**Broxbourne Youth Council**

**Minutes**

**12th January 2022**

Cheshunt Young People’s Centre

**Attendees:** Ethan Yardley, Janice Owusu-Appiah, Enrique Pereira Grosso, Adesola Adewale, Tate Lambie, Betsy Smith

**Apologies:** Leon Vaughans, Cindy Long, Imogen Joseph, Thomas Jennings, Dylan Ways

**Facilitators:** Oliver Brady & Rob Stevenson (Services for Young People), Emma Elsafty (Broxbourne Borough Council) Linton Sutherland Stevenson (Services for Young People)

1. Scrutiny Committee- was really good and they like being invited to these meeting and set task by the councillors- we will ask the younger members of the youth council to review the website and see if they think the language is understandable

Ethan to create a doodle poll about changing the time of the meeting.

**Social media** – there has been a rush of new followers and Instagram has had increased by 300 percent.

ACTION – Create and post on regular biases on twitter and Instagram. Start using polls to engage with the communities online.

**The Coming term-**

19th Jan – Michal & Madi Clark from Wormley/Turnford Big Local

26th Jan – Parliament Outreach session -

2nd Feb – CHEXS

9th Feb – Vicky Gutteridge from Ollie Foundation (this is also the week of Feeling Good Week)

16th Feb – No meeting as this is half term for us

23rd Feb – Jamie from Herts Sports Partnership

2nd March – None HERTS MIND?

23rd March – None, deliberately going to leave free for time to finish off the Community Question Time project which will likely happen at some point over Easter Holidays.

I have also spoken to Karen Goodwin from Lives Not Knives, Tony Cox from Love Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire Mind & CHEXS. All have expressed interest but have not let me know when they would like to come.

**Action**- Talking healthy relationship group today and ask them about the Youth Council and show them the presentation created and get feedback.

1. What is the Youth concerned about in the Borough of Broxbourne?

* Walking home, man on road with police surrounding him
* Littering
* Roadmen and knife crime, gangs
  + Intimidation
* Near Turnford, roads and paths aren’t as good as they could be
  + Potholes, etc
* Increase in emergency services, especially fire fighters

1. How do you feel about the support services available for young people?

* Mental health is “crap”
* Mental health has depleted since covid, not as good as it could be
* People make fun of mental health

1. What do you want to get from mental health due to the impacts of the pandemic?

* Better counsellors in schools
* Government needs to pay for more teachers and medical people
* Extra support in school for depression and anxiety
* Counsellors don’t help with mental health, intends on getting students in trouble (allegedly)
* All of the counsellors say generic and trivial statements, not personalised at all

1. Do you think that school is helping you through work that you have lost during lockdown?

* No, teachers even giving assessments on work learnt during lockdown
* Only just getting into the routine of school, very tricky
* Some people did better in lockdown assessments as opposed to in school

1. Has COVID had an impact on you and if so what?

* Overthinking often
* No improvement in lockdown, people found themselves lying in bed being unproductive
* Separating friendships
* Mental health went worsened
* The change was extreme, now people found themselves missing events, dependent on friends
* Started feeling anxious once going back to school 🡪 mixed feelings on school, some hated going back (due to general hatred of the school environment) whereas others wanted to see their friends

**Focus group feedback**

comments made on how some people took is less serious than others, yet general consensus on the focus group being productive.

Agreed that the correct questions were asked due to the topic (mental health), however it was commented on how the questions were too vague/open 🡪 difficult to target specific areas in mental health.

Need to focus less on covid and more on general issues that young people face (in regards to mental health). Need to have aims that focus on the future also, questions on covid requires a lot of thinking back.

**AOB**

* Next meeting, looking at website discussed in scrutiny meeting
* Betsy and Ethan to go to Environmental Sustainability Meeting, 18th January