BCP 's Members of Youth Parliament Summary Report

On 27th February 2020 we were elected as the first MYPs for BCP. And what a year it has been!

Oblivious to what was ahead, we decided upon our campaigns,

- The Environment
- Knife Crime
- PSHF
- Mental Health

Given the circumstances we feel that we have adapted well and utilised online resources well to continue our work to a high standard.

An overview (no scrutiny please):

During the summer, we held a series of workshops which resulted in a Youth Summit on issues around the environment. These were well attended by young people, officers and elected members and generated enthusiasm to continue this work together.

One outcome from the Youth Summit was to rewrite parts of the BCP Climate Change Action Plan in a more accessible way for young people to understand. We achieved this through consultation with other young people on our weekly Youth Forum.

Our Successes

Due to the lockdown, we thought it was crucial to provide an outlet for young people in order to help them feel less alone. This idea became a weekly newsletter, which we are still continuing to do a monthly basis. It promotes a variety of mental health organisations, and tips for stress management and wellbeing. In addition to this we helped spread messages through social media.

We have collaborated with a group of young people and mental health professionals to create a mental health resource to be used in classrooms (please see appendix examples). Temporarily named stress cards, they tackle a range of issues that both students and teachers face. Despite being a large and daunting project, the end is now in sight, and we plan to have them in schools by April.

Other outcomes and learning...

- Awards links with Dorset Carbon Neutral / Bournemouth University
- Conversations about Stour Valley
- Voice of young people at Overview and Scrutiny
- PSHE
- Knife Crime
- Child Poverty
- Attended UK Youth Parliament Annual Youth Conference
- Attended South West Regional meetings including working groups on Knife Crime and the Environment
- Met with several senior officers and elected members of a range of issues

In 2021/2022....

Due the impact of Covid the British Youth Council requested our term was extended until 28th February 2022.

We have decided to focus our year on,

- Launching the stress cards
- Developing and piloting Secondary School Environment Awards
- Developing a new Homelessness campaign. This topic was voted for at a recent BCP online youth debate
- Continuing to champion the voice of young people in BCP to elected members and key decision makers

We would like to thank all members of the Children's Services O&S Panel for their continued support and looking forward to contributing over the next year.

Nathan Collins, Sarah Lockard, Georgia Grogan and Adaya Brandon.