



Children & Young People's Cabinet 2018

Report of the Cabinet Meeting held in the
Council Chambers, London Road HQ, Kilmarnock
29th August 2018



bliadhna na h-òigridh



East Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir an Ear

active connected
vibrant
COMMUNITIES

Young People's Cabinet Meeting

29th August 2018

In Attendance

Chairs:

Councillor Douglas Reid, Chair of East Ayrshire Council Cabinet

Terri Brown, Chair of Children and Young People's Cabinet

Representing East Ayrshire Council Cabinet:

Alex McPhee, Depute Chief Executive & Chief Financial Officer: Economy and Skills

Katie Kelly, Depute Chief Executive: Safer Communities

Ian Rennie, Church Representative

Jacqueline Livingston, Parent Representative

Linda McAulay-Griffiths, Head of Education

Paul McGowan, Head of Human Resources

Gwen Barker, Policy Planning & Performance

Sharon Hodgson, Economic Development

Stuart McCall, Legal Manager

Kevin Wells, Service Manager: Early Intervention & Prevention

Christine Baillie, Team Leader: Democratic Services

Connor McNamara

Alice Brazier

Joanna Niven

Hope Welsh

Emily Chau

Jack Tognini

Daniel Butcher

Ryan Bartolo

Chloe McLelland

Karen Harrow

Bronwyn Alexander

Hannah Shankland

Aimee Purdie

Eilidh McGinney

Louisa McEvoy, Community Work Assistant

Heather McCormick, Community Worker

Joyce McGregor, Community Worker

Elected Members:

Councillor Claire Leitch (Children's Champion)

Councillor Elena Whitham

Councillor Gordon Jenkins

Councillor John McGhee

Councillor Tom Cook

Councillor Fiona Campbell

Councillor Neil McGhee

Councillor Jim Roberts

Councillor Jim McMahon

Apologies

Councillor Iain Linton

Councillor Clair Maitland

Maria Dorrian, Church Representative

Shaheen Mirza, Church Representative

Graham Boyd, Teacher Representative

Agenda for 22nd November 2018:

10.00am Welcome

10.05am Apologies

10.10am Introduction to speakers

10.15am - 10.45am Violence Against Women: Lorraine Fleming, AAPCT

10.45am - 11.15am UNFEARTIES Campaign sign up

11.15am - 11.45am John Burns CEO, NHS—Transformation Strategy

11.45am - 12.00pm Evelyn Grant, Vibrant Communities - Volunteering

12.00pm - 12.30pm Discuss the design of a logo that represents the EA Children and Young People's Cabinet. Completed designs can be submitted by email to heather.mccormick@east-ayrshire.gov.uk Closing date 10th December.

12.30pm - 1.00pm LUNCH BREAK

1.00pm - 1.45pm Groupwork Session: Community Planning Partnership Meeting

(i) 12th February 2019 - 8 Members (max)

(ii) What does the Cabinet ask from the Community Planning Partnership for young people of East Ayrshire?

(iii) Suitable date to speak to Sub Group to explain what is required of the group that will attend at this meeting. Possibly 30th January 2019.

2.00pm **THANK YOU AND CLOSE**

Welcome and Introductions:

Councillor Reid welcomed everyone to the first Joint Meeting of the Council's Cabinet and Children and Young People's Cabinet.

Councillor Reid expressed his delight that so many of the young people were able to attend and was looking forward to a lively and informed debate.

Introductions were then made.

2018: YEAR OF YOUNG PEOPLE - MID YEAR REVIEW

(Item 2E, Pages 82 & 283, 17/22)

There was submitted a report dated 14th August 2018 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive: Safer Communities on the work being progressed against East Ayrshire's Year of Young People Plan. The report outlined progress against the planned activity and the schedule of works planned for the remaining 6 months.

It was agreed to note that:-

(i) during the first 6 months of the year, 14 of the 18 highlighted initiatives had either started or been completed;

(ii) some important events were still to take place this year, i.e. Scottish Youth Parliament sitting in October, the Youth Conference in November and Celebration Showcase in December; and

(iii)work had progressed on producing a legacy around co-production with our young people beyond 2018.

BREXIT - HOW IT AFFECTS OUR YOUNG PEOPLE AND GREATER COMMUNITY

Terri Brown, MSYP for Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley and Chair of the Children and Young People's Cabinet introduced this item and asked Members for their views on how Brexit could affect our young people.

Discussion centred around:-

- * freedom of movement and concerns that young people may find it more difficult to study, live or work abroad;
- * the effect on local businesses and apprenticeships - what and how businesses can import/export goods and whether this would have additional financial burdens which could impact on future employment;
- * lack of consultation with young people over Brexit as they had not been able to vote in the Referendum;
- * concerns for those living in East Ayrshire who did not originate from the United Kingdom. It was important to recognise the skills and talents that these people bring to the area and that they should be supported to remain within the UK;
- * scaremongering regarding the availability of medicines which are imported from abroad; and
- * European funding resources for business and young people - discussion was ongoing on how these funds could continue to benefit businesses and young people.

It was agreed that it was too early at this stage to know what the implications of Brexit would be for young people, but general consensus was that it was important that the same or better opportunities were available in terms of education, employment and freedom of movement.

BRINGING DEVELOPMENT TO OUR COMMUNITIES (BUSKING, SKATE PARKS ETC)

Connor McNamara, MSYP for Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley, on introducing this item, advised that the nearest viable skate park was located in South Ayrshire, making it expensive for young people from East Ayrshire to participate. Connor proposed that having a similar skate park in East Ayrshire would be beneficial in terms of keeping active, learning new skills and also the social aspect which surrounded this type of activity.

Following a full discussion, with Members being fully supportive of exploring the option of having a similar facility within East Ayrshire, it was agreed:-

- * that Members of both Cabinets attend a site visit to the facility in South Ayrshire to discuss, amongst other things, funding, running costs, insurance and health and safety etc;
- * to note that East Ayrshire had a mobile skate park that was well used showing that there was a market for such a facility;
- * that it was important to note that the Council's role would be that of enabler and would assist the young people to take the project forward, if it was deemed to be viable; and
- * that it would be important to ensure the sustainability of the project and consideration should be given to having a café and/or soft play, or similar, which would assist with income generation.

- * that it would be important to ensure the sustainability of the project and consideration should be given to having a café and/or soft play, or similar, which would assist with income generation.

Connor then raised the issue of busking in East Ayrshire and how it could be made more accessible. Stuart McCall, Legal Manager, confirmed that no licence was required for busking in East Ayrshire.

Stuart further advised that no real issues had arisen regarding busking in East Ayrshire, perhaps only a few complaints from shop premises, on occasions.

Kevin Wells advised that during the recent K-fest held in Kilmarnock, busking had been encouraged with dedicated "Busk Stops" being introduced and perhaps this was an initiative that could be encouraged.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Councillor Reid advised that public transport had been discussed at the recent Joint Meeting between East Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership and East Ayrshire Children and Young People's Cabinet and asked Ryan Bartolo and Eilidh McGinney to introduce the item.

Ryan started by talking about the lack of available public transport in rural areas which had a negative impact on young people who wished to take up extra-curricular activities. Costs were also an issue, making public transport unaffordable to some young people.

Following discussion, the following issues were raised:-

- * costs - too expensive; and
- * reduction in services, particularly in rural areas. This has a massive impact on those needing public transport to travel to and from work, to college and university, to Doctor's appointments etc and attending interviews.

Councillor Whitham advised that this was a Scottish Government responsibility and they were looking at all of these issues including extending free travel to Modern Apprentices.

It was agreed that the discussion needed to continue regarding subsidised routes, timetable etc, to ensure all East Ayrshire routes were adequately covered.

Hanna Shankland went on to say that she has to travel by public transport to Auchinleck Academy from Cumnock Academy to attend an Advanced Higher subject.

The bus timetable meant that she had to either wait for an hour after the class for a bus or leave early to get back to school on time for her next subject. This was having a negative impact on pupils' ability to study their preferred subjects.

Linda McAulay-Griffiths advised that this was something that East Ayrshire Council was aware of and were working towards a solution. A digital solution was being trialled.

Eilidh McGinney then raised the issue of disabled access on public transport, together with costs for disabled young people.

Councillor Reid concluded by saying that, as it was the Scottish Government who had responsibility for public transport, these issues would be raised with the appropriate Cabinet Minister as access to learning, training and work opportunities was paramount to young people's education.

HELPING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE SUCCEED

Joanna Niven stated that young people felt under pressure to meet the school's targets regarding attainment and this impacts on young people's subject choices.

Linda McAulay-Griffiths replied that all teachers want to encourage young people to be the best that they can be but this does not always mean in terms of the number of qualifications achieved. It was much more important that the needs of young people were met at all stages of their learning.

Discussion then took place regarding support for pupils with additional support needs. Linda confirmed that the Council has a statutory duty of care for additional support needs and it was important that young people with a learning difficulty were supported. Part-time timetabling and supported study being some of the ways in which this was done.

Other issues raised were:-

- * getting information on funding for English Universities;
- * access to extra-curricular activities was important and should be promoted more in schools; and

It was recognised that success was not all about qualifications.

Access to all information/opportunities was important for young people's development and this information should be available from Teachers and/or the young person's mentor.

SHARING IDEAS/UPDATES

Councillor Reid advised that he had been very impressed with the range of topics discussed today and really enjoyed hearing the views of young people and Cabinet Members alike.

He went on to say that this Joint Meeting would become an annual event and hopefully there would be other opportunities throughout the year to continue the conversation.

Connor McNamara then thanked Councillor Reid and the Council Cabinet Members for the invitation and also thanked the Children and Young People's Cabinet for their input.

The meeting terminated at 1156 hours.

