

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel

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WARD(S): All

PART I

FOR COMMENT & CONSIDERATION

SLOUGH YOUTH PARLIAMENT

1. **Purpose of Report**

To provide the Panel with an overview of the Slough Youth Parliament's role and activities since its establishment.

2. **Recommendation**

- The Committee is requested to note the report.

3. **The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan**

3a. **Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

By providing the young people of Slough with a forum to express their views and help shape services and policy to better meet the needs of young people. The Youth Parliament ensures that the following priorities are reflected in its work:

- Community Safety
- Education, Employment and Training
- Emotional Wellbeing
- Affordable and accessible Transport
- Affordable housing
- Tackling racism and religious discrimination
- A Curriculum to prepare us for life
- First Aid Education for All Young People
- Votes at 16

3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

The work of the Youth Parliament may also support the following outcomes:

- Our children and young people will have the best start in life and opportunities to give them positive lives.
- Our people will become healthier and will manage their own health, care and support needs.
- Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and visit.
- Slough will attract, retain and grow businesses and investment to provide jobs and opportunities for our residents

4. **Other Implications**

(a) Financial

There are no financial implications in this report.

(b) Risk Management

There are no actions included in this report with associated risks in need of mitigation.

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no legal aspects to the contents of this report.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

Beyond the Parliament's own work on equality and diversity, this report contains no proposals with an impact on the area.

5. **Supporting Information**

- 5.1 The Slough Youth Parliament was formed in February 2015. The first set of elected members have just completed their first 2 year cycle as representatives; the elections for the 2nd Youth Parliament took place in January 2017 with the elected members taking their place in February 2017.

Key achievements of the first Slough Youth Parliament

- 5.2 The 1st year of the Youth Parliament saw Slough become the area with the greatest improvement in the proportion of young people involved in the 'Make Your Mark' campaign (Appendix A). This progress continued, with the 2nd best turnout percentage in the country happening in Slough in the 2nd year.
- 5.3 The Youth Parliament has also acted as a prominent advocate for Slough's youth, offering a clear identification of the community's priorities. 4 Young People's Question Times have been co-hosted in collaboration with the Aik Saath organisation.

Promoting young people in Slough

- 5.4 The 1st Slough Young People's Awards were hosted in November 2016; this will become an annual event. On the national scene, the UK Youth Parliament has held a meeting in each of the 2 years at the House of Commons; as one of the more prominent such organisations, Slough's members have been keynote speakers at these events.
- 5.5 The Youth Parliament is also involved in ensuring its message is heard by the wider community, not just within its own demographic. As part of this, the Panel itself now has representation from the Youth Parliament, and this trend is reflected in other such bodies.
- 5.6 These initiatives have secured the voice of local young people as a meaningful contributor to issues and policies. This has had an impact on both the communities and the young people making this contribution, and has bolstered community cohesion and inter-generational work.

Influencing policy

- 5.7 The Youth Parliament undertook a community safety survey. This had a direct influence on the community safety survey and also shaped local views on the issue. It has also held regular meetings with strategy and policy offers on a wide range of issues including transport, housing, leisure and policing.
- 5.8 Its work on mental health has provided active support on the development of a national mental health app for young people. It has also acted as a champion for mental and emotional health as a key issue for young people.
- 5.9 In terms of local politics, it has secured the support of the Labour Group for the national voting age to be reduced to 16. It has also been involved in making communications from local agencies more suitable to local young people (e.g. increased and more relevant use of Twitter and other social media platforms).

6. Comments of Other Committees

This report has not been considered by other committees at Slough Borough Council.

7. Conclusion

The Panel is asked to discuss the material in this report, and consider how it could support its aims and objectives in future.

8. Appendices Attached

'A' - Make Your Mark Results 2016

9. Background Papers

None.