

# **Report to Overview & Scrutiny Select Committee**

**Date of meeting: 17 March 2020**



**Portfolio: Community & Partnerships**

**Subject: Annual review of the work undertaken by Epping Forest Youth Council**

**Responsible Officer: Vanessa Gayton (01992 564559)**

**Democratic Services: Gary Woodhall (01992 564470)**

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## **Recommendations/Decisions Required:**

**(1) That the Overview & Scrutiny Committee receives an annual progress report on the work undertaken by the Community, Culture and Wellbeing Team with the Epping Forest Youth Council.**

## **Report:**

1. EFDC Youth Council has become a high-profile national award-winning Youth Council, comprising 25 young people representing 9 Epping Forest secondary schools with 2 independent members. These young people represent the views of their peers and wider school communities, and each has attained their positions on the Council via a comprehensive Election process within the establishment they represent. Member support has enabled the Youth Council to go from strength to strength, creating youth friendly projects to engage our community.

2. On Tuesday 17 March 2020, the Youth Council will make a presentation to the Overview and Scrutiny Select Committee highlighting their excellent work over the past two years before the new cohort of Youth Councillors commence their service in May 2020.

3. The Youth Council will refer to the fourth and final year of the mental health project MiLife which received the National Crime beat Award and how this programme can be presented digitally at no further cost; the 2019 Drugs report that was presented to district, town and parish councils where 3177 young people completed an anonymous online survey and the We R Safe project, five community safety films addressing young people's safety, building resilience and encouraging them to report crimes and incidents.

4. They will report on the updated Epping Forest Youth Activities Map and the Health and Wellbeing Youth Conference in November 2019 which was delivered in partnership with the West Essex CCG and identified the 5 top issues important to our young people today:

- Sexual Health
- Gangs
- Mental Health
- Bullying
- Climate Change

5. The Youth Councillors actively attend and support different community groups across the district which include children, young people and older people. They will talk about their volunteering, the training and external funding they have secured; awards and letters of recognition received which includes a letter of thanks from Buckingham Palace for EFDC's

work with young people and the We R Safe project.

6. The Youth Councillors are currently promoting and holding youth elections in their schools.

**Reason for Decision:**

It was agreed that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee would receive an annual update on the work undertaken by the Community, Culture and Wellbeing Team with Epping Forest Youth Council.

**Other Options Considered and Rejected:**

N/A.

**Consultation undertaken:**

A range of consultation is taken with the Youth Councillors about current issues which inform future projects that will benefit young people in our communities, engaging, educating and signposting them to ensure the environment they live in is a healthier, happier place. These will be included in the presentation.

**Resource implications:**

There have been no increases in budget required from the council to date. The Youth Council receives core funding £12,000 per annum for day to day support and running costs including training, travel expenses and uniforms.

In December 2018 the Cabinet agreed a DDF sum of £15,000 to be allocated to Epping Forest Youth Council, as a project budget to enable the Youth Council to deliver a range of targeted projects for young people in 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22.

**Legal and Governance Implications:**

N/A.

**Safer, Cleaner, Greener Implications:**

N/A.

**Background Papers:**

N/A.

**Impact Assessments:**

Equality Impact Assessment completed.

**Risk Management:**

N/A.