

MINUTES

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|--------------------------|---|--------------|-------------------------|
| Committee: | Epping Forest Youth Council | Date: | Tuesday, 9 October 2018 |
| Place: | Council Chamber, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping | Time: | 7.00 - 8.30 pm |
| Members Present: | F New (Chairman), O Okeke (Vice-Chairman), J Adams, D Bacheta, S Bakalov, J Beavis, C Brooks, M Chick, C Collins, B Dilek, A Flynn, A Freeman, S Halcrow, S Halcrow, B Hodgkinson, N Honey, R Hughes-Franklin, J James, R Kent, F Jordan, A Kuhaendran, D Mehr, J McNulty, L Nakimuli, J Nag-Chaudhury, E Nsofor, H Pickering, R Singh, Z Smith, M Wilson and A Yaman | | |
| Apologies: | T Fontenelle, R Jayakody, O Smith, A Theodorou, S Tiwana and A Whelan | | |
| Officers Present: | D Gilson-Butler (Youth Engagement Officer), R Perrin (Senior Democratic Services Officer), G Wallis (Community, Health & Wellbeing Manager) and P Dunley (Youth Engagement Assistant) | | |
| Guest Present | Essex Police and Councillor D Wixley | | |

38. CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMAN & VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was noted that Florence would be the Chairman and Onyeka would be the Vice-Chairman for this meeting.

39. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2018 were correct record subject to the following;

Minute 29. (N20 Canisters) To replace September 2018 with July 2018 in paragraph 4.

40. GUEST SPEAKERS - ESSEX POLICE

Police Officers from Essex attended to talk to Youth Councillors about their role and work within the Epping Forest and Harlow area with Operation Raptor.

The Police Officers gave a short presentation on the work they were carrying out within the community to prevent drug and gang related crimes in Epping Forest and Harlow. They explained the importance of being aware of gang cultural, how to recognise the signs and where to go to find help to break the cycle. The Police were there to safeguard the vulnerable people and enforce the law.

People could report issues to the CrimeStoppers anonymously at <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information>

Youth Councillors a series of questions regarding drug and gang culture. The Police stressed that information was key to preventing and stopping crimes and the more people did this, the easier it became to build a picture of the issues and how they could catch the offenders.

41. YOUTH COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Youth Councillors updated each other on school issues, achievements, events and training since the last meeting.

- Braeside Independent School – Jessica advised the school council was being set up alongside a charity committee.
- Chigwell School – Chris advised that the drugs had been completed and would be presented Youth Councillors at a future meeting.
- Davenant Foundation – Archie, Eleanor and Adam advised that school councils had held elections, pupils were learning about Black History month, had held a coffee morning to raise funds for Macmillan and that the sixth form had created a debating society.
- Debden Park – a Macmillan coffee morning had been held and a Halloween event had been arranged in the library for pupils to make friends.
- St John's Epping – Nina advised that the suggestion box was still not available, Marley had met with the Head teacher and they had also held a Macmillan coffee morning.
- The Ongar Academy – Harriette advised that the school council had met and an event had been held between year 7 pupils and tutors.
- Roding Valley High School – Raaj advised that the school had hosted the opening day, year 10 and 11 students had been involved in drop down days for study skills and the Brooke Building had been opened which included 4 classrooms and a new library.
- West Hatch – Arjun advised that the school had completed the ballot papers for the Youth Parliament 'Make Your Mark' debate. They had hosted their opening evening and they were putting on a Christmas production of 'Elf'.
- Trinity – Suzannah advised that the school had taken part in an ambassador day.

42. DRUGS PROJECT

This item had been deferred to the next meeting.

43. EVENT FEEDBACK

Singing in the Wilderness – Eleanor and Arjun attended a special event that celebrated the life and works of local artist Walter Spradbery. The event was hosted by the Council's Museums, Heritage and Culture team and was held at St John's C of E Primary School, Buckhurst Hill.

Communities Select Committee – Chris advised that he had attended the committee which discussed the Councils response to two important Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government consultation regarding the a "new deal for social housing" and "use of receipts from Right to buy sales".

44. EFYC 2016/18 FAREWELL

Di thanked the Youth Council cohort 2016/18 for their contribution to the Youth Council and work they had produced over their term of office. She wished them all success in their future endeavours and they could always keep in touch.

Gaby and Gill both contributed to the praise giving to the 2016/18 cohort and what they had achieved.

Youth Councillors handed Di a booklet created by them with photographs and messages from the Youth Councillors.

45. SUBMISSION FORMS

Di advised that the following requests had been put forward;

- a) Young Essex Assembly – A future date was to be arranged.
- b) Equal Arts Hen Power project – Youth Councillors interested in this project would need to live near North Weald and contact Di/Paula on WhatsApp if they were interested.
- c) Councillor Wixley – He would like to attend a future meeting when the Youth Council discuss the drugs survey.

46. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) Notices by Di;

Christmas Social – Youth Councillors were asked to consider ideas for the Christmas social and WhatsApp's ideas. The date had been confirmed for Tuesday 4th December 2018.

- (b) Notices by Gaby;

Attendance – Gaby advised that Paula would be handing out confirmation on each Youth Councillors attendance. Youth Councillors were required to attend at least 50% of meetings and this was set out in the Youth Council's Constitution, which would be discussed at the next meeting.

- (c) Youth Councillor Notices;

Plastic Water Bottles – Arjun put forward a motion for the Youth Councillors to use reusable water bottles instead of disposable water bottles going forward.

Youth Councillors discussed the merits of this motion and that they currently used reusable bottles within schools so this could be an option to help towards saving the planet.

Gill advised that the Leisure and Communities Service could potentially supply Youth Councillors with their first reusable bottle.

Beckie advised that jugs and glasses could be provided to Youth Councillors who had forgotten their reusable bottles.

Carried

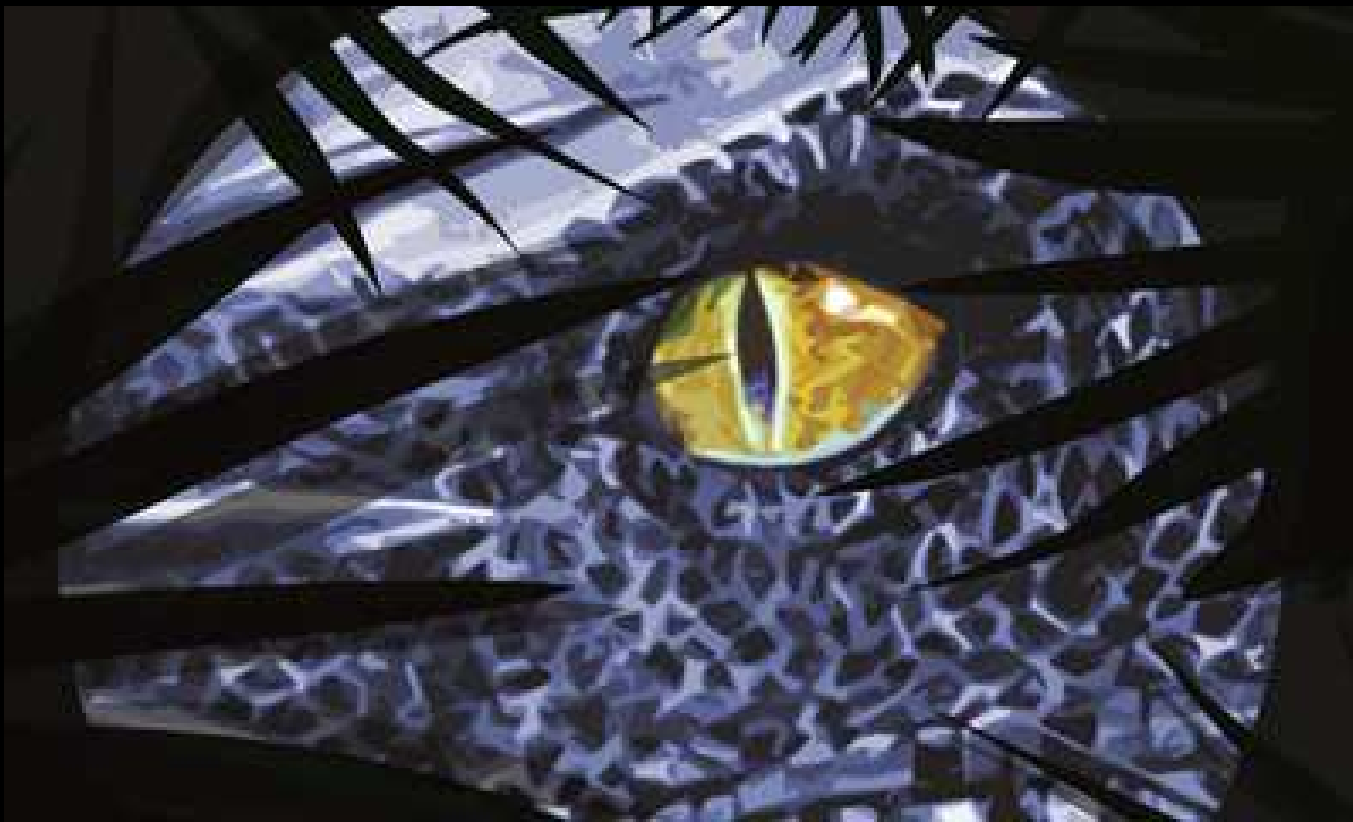
RESOLVED:

1. That from 9 October 2018 Youth Councillors meetings and training evenings would not require plastic bottled water; and
2. That Youth Councillors would bring reusable water bottles to future meetings and events.

47. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 6 November 2018.

CHAIRMAN



OPERATION **RAPTOR**

Gang Awareness

Operation Raptor is the Essex Police response to Urban Street gangs criminality.

Up Raptor teams: Grays, Harlow, Basildon, Southend, Colchester.

S 2769 PAGET

C 75262 BENNETT

What is a gang?

Urban Street Gang – USG

Durable, predominantly street based

Young people

See themselves as a group and are seen by others as a group

Range of criminality

May lay claim to an area or territory

In conflict with other similar groups

Our experience

Core ages – 16 to 24

What is a County Line?

A group (not necessarily affiliated as a gang) establishes a network between an urban hub and county location, into which drugs (primarily heroin and crack cocaine) are supplied.

A branded mobile phone line is established in the market, to which orders are placed by introduced customers. The line will commonly (but not exclusively) be controlled by a third party, remote from the market.

The group exploits young or vulnerable persons, to achieve the storage and/or supply of drugs, movement of cash proceeds and to secure the use of dwellings (commonly referred to as cuckooing).

The group or individuals exploited by them regularly travel between the urban hub and the county market, to replenish stock and deliver cash.

The group is inclined to use intimidation, violence and weapons, including knives, corrosives and firearms

Gang criminality (1)

Drugs

Class A drugs

Heroin - can be injected or smoked. Very strongly addictive.

Crack Cocaine – can be smoked. Very strongly addictive.

Cocaine – perception of a “higher end” drug. Addictive and can be turned into Crack Cocaine.

Other drugs

Class B drugs - cannabis

Gang criminality (2)

Violence

- Used as an initiation
- Perception of strength
- Enforce debts
- Enforce territory
- Increase standing within gang
- Robbery
- Weapons frequently used



Gang criminality (3)

Sexual offences

Girls seen as trophies
May be trafficked for prostitution
Missing children
Older boyfriends
Sexualised language
Knowledge of sexual activity
Gifts, presents etc.



The problem in Epping Forest (1)

Business pressure

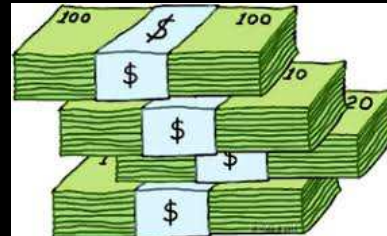
Police

Councils

Rivals

Decreasing or finite consumer

base



Business opportunity

- Lesser police enforcement
- Reduced council enforcement
- Wider consumer base



The problem in Epping Forest (2)

Senior gang members live / family links to EFD

Younger gang members may be moved into EFD

Local users exploited or coerced – family effect

Local youths may be exploited or coerced

Risk of violence if rival groups meet

Local youths attracted towards gang lifestyle

Perception

Perception of:

- Status
- Money
- Respect
- Fear
- Power
- Glamorous lifestyle
- Access to girls
- Excitement
- “Outlaw” mystique

Underlying issues

- Sense of belonging
- Desire for positive attention
- Lack of alternative opportunity
- Lack of parental or familial direction
- Insecurity



Music

Grime” music and “urban” culture

may be used to make claims on territory

insult rivals or prolong feuds

essentially a validation of the desirable aspects of “gang” lifestyle

numerous videos on Youtube and social media

Traphouse, Bando

Trapping, Shotting

Man

Mandem

Dab

Shank, shiv

Dark, brown, b

Light, white, w

Rocks, stones, pebbles, shots, dots
Shine

Bud, Weed, Green, Haze, Lemon, Zoot

Eighth, Henry, Benz, 10s

Food

Allow it

Bare

Beef

Cunching, Up Country, OT

On road

Qway

Fam

Feds

Airing

Jack, merk, tax

Yard

Ends

Whip

Peng

Nitty, Cat

Slang Q and A

What do Operation Raptor do?

Enforcement of criminal activity

Intelligence led search warrants on addresses

Intelligence led stop and search of people and vehicles

Prosecution of suspects

Take drugs, criminals, money, weapons and vehicles off the street

Safeguard vulnerable people

Gather intelligence

Engagement with partners such as social services, schools, Council

Any concerns/advice...?

emergency contact 999

Essex Police non-emergency #101

Crimestoppers #0800 555111 (Anonymous and independent from police)

Contact DS Paget or PC BENNETT

Extension 318260 or 318261

Mail:

318260@Essex.pnn.police.uk

318262@Essex.pnn.police.uk