

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny



Report subject	UK Youth Parliament: Members of Youth Parliament – Annual Report, election update and welcome New Members
Report date	22 March 2022
Status	For Information – Public Report This briefing note is circulated to the Committee for information and consideration. If you have any questions or comments arising from this briefing note, please contact the Democratic Services Officer for this meeting.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Mike White
Corporate Director	Cathi Hadley, Corporate Director of Children's Services
Report Authors	Nathan Collins and Georgia Grogan, members of Youth Parliament Rebecca McDade, Participation Development Worker
	Penny Davies, Head of QA
Wards	All

Overview of work from BCP's Members of Youth Parliament 2021/22

1. This year has been extremely successful for the Members of Youth Parliament, delivering on our projects and expanding the voice of young people.
2. We completed the development, training and distribution of the POP Cards after receiving funding from BCP Council to fund enough cards for every tutor group in the BCP area. We truly believe these cards can have a massive impact in our schools and we hope to continue to promote the use of this resource with the new MYPs looking to expand and innovate their uses. This project has exceeded our expectations greatly and that is testament to the support this council has given us.
3. Another project we have to thank the BCP Council for supporting is the Youth Fund, a fund of £25,000 to be given to local youth action projects. This was decided by a panel of young people from many backgrounds who decided to fund 5 projects that delivered on the MYPs and the local communities priorities including Somerford Youth Centre, Victoria Avenue Tennis Club and an environmental gardening project. Over £100,000 worth of applications were received so we look forward to continued support for our next members to support the community.

4. We have also worked on our other priorities over the last year, running summer sessions based upon issues on the environment, where we talked about the new transport plan for BCP, as well as homelessness where we worked with Fraser Nicholson (Homelessness Partnership Coordinator) to provide help for young people and to give voice to young people in the panel. We hope that we have built upon all of our successes from last year and created a meaningful impact.
5. This is in addition to attending Children's services O&S where we have given our views to represent young people in the area.
6. I would also like to give personal thank you to Elaine Redding and Anthony Douglas for giving me the opportunity to be on the interview panel for both the Director of Education and Director of Children's services role, where we were happy to employ Sarah Rempel and Cathi Hadley who I hope will support our new members with their term. To Richard Burton, Mike White, Sandra Moore, Felicity Rice, Nicola Greene and all the other councillors who have been supportive of Youth Parliament during our term we would like to say thank you for trusting young people to create meaningful projects and have an impact on our area. Most importantly the biggest thank you goes to Rebecca McDade (Becky) who has worked tirelessly to make sure we have all the opportunities possible and always being there for us when we needed it. You are a true inspiration, and we wish you every success in the future and for future MYPs. It has been a privilege to hold this position and we hope to continue to have an impact on this community. Thank You

2022 UK Youth Parliament Election

7. Aim: Democratically elect two Members of Youth Parliament and two deputies for the BCP area to serve from 1 March 2022 – 29 February 2024. Candidates must be aged 11 – 18 years old. Live, study or volunteer for more than 14 hours in the area.

Promotion: November 2021 – Early January 2022

8. The BCP Communications Team developed a poster and promoted the opportunity via the social media channels. Information also shared via the Family Information Services newsletter.
9. The Director of Education and the Service Manager for School and Provider Standards 0-19 supported the promotion of the opportunity to schools via the Headteacher's Bulletin's emails
10. The Youth Development worker for Participation offered visits to schools to meet with interested students. Due to the increase of Covid cases and the work from home remit reintroduced in December this meant only one in person visit, to Avonbourne Academy. One TEAMS session was also requested by Bournemouth School for Girls and with Bournemouth and Poole College.
11. Videos of the Youth Development worker, and the current MYP were created and shared with schools to explain the process in a little more depth than the poster could convey. I am aware these were shared in several educational settings and notably it was shown across tutor groups in Bourne Academy and received over 100 views each. <https://youtu.be/hsEpGMAMZO8> <https://youtu.be/sj-kEa2Lfqq>

An Introduction to Youth Parliament: 8th – 15th January 2022

12. To stand as a candidate it is compulsory to attend one of the workshops being held to explain more about the process¹.
13. To encourage a diverse range of candidates we had planned workshops in the following locations, Bournemouth Central Library ((four workshops across one day), Creekmore Youth Centre, Somerford Youth Centre
14. However, due to the pandemic these workshops were all moved online
15. Of the 43 young people that attended the compulsory 'Introduction to Youth Parliament' workshops, we are aware that, the age range was from 12 – 17 years old. They attended 11 different secondary schools. Over 25% were from BAME backgrounds. Some participants shared that they had special educational needs or disabilities. Two young people were known to be children in care.
16. Feedback from the workshops was extremely positive².

Creating campaigns

17. The young people who decided to stand as candidates needed to submit their consent form by Monday 17th January. 27 young people decided to do so.
18. Candidates were then offered an 'Introduction to Campaigning' workshop and a 30-minute virtual 1:1 with the Youth Development worker for Participation. At the workshop candidates had the chance to explore the process of developing a campaign and discuss campaigning with local elected members. Three elected members attended this session.
19. In a change to previous years candidates were responsible for filming their own campaign film, providing a head shot photograph and one side of A4 with a written version of their speech and any fun facts they wished to share. One candidate decided to withdraw from the process during this point.

Hustings

20. All candidates were invited to deliver their speech to an invited audience on Monday 31 January³. The event was held on zoom and co-hosted by BCP's Chairman, Cllr Nigel Hedges and exiting Member of Youth Parliament, Nathan Collins. It was attended by 6 elected members, Director of Children's Services, Director of Education and several teachers from local schools

Facilitating the vote

21. All young people aged 11 – 18 that live or go to school in the BCP area are eligible to vote to elected BCP's Members of Youth Parliament.
22. The vote is conducted online and accessed with a voting code.

¹ See Appendix 1 for the PowerPoint used within this session. This also provides more information on the role of BCP's Member of Youth Parliament if required.

² Please see Appendix 2 for a summary of the evaluation Jamboard

³ Footage of the event can be viewed here: [BCP Youth Parliament Hustings 2022 - YouTube](#)

23. Voting codes are predominately distributed by schools but the opportunity to vote is widely promoted to those not in BCP schools through social media and by the 'Elective home education coordinator' to the local network for home educated young people.
24. Schools are asked to register for codes prior to the vote going live. 23 local schools did so. The schools that didn't preregister to vote were sent enough voting codes for those on their electoral role with a request to participate by the Director of Education.
25. We have previously purchased the Mi-voice software to host the vote but due to cost increases and the desire to explore software we already subscribed to as a Council we worked alongside BCP's 'Insight, policy and performance team' who identified that snap surveys could be used as the voting platform. They were fundamental in supporting the facilitation of this.
26. As well as the choice of candidates, those engaging with the vote were also asked to select their top issues from the Make your Mark ballot being facilitated by the British Youth Council⁴ and tell us if they have seen POP in their school.
27. We also utilised the final page of the voting site to draw attention to the Children and Young people's survey with the option complete it there and then.
28. Voting was live from 1 – 28 February. This is longer than in previous years, but the dates were set to coincide with the Make your Mark ballot.

2022 Election results

29. 6563 young people voted in the election.
30. This is **25%** turnout based on the numbers of codes issued
31. 633 more votes were cast than in the 2020 UK Youth Parliament election in BCP
32. 25 different schools voted across the BCP area. 14 of which voted despite not having a candidate from their school
33. The following schools will receive special certificates for turnout.
 - Cornerstone Academy will receive a Bronze certificate for 74% turnout
 - Winchelsea Special School will receive a Gold certificate for 100% turnout of eligible students

BCP's Members of Youth Parliament 2022 – 2024

34. Elected as BCP's Members of Youth Parliament 2022 – 2024 are:
 - Zara Sasic, Bourne Academy - 1039 votes
 - Dylan Rees-Coshan, Twynham – 982 votes
35. Elected as BCP's Deputy Members of Youth Parliament are:
 - Hala Maftah, Avonbourne – 866 votes
 - Annabel Hodges, Parkstone Grammar – 737 votes

⁴ More information on Make your Mark can be found at [British Youth Council | Make Your Mark - UK Youth Parliament \(byc.org.uk\)](https://www.byc.org.uk)