

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Slough Wellbeing Board

**DATE:** 19<sup>th</sup> July 2017

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Giovanni Ferri, Youth Worker-Youth Voice, Young Peoples Service

**(For all enquiries)** 01753 875510

**WARD(S):** All

### **PART I** **THEMED DISCUSSION**

#### **SLOUGH YOUTH PARLIAMENT**

##### **1. Purpose of Report**

To advise the Wellbeing Board on the work of the Slough Youth Parliament (SYP) regarding their manifesto priorities.

##### **2. Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

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

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

###### **3(a) Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

The SYP 2017 / 2018 manifesto is broad in scope and helps to address and/or contribute to a number of areas of importance identified by the Wellbeing Board, including improving the mental health and wellbeing of residents (including young people), in Slough.

###### **3(b) Council's Five Year Plan Outcomes**

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

1. Our children and young people will have the best start in life and opportunities to give them positive lives.
2. Our people will become healthier and will manage their own health, care and support needs.
3. Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and visit.

##### **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. Summary**

*The Board is asked to note:*

- a) the content of this report;*
- b) the priorities that have been included in the SYP's manifesto for 2017 / 2018; and*
- c) the local issues that the Parliament will be campaigning on throughout 2017 / 2018.*

*The Board will also receive a presentation relating to these items at the meeting.*

## **6. Supporting Information**

### ***Background***

6.1 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.

6.2 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***

6.3 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 first took place in January 2015.

6.4 Campaigning and elections took place across 12 secondary schools (including the specialist schools Arbour Vale and Haybrook Pru), and East Berkshire College. 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 for a two year term. 5,596 youngsters voted for their chosen representatives with some schools

achieving over 90 percent turnout in their elections, and the average turnout for the borough was 61percent.

6.5 The second Slough Youth Parliament elections took place in January 2017. Involvement from schools increased during this cycle resulting in participation from 17 local secondary schools, with only Haybrook Pru and East Berkshire College missing this time. This election resulted in 8018 young people voting for their Youth representatives; again some schools achieved over 90 per cent turnout in their elections and the average turnout for the borough increased to 78.6 percent.

6.6 Slough's new Youth Parliament (SYP) is currently made up of 33 elected young people aged 12-19 elected for a two year term of office. As well as the members elected through schools and colleges, 4 representatives come from 'co-opted' groups from under represented young people. This includes lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender young people, service users and young carers. SYP is currently working to build closer ties with the Children in Care Council group 'Reach Out'.

### ***Progress to date***

6.7 At a weekend residential held during February half term 2017, SYP's worked hard to draft their manifesto (a copy of which is attached at Appendix A) based upon previous campaigns and two years worth of local data from the Make Your Mark consultation. They also developed a code of conduct and elected an executive committee and their representatives to a number of local strategic groups and local decision makers, including the Slough Safer Partnership, Thames Valley Police Community Consultative Group and the UK Youth Parliament (UKYP). More experienced Youth reps from SYP's first cohort also now sit as lay members on the LSCB and the Education and Children's Service's Scrutiny committee.

6.8 SYP members have helped coordinate and promote Make Your Mark consultation (UK's largest youth consultation) across local secondary schools and community groups leading to over 6000 participants (55% turnout) in 2015 compared to 697 participants (6% turnout) in 2014, which resulted in an award in Parliament for most improved L.A. SYP improved this result again in 2016 with 8000 participants (67% turnout) with Slough coming top of South East region and second in UK, and receiving a second award in parliament. Youth reps are currently registering their school in preparation for this years Make Your Mark ballot.

6.9 SYP Hosted Sloughs Young People's Awards in November 2016, to be held again in November 2017, Youth reps are currently promoting the nominations process for this years awards.

6.10 SYP Youth reps have been key speakers in both 2015 and 2016 at the UK Youth Parliament debate in the House of Commons, chaired by the speaker Rt. Hon. John Bercow MP and broadcast live on BBC Parliament. Youth reps raised the issue of curriculum to better prepare young people for life and adult fares for young people travelling on public transport. In addition to this, members successfully lobbied for Slough Council to support votes at 16.

6.11 SYP have been actively involved in community cohesion and inter generational work most recently volunteering at Home Slough's Street Alive festival in June and across Slough's libraries during mental health awareness week in May. Members are currently working on an Equality event due in Sep. SYP have held 6 Young People's Question time events working with local charity Aik Saath, the most recent Question Time was held in May and next one due in October.

6.12 SYP members have won Slough Voluntary Sector, Young Volunteer of the Year award in 2015 and again in 2016, in recognition of their campaign efforts on behalf of the Youth Parliament. In 2016, SYP was also shortlisted for Children and Young People Now, Volunteering and Social Action award.

### ***Next steps***

6.13 Youth Parliament representatives will be attending the Wellbeing Board meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> July to deliver a presentation regarding their work and to introduce their new manifesto priorities to the Board.

### **7. Appendix Attached**

Appendix A – Slough Youth Parliament Manifesto

Appendix B- Make Your Mark Infographic 2016

### **8. Background papers**

None