7. Background Papers

A - British Youth Council Youth Select Committee 2015- Young People's Mental Health