

EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MINUTES

Committee:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Date:	Tuesday, 26 February 2019
Place:	Council Chamber, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping	Time:	7.30 - 8.59 pm
Members Present:	Councillors M Sartin (Chairman) R Jennings (Vice-Chairman) R Baldwin, N Bedford, P Bolton, D Dorrell, S Heather, J Lea, S Murray, S Neville, A Patel, P Stalker, H Whitbread, J H Whitehouse, D Wixley and I Hadley		
Other Councillors:	Councillors R Morgan, D Stocker, A Lion, G Mohindra, C Whitbread and A Grigg		
Apologies:	Councillors L Burrows and A Mitchell		
Officers Present:	T Carne (Corporate Communications Manager), P Dunley (Youth Engagement Assistant), D Gilson-Butler (Youth Engagement Officer), G Gold (Assistant Community Health & Wellbeing Manager), D Macnab (Acting Chief Executive), G. Nicholas (Interim Transformation Manager), R Perrin (Senior Democratic Services Officer), S Tautz (Democratic Services Manager) and G Woodhall (Senior Project Manager)		
By Invitation:	S Bakalov (Epping Forest Youth Councillor), A Flynn (Epping Forest Youth Council), T Gray (Epping Forest District Youth Council), S Halcrow (Epping Forest Youth Council), B Hodgkinson (Epping Forest Youth Council), R Kent (Epping Forest Youth Council), F New (Epping Forest Youth Council), E Nsofor (Epping Forest Youth Council), Z Smith (Epping Forest Youth Council), S Tiwana (Epping Forest Youth Council) and M Wilson (Epping Forest Youth Council)		

56. WEBCASTING INTRODUCTION

The Chairman reminded everyone present that the meeting would be broadcast live to the Internet, and that the Council had adopted a protocol for the webcasting of its meetings.

57. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

It was reported that Councillor I Hadley was substituting for Councillor L Burrows.

58. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 18 December 2018 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

59. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made pursuant to the Member's Code of Conduct.

60. EPPING FOREST YOUTH COUNCIL

Youth Councillors Stanimir, Florence, Archie, Eleanor and Zak made a presentation to the Committee on the work undertaken by the Youth Council in the past year. This included the celebrations of the Youth Council's 10th Anniversary at the Houses of Parliament; the Drugs Project; MiLife; Youth Activities Map; Winners of the National Crimebeat Awards 2018; and their current project We R Safe.

The Youth Councillors advised that to ensure that they were considering relevant priorities, they consulted with their peers and this revealed that the five top issues of concern were; Skills for Work; Mental Health; Bullying; Drug Misuse; and Gangs which they used as a starting point for their project work. They also used social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and had been involved in many consultations with external organisations. Currently they received £4830 from external funding and had chosen to support Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY) as their charity.

The Committee congratulated the Youth Council on their presentation, recent drugs report and work that they had been involved in across the District. Members asked a number of questions regarding the presentation.

Councillor A Patel acknowledged that the Youth Council had decided to raise funds for CRY. He advised that in conjunction with the Council, free screenings for 13-34 year olds would be being held in Buckhurst Hill this year.

Councillor H Whitbread asked how the Youth Activities Map could become more interactive. The Youth Councillors advised that the map would be available on the EFDC website, which would be interactive providing photographs of the location and further information on the organisation.

Councillor D Wixley advised that he had attended a few Youth Council meetings in relation to the litter caused by nitrogen oxide canisters and what could be done to prevent or reduce this issue across the District. Furthermore, Loughton Town Council was also considering a venue for the cardiac screenings to take place next year.

Councillor S Neville enquired about the type of fund raising the Youth Council were considering for CRY. The Youth Councillors advised that they were looking to hold events in their schools and were currently working on ideas.

Councillor R Baldwin asked the Youth Councillors what they thought of the GCSE reforms which introduce the 9 – 1 scale and mental health issues surrounding the pressure on young people; and whether there was pressure to attend university or if other outcomes such as apprenticeships were deemed acceptable. The Youth Councillors advised that they felt pressured and stressed at exam times and that this was probably not talked about enough, although the Youth Councillors were looking at ways to help address this issue. Furthermore, there appeared to be an equal split following GCSE's between young people wanting to attend university and vocational subjects with around 70% attending sixth form choosing university compared to an apprenticeships.

Councillor A Lion asked how the Council could encourage a more positive attitude towards litter. The Youth Councillors advised that greater awareness could help with the litter issues including social media campaigns and an increase of bins in the area.

Councillor M Sartin asked whether the Youth Council had much interaction with other Youth Councils. The Youth Councillors advised that they had met with the Harlow

Youth Council and several EFYC members had been elected to the Young Essex Assembly, which represented the whole of Essex.

The Chairman thanked the Youth Council for attending the Committee.

61. PUBLIC QUESTIONS & REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

It was noted that there were no public questions or requests to address the Committee.

62. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS - CALL-IN

The Acting Chief Executive advised that decision taken by the Cabinet on 10 December 2018 for the Accommodation Strategy, had been called-in.

It was reported that the call-in of the decision of the Cabinet had been made on the following summary grounds:

- (a) the current economic conditions in terms of cost savings to support relocation;
- (b) the likely proceeds to be achieved from the sale of the Council's property in light of a deteriorating residential sales market;
- (c) the provision of an updated cost plan allowing for inflation and rising construction costs;
- (d) the likely rental stream to be obtained from letting the Council's existing offices and assumptions in terms of the rent-free and void periods required to achieve lettings;
- (e) detailed estimates of the costs associated with remodelling the Civic Offices building to facilitate multi-letting;
- (f) the negative effect of relocation on businesses within the High Street at a time when retail is under immense pressure;
- (g) the unsustainable location of the proposed new Council office from an accessibility perspective and the need for transport initiatives;
- (h) the effect of the proposed move on the efficiency of the operation of the Council, including the interface with the public, the retention of the existing staff and the ability to attract new staff members who do not live in the immediate locality;
- (i) demonstration that the extra costs and additional risk of relocation is justified by non-financial benefits; and
- (j) the mitigation of risks associated with the relocation project.

In accordance with Article 6 of the Councils Constitution, the lead signatory of the call-in had requested the opportunity to have an informal meeting with the relevant officers, Portfolio Holder and Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to establish if there was a way forward to remove the objections which were raised in the call-in request.

At this meeting the lead and secondary signatory of the call-in attended with the Strategic Projects Portfolio Holder, the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Acting Chief Executive, Strategic Director, Housing & Property Services Director, Chief Estates Officer and Democratic Services Officers. Following this discussion the lead signatory advised that he was satisfied with the assurances and actions proposed and that the call-in could be formally removed and no further action would taken.

Councillor J H Whitehouse asked that a more comprehensive report be provided to the Committee, following the outcome of the informal meeting for the call-in and that, if actions were determined they were published in the Council Bulletin for all members. The Acting Chief Executive advised that her comments would be taken on board to ensure the process was more transparent. The outcome and actions would also be included in the Council Bulletin.

RESOLVED:

That the withdrawal of a call-in relating to elements of the Council's current Accommodation Strategy be noted.

63. FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS - REVIEW

The Committee considered the Council's programme of Key Decisions for 2018/19.

Contract and Technical Services

Councillor S Murray queried whether the Waste Management Review would be considering implementing a cost for dry recycling sacks. The Acting Chief Executive advised that the Waste Management Review would be considering the cost to the Council for production and distribution and not the cost to residents.

Housing and Property Services

Councillor S Murray asked whether there was any indication on what the Sheltered Housing Assets Review would encompass. Councillor C Whitbread advised that Councillor S Stavrou would report back to him.

Customer Services

Councillor S Neville enquired about the date set for the District Electoral Review. The Acting Chief Executive advised this would take place following the outcome of the Local Plan, to see where growth would be distributed across the District and would probably be delayed by 12 months.

Community & Partnership Services

Councillor A Patel asked that when the CCTV Strategy was considered, could it include temporary and pop-up CCTV because of incidents such as cars driving down one-way streets in Buckhurst Hill. The Acting Chief Executive advised that he would pass on this information and it would be discussed with Officers and the Community & Partnership Services Portfolio Holder.

64. CORPORATE PLAN KEY ACTION PLAN 2018/23 - PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 3 2018/19

The Interim Transformation Manager, G Nicholas advised that the Corporate Plan 2018-2023 was the authority's key strategic planning document. The Plan laid out the journey that the Council would take to transform the organisation to be 'Ready for the Future'. The plan linked the key external drivers influencing council services, with a set of corporate aims and objectives, grouped under three corporate ambitions.

A Corporate Specification for each year (previously called the Key Action Plan) detailed how the Corporate Plan was being delivered through operational objectives, with these in turn linked to annual service business plans.

The success of the Corporate Plan was assessed through the achievement of a set of benefits, each measured through one or more performance indicators, focussed on what the Council achieved for customers. Management Board, Cabinet and the Scrutiny Committees had overview and scrutiny roles, to drive improvement in performance and ensure corrective action was taken where necessary.

The Interim Transformation Manager highlighted the performance indicators that had not achieved their quarter targets and the reasons for this, as follows;

- **M1.2 – Number of ‘take-away’ restaurants signed up to ‘Tuck In’ pledge** – This had missed the target although a further business had signed up to the initiative and a number of steps had been put into place by the EFDC Public Health Improvement Officer to increase the up take.
- **M4.3 - Number of New Residential Properties Built or Acquired by the Council** – The value had increased although the target had been missed due to boundary wall issues; rectifying damage caused by the fire at Burton Road; and getting the water supply connected.
- **M9.6 – Delivery of the Technology Strategy** - The new projects added had reduced the overall percentage of completions and a number of projects were on hold due to the accommodation work.
- **M10.2 –Annual Council Tax collection** - This had marginally missed the target.

Further updates included;

- **M2.1 – Number of safeguarding concerns** – The value was incorrect and should have been 27%, which made it above target.
- **M2.2 – Number of days to process benefits claims** – The target had now been met.

Councillor N Bedford questioned the commentary on M10.2 Annual Council Tax collection and why the monthly instalment value was affected, if customers switched from 10 to 12 monthly payments. The Business Support Services Portfolio Holder advised that payments had now been spread over 12 months, when historical months 11 and 12 had been to chase outstanding payments, therefore causing a drop in the target as the full amount had not been collected by this point. He would amend the commentary to reflect.

RESOLVED:

That the outturn position for Quarter 3 2018/19, in relation to the achievement of the Corporate Plan for 2018-2023 had been considered and noted.

65. SCRUTINY OF EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS - SOUTH-EAST LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

The Democratic Services Manager advised that representatives of the South-East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) would be attended the next Committee meeting on 16 April 2019. Members were asked to consider appropriate lines of questioning, to ensure maximum value was achieved.

The following questions were captured and would be sent onto the Manager Director of SELEP and Essex Business Board representative for the meeting on 16 April 2019;

- a) What is the role and responsibilities of the Local Enterprise Partnership;
- b) How does the Local Enterprise Partnership support local business organisations to adapt to the current economic climate and the shift of retail activity towards increased online provision;
- c) How can the Local Enterprise Partnership assist the Council to enhance its digital infrastructure throughout the District, to support local businesses;
- d) How can the Local Enterprise Partnership support the Council in terms of attracting investment and delivering economic growth for the District;
- e) What is the likely effect of the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union on how the Local Enterprise Partnership will continue to seek to attract investment and deliver economic growth across its area; and
- f) What support can the Council provide to the Local Enterprise Partnership, particularly through initiatives such as its Digital Innovation Zone, to support the attraction of investment and the delivery of local economic growth.

66. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMMES 2018/19 - REVIEW

The Democratic Services Manager updated members on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2018/19. It was noted that the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) and the Customer Services Annual Report would be brought to the Committee meeting on 16 April 2019.

Councillor S Murray asked for assurances that Epping Forest College would be invited to attend the Committee in September/October 2019, which would allow for the Council's representative Councillor R Bassett to have established his role.

Select Committees

Communities Select Committee

Councillor H Whitbread advised that at the last meeting they had considered the Fire Safety Policy for residential Council properties, a six month progress report on the EFDC-funded police officers and an options report for the installation of sprinklers in sheltered housing schemes and homeless accommodation. The next scheduled meeting had been cancelled.

Councillor J H Whitehouse asked whether further details on the Buckhurst Hill Isolation Programme could be provided as the next meeting had been cancelled. Councillor A Patel advised that he would pass on the relevant officer's details to Councillor J H Whitehouse.

Governance Select Committee

The Democratic Services Manager advised that the consultation period for Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places & Polling Stations was now taking place for a six week period which would be reported to the relevant select committee in July 2019.

Resources Select Committee

Councillor A Patel advised that the select committee had received training with regards to the budget process and had been invited to the Finance Performance Management Cabinet Committee which considered the Council Budget for 2019/20. At the most recent meeting, consultation papers were considered regarding the Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Retention.

Neighbourhoods Select Committee

The Chairman of the select committee had nothing to report back.

Overview & Scrutiny Task and Finish Panel

Councillor P Bolton advised that the Panel had met on several occasions and had been keen to draw a distinction between the Council's 'Overview' (policy development) and 'Scrutiny' (decision-making) responsibilities. In addition there was a need to ensure that adequate resources were directed towards 'overview' activities and that influencing of policy development was carried out through appropriate pre-scrutiny.

The Panel had agreed that the future structure of the select committee framework should be based on the Corporate Plan themes of 'Stronger Council', 'Stronger Place' and 'Stronger Community' and this approach had been further developed, to inform the recommendations to be made to the Committee on 16 April 2019.

67. SCRUTINY OF EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS - REVIEW

The Committee noted their schedule of recent external scrutiny which had been carried out since 2014.

CHAIRMAN

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EFYC presentation to Overview & Scrutiny Select Committee

26 February 2019





Youth Councillor Stanimir Bakalov



Youth Councillor Florence New



Youth Councillor Archie Flynn



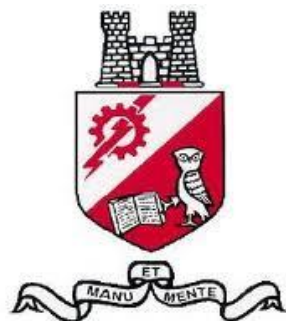
Youth Councillor Eleanor Nsofor



Youth Councillor Zak Smith



The
Ongar
Academy



ET
MANU MENTE
THE BEST THAT I CAN BE





Epping Forest



Youth Council
2008 - 2018



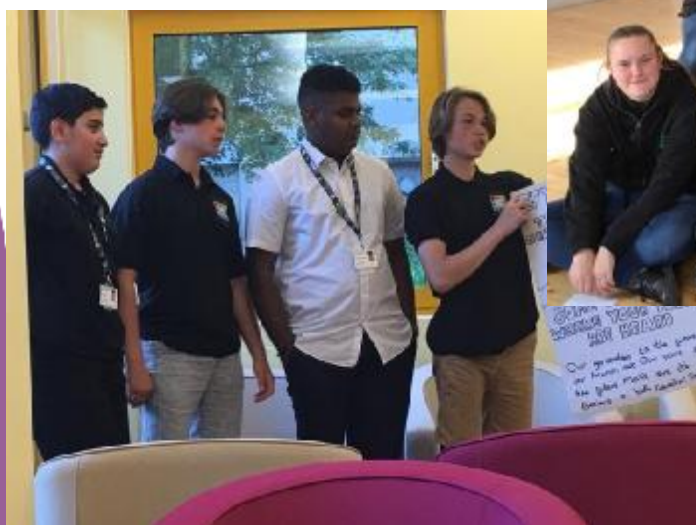
Youth Council 10th Anniversary reception to celebrate 10 years of Epping Forest Youth Council



Youth Council 10th Anniversary



EFYC Induction Training and Project Work





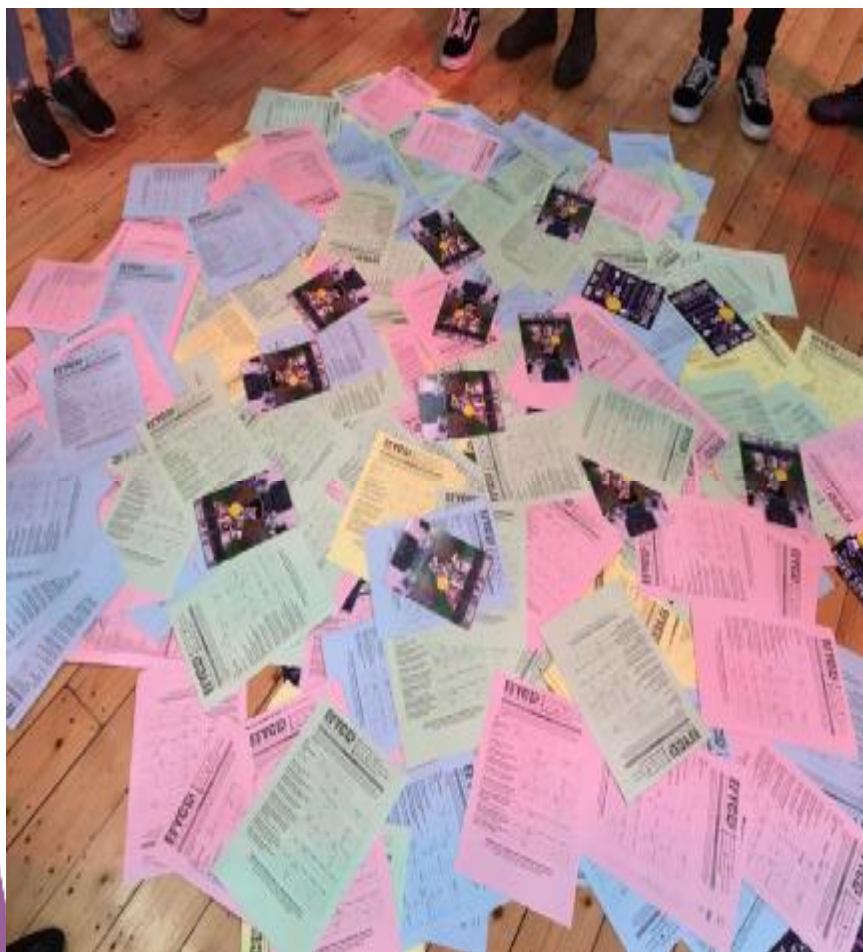


Epping Forest Youth Council



Drugs Project Report

3177 school pupils consulted





Previous Projects:

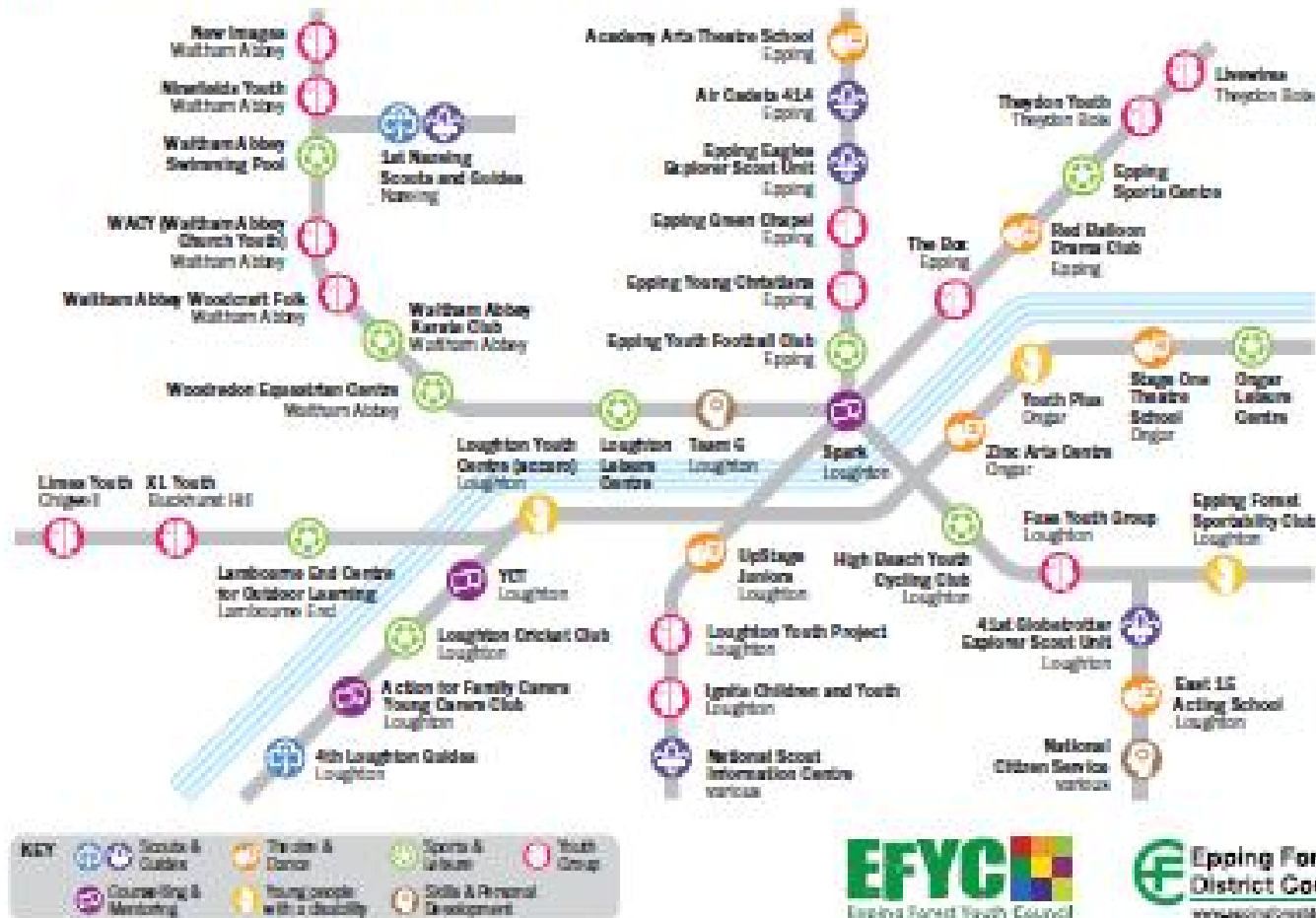
2014-2015	Bullying Awareness
2015-2019	MiLife
2017-2018	Drug Awareness

Current Project:

2018 -2019	We R Safe
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EFYC 2019 Projects

Youth Projects in Epping Forest 2019



Winner of the National Crime beat award 2018



MILIFE PARTNERSHIP



Suggestion boxes



The
Ongar
Academy



Youth Conference



The consultation highlighted the
5 top issues as:

Skills for work
Mental health
Bullying
Drug Misuse
Gangs



The
Ongar
Academy





Twitter
@eppingyc

1477 followers



Facebook
@eppingyc

762 LIKES



Instagram
@eppingyc

180 FOLLOWERS

Consultations



Representation

Epping Neighbourhood Action Panel

Epping Forest Youth Strategy Group

Communities Select committee

Anti-Social Behaviour

Epping Forest Youth Strategy
Working Group

School Councils

Training Programme

- EFYC Induction training
- Dementia Friends Awareness
- Hate Crime Ambassadors training
- Fearless training by Essex Police
- British Youth Council training
- Consequences of Crime awareness
- Drug Awareness
- Basic First Aid including Cardiac Arrest training
- Diversity Awareness



Hen Power



External Funding

£4830 EXTERNAL FUNDING IN THE PAST YEAR!

£1500	Jack Petchey Foundation
£300	O2 Think Big
£280	Jack Petchey Education Grant
£750	Jack Petchey Small Grant Fund
£1000	Safer Community Partnership
£1000	The High Sherriff of Essex



Cardiac **R**isk *in the* **Y**oung

Awards





