



# Children & Young People's Cabinet

**JOINT CABINET AND CHILDREN AND YOUNG  
PEOPLES CABINET**

March 2023



Children & Young  
People's Cabinet

active connected  
**vibrant**  
COMMUNITIES



East Ayrshire Council  
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir an Ear



## AGENDA

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks Ian McMeekin, CPP Executive Officers' Group (Chair) and David McGilp, Children and Young People's Cabinet (Chair)
2. Previous Minutes from August 2021 (Chair)
3. Update from East Ayrshire MSYPs Paige Holland and Mark Chan (Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley Area)
4. Anti Social Behaviour in Communities Sarah McCreadie (Vice Chair) CYPC
5. Proceeds of Crime in East Ayrshire Caleb Lincoln CYPC
6. Alcohol and Drugs: Education and Support Recommendations for Young People Paige Holland MSYP and Mark Chan MSYP
7. Future Opportunities for Young People with Community Planning Partners Catriona P Smith CYPC
8. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Strategic Plan. Ian McMeekin, CPP Executive Officers' Group (Chair) Cont./
9. AOCB
10. Date of Next Meeting and Closing Remarks (Ian McMeekin and David McGilp)

## 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ian McKeekin and David McGilp welcomed those in attendance and highlighted they were really pleased to see everyone here today. Ian asked that everyone introduce themselves and their positions to familiarise themselves with those present.

Present: as per sederunt

## 2. SCOTTISH YOUTH PARLIAMENT UPDATE

Paige Holland provided an update for her role as the MSYP (Member Scottish Youth Parliament) and apologised for Mark Chans absence at the meeting. Paige gave an update about SYP77 sitting and discussed the member's motion that was recently passed at the recent sitting. This motion intimated that there was a need for mandatory alcohol and drugs training. This was agreed by 97% of the membership.

Paige also noted Mark's work with the Electoral Commission, as part of his role as Deputy Convenor of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee. Paige has been looking at food and fuel poverty, as part of her role in the Social Security Committee. They have also been working with Celebrate Kilmarnock and think they may involve other young people in this work [at a later date](#). They are consulting with young people in preparation for SYP78, the next SYP meeting.

Eddie Fraser, Chief Executive of East Ayrshire Council, asked Paige for further information on the work surrounding food and fuel poverty. Paige explained that young people have highlighted they are worried about fuel prices for new drivers and awareness of food banks all year round, rather than just during the festive period.

Eddie asked Paige if the committee have discussed how to reduce stigma for those who access services throughout the Cost of Living crisis. Paige noted this is an ongoing issue which needs to be addressed.

Adam Strain recognised all the ongoing hard work and time Paige and Mark put into their roles.

## 3. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN COMMUNITIES

Sarah McCready discussed the work previously done by the council and the police to tackle antisocial behaviour, including park patrols and diversionary roles within Vibrant Communities. She asked partners what work is currently running to further this, and what work is [planned for the future](#). Sarah also expressed that cabinet members would be more than happy to help partners in finding a solution.

Blair explained that antisocial behaviour was part of his role and explained the work that had been completed to try and combat the issue.

This includes;

- Creating a team, that includes a variety of partners such as the Police and Fire Service, who evaluate antisocial behaviour on a day-to-day basis.
- Hot-spot areas for anti-social behaviour, such as parks and bus stations, have been targeted, with methods such as CCTV and Police presence on foot, on horses, and even on trial bikes.

Lynne McNiven, Director of Public Health for NHS Ayrshire and Arran expressed she feels [it is](#) important to help young people understand they are more vulnerable under the influence, and therefore at increased risk of injury or attack.

Adam Strain explained that Vibrant Communities has been delivering educational roadshows to S3 pupils and these roadshows included wider partners from Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue and NHS Health. The topics at these roadshows covered Anti-social behaviour, alcohol and drugs, fire and water safety and sexual health.

Chief Superintendent Farouq Hussain detailed the many ways the Police have been trying to tackle the problem. This includes but is not limited to campus officers in every secondary school, students from Robert Burns Academy going to Dumfries House and speaking to young people during health weeks in schools. He was keen to receive the CYPC's feedback on this.

The CYPC were asked what they felt drives people to participate in anti-social behaviour, and what they felt could be done to resolve this. Young people felt that the media, peer pressure, packaging and boredom all contributed to young people committing anti-social behaviour. Sarah McCready noted that currently education surrounding drinking focuses on not drinking, but she felt it should move towards teaching young people how to know their limits and drink responsibly.

Lynne McNiven believed that a lot of young people learn to drink from their parents, so it is important parents also receive education surrounding substance misuse. She noted out that many young people just want somewhere to go and meet, particularly somewhere free.

Claire Burden, Chief Executive of NHS Ayrshire and Arran, wanted to work with the CYPC, noting that the young people generally wanted education to focus on choices and consequences, rather than do's and don'ts.



Chief Superintendent Farouq Hussain also wanted to discuss anti-social behaviour in virtual spaces. All young people agreed that this was a widespread issue. Lynne McNiven asked how the CYPC felt children in primary schools could be educated on the issue, and some of the CYPC members felt that this is best done through parents, especially as they haven't grown up with social media. Chief Superintendent Farouq also shared that he had created an online safety guide with Largs Academy and would be more than happy to share this with the CYPC.

Suzanne Clark, Service Manager at Vibrant Communities, expressed the importance of working with all partners moving forward, perhaps on a CYPC meeting.

#### 4. PROCEEDS OF CRIME

Caleb wanted to know how money seized from drugs crime is being distributed within East Ayrshire, specifically to young people.

Chief Superintendent Farouq Hussain explained that the money goes to the Scottish Government who divide the money between communities. He was unsure if the money seized in Ayrshire stays in Ayrshire.

Blair explained that this money goes to Cashback for Communities, a national project, which funds projects that support young people at risk of offending.

#### 5. ALCOHOL AND DRUGS: EDUCATION AND SUPPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

Paige explained how she, and Mark Chan passed their member's motion at SYP77, with 96% of young people agreeing that young people should receive mandatory alcohol and drugs training within schools. They feel that young people should be treated with maturity and respect, as they explore substances, and should understand how to do so in a safe way. They want a new PSHE curriculum put forward and have evidence which shows high levels of support for this. Lastly, Paige asked what East Ayrshire plans to do to tackle drugs and alcohol in communities.

**The young people from the youth cabinet all supported the MSYP's motion; they agreed that educating young people at a younger age is particularly important.**

Craig McArthur, Director of Health and Social Care Partnership, explained the role of the Alcohol and Drugs Alliance in dealing with substance abuse issues. He spoke about how, [previously](#), their work had been targeted at people in recovery and had never previously considered targeting this at young people. He expressed that he wanted to work together with MSYPs to explore this issue; Lynne McNiven agreed and added it's important to remember children whose parents are affected.

Suzanne Clark asked the young people if they thought these PSE lessons would work better if delivered by young people to young people. The CYPC agreed that this was a great idea. Some young people, such as Paige Holland MSYP, described scenarios where they've seen this type of lesson has worked previously elsewhere. Craig McArthur added that previously they had recovered addicts telling their story, which he found to be effective. Most people agreed that this was a great idea and felt that [it's](#) important PSE lessons are interactive.

## 6. FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOINT WORKING

Catriona first asked, 'How do you support senior pupils who are considering working in your field?' Ian McMeekin, Local Senior Officer for Ayrshire, detailed that Fire Service wants to encourage young people to join, not just as firefighters, but in their wide variety of roles, and that this is done through school careers events and 2 youth volunteer programmes that the Fire Service runs. Suzanne Clark explained that Vibrant Communities engages with young people through work experience and leadership programmes run through Active Schools. Vibrant Communities also offers Kick-start placements for young people without positive destinations. Claire Burden also emphasised that the NHS offers a wide variety of career paths as well as roles as doctors or nurses, and that young people can get involved through modern apprenticeships, as well as through traditional education. Chief Superintendent Faroque told us that the Police hosts interested young people for activities such as tours and wanted to know the CYPC's thoughts on how the Police could make careers in policing more attractive. Kai McCloudbright noted that some young people may find signing up for these opportunities difficult due to the lack of information, and that this needs to be addressed.

Catriona then asked, 'Do you have any young people on your boards?' Chief Superintendent Faroque explained that the Police involve young people using surveys, and the Police and Fire Reform Committee. He also noted that he engages with the MSYPs on a strategic level but would be more than happy to engage with the young people more frequently. Ian McMeekin expressed his interest in getting the CYPC involved and suggested a shadow cabinet.

Lynne McNiven liked this idea and emphasised the importance of supporting young people who want to get involved. Eddie Fraser stated that he wanted to improve youth involvement and wanted to consult with the CYPC more often on issues affecting young people. All the young people thought this was a great idea.

## 7. AOB

Finally, Catriona asked, 'Do you have any questions for us? Is there any way we can get involved in your decision making?'

Ian McMeekin wants to consult with the CYPC on the Local Fire Plan and said that he will be in touch. Eddie Fraser suggested that Joe talks to us at an earlier stage in budget planning to discuss our priorities.

Lynne McNiven explained that she is taking a report to the NHS board which she wants to share with the CYPC and is interested in joining one of their meetings.

Claire Burden asked what involvement the CYPC would like to see, and Catriona Smith suggested that [all of](#) the CYPC is consulted/surveyed [at a later date](#).

Craig McArthur would like to involve the CYPC in co-design work surrounding care services.

There being no further business the meeting was closed and thanks given from both Chairs to members in attendance.

Refreshments were made available in the Canteen for the Cabinet Members.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

March 2024 with day To be decided.

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