



Children & Young People's Cabinet

AGM and Election of Office Bearers

25th June 2024



Children & Young
People's Cabinet

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COMMUNITIES



East Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir an Ear



Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 25th June

10 am to 2 pm

Venue : Shortlees Community Centre, Carpet Room

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|---|------------------------|
| 1. Welcome and Introductions | Sarah McCready |
| 2. We Are Kilmarnock Consultation | Keri Lockhart– Thomson |
| 3. Minutes of Previous AGM | Sarah McCready |
| 4. Matters Arising | Sarah McCready |
| 5. Chairpersons Annual Report | Sarah McCready |
| 6. Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair Speeches | |
| • Completed Ballot Papers | |
| 7. Welcome to new Office Bearers | Cllr Leitch |
| • Request for Minute Secretary | |
| 8. Youth Achievement Opportunities | Kerry Dair |

LUNCH

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| 9. Calendar of Future Meetings | Sarah McCready |
| 10. Campaigns for 2023/25 — Inc. Updates | |
| • Skills for Life | |
| • Mental Health & Wellbeing | |
| • Road Safety | |
| 11. Date of Next Meeting | |

Thank you and Close

Present:

Sarah McCready (Chair), Caleb Lincoln (Vice-Chair), Emma Simpson, Tammy Whyte, Aimee Sharp, Luke Hyslop, Morgan McPherson, Abi Affleck, Jessica McNichol, Cllr Claire Leitch, Suzanne Clark (Service Manager), Adam Strain (Team Leader), Kerry Dair (Vibrant Communities), Keri Lockhart-Thomson (Place Coordinator), Graeme McConnell-Campbell (Place Worker)

Sarah McCready welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for introductions and a small 'Win of the Week' to help break the ice and get to know everyone.

Keri Lockhart-Thomson and Graeme McConnell-Campbell attended the meeting from Vibrant Communities Team. Keri provided an update about the work she is involved in within the Kilmarnock Town centre area. The Kilmarnock Community Led Action Plan are currently trying to recruit young people to their youth alliance that will help steer the Kilmarnock Action Plan and ensure the voices of young people are heard.

Keri is also involved with "We Make Kilmarnock" which is focused on improving the Kilmarnock Area with £20m investment over the next 10 years. The group participated in an activity to explore suggestions to make improvements for the Kilmarnock Area. The group provided ideas for the 6 different sections: Safe, Healthy, Fun, Creative, Enterprise and Beautiful.

Keri highlighted that "We Make Kilmarnock" will be reporting back to groups in August and she would be delighted to return and provide feedback to the Youth Cabinet.

Sarah thanked the Communities Team and provided the cabinet with her annual report—(see attached). At the end of the speech, Sarah intimated that she is moving on to University meaning that unfortunately she would be standing down as Chair of Children and Young People's Cabinet, however she would remain an active member going forward and offered her support to the new Chair and Vice Chair once elected. Caleb also intimated that he too would also be standing down as Vice Chair for the Children and Young People's Cabinet due to University commitments.

At the end of Sarah's report, Adam Strain highlighted the phenomenal achievements of the CYP Cabinet over the last passed year, which is evident with their recent Award at the National Youth Work Awards where they were runners up. Adam also gave thanks to Sarah and Caleb for all the work they had done for the Youth Cabinet and

It was now time to re-elect a Chair and Vice Chair for the Cabinet. 2 members had expressed an interest in standing; *Emma Simpson and Sharpe*.

Both members gave their individual speeches about why they wanted to be elected as Chair and what they wanted their focus to be on. (attached)

Ballot Papers were collected and counted and the new positions were taken up by:

Aimee Sharpe – Chair
Emma Simpson – Vice Chair

Following the Election of Office Bearers, members were asked to consider a minute taker position within the committee. Abby, Tammy and Jessica noted they would be interested in working together to take minutes for future meetings. Adam noted that they would all be supported and minute taking training would be provided if required.

Kerry talked to members about the possibilities of achieving a variety of youth awards for the fantastic work they are all doing. Kerry explained different options they can participate in such as Dynamic Youth Awards, Youth Achievement, Saltire Awards and the elements of Duke of Edinburgh's Award that they can link their cabinet work into.

Tammy was also presented with a Dynamic Youth Award that she has previously achieved for her commitment to her ongoing voluntary work.

After lunch, the Youth Cabinet discussed up and coming meetings that are planned for Autumn. The group discussed and agreed on issuing the calendar to all members to ensure they can be prepared in advance.

Sarah provided an update to the Cabinet about the working groups. It was agreed that some working groups lacked representation and some members agreed to join those where numbers were lower.

Skills for Life

The group met and are developing a programme to be rolled out to youth provision within Stewarton Area. The 6 week programme will target skills that young people recognise they would like more understanding on for their future.

Mental Health and Wellbeing:

An initial meeting was held regarding school Counselling and making suggestions to improve this service.

Road Safety:

This work is still to commence and will commence in due course.

Equalities Forum Update:

All presentations have been made and are ready for delivery at the Equalities Forum. This was postponed due to elections but will run in the autumn.

The meeting ended with the new Chair and Vice Chair, thanking everyone for attending and highlighting they are looking forward to working with everyone over the next year.



This document is also available, on request, in Braille, large print or recorded on to tape, and can be translated into your language on request.

Tha an sgrìobhainn seo ri faotainn cuideachd, ma iarrar a leithid, ann an clò nan dall, sa chlà mheò no air a clàradh air teip, agus faodar a cur dhan chànan agaibh fhèin ma dh'iarras sibh.

Dokument dost pny jest również w alfabecie Braille'a, w wersji z powiększonym drukiem lub w formie nagrania dźwiękowego na kasecie.

Na życzenie oferujemy także tłumaczenie dokumentu na wybrany język.

آپ یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں یا آپ کے لیے کسی اور زبان میں لکھی ہوئی کاپی بھی حاصل کر سکتے ہیں۔

閣下如需要這份資料的其他語言版本，請透過以下的地址與我們聯絡。

ਸੇਕਰ ਡੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ
ਸਾਂਝੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰ ਹੇਠ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਪਤੇ 'ਤੇ
ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ ।



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Cabinet Speech

Hello, and thank you for having me, my name is Emma Simpson i am one of the Girlguiding reps for the cabinet beside the amazing Aimee sharp. I am currently studying at Grange Academy in Kilmarnock and have entered my Sixth year.

I have been within the cabinet for almost 9 months now. I am so grateful to be part of the cabinet, to work alongside the many talented young people we have within our cabinet, and be able to come together and talk about ways we can help young people to thrive within our community.

I'm very delighted to be able to have the chance to run for one of the chair or vice-chair positions within our cabinet. As if i was in one of these positions i could discuss issues that are very important to me. These issues are mental health and young people within the community.

One issue that i would like to discuss is mental health surrounding young people. Many young people these days struggle with knowing when or how to speak up. Which is a big issue with a lot of young people i have been friends or worked with. Having gone through both charity funded and school counselling services myself i believe that the school counselling services aren't as the best they could be. Some people may argue that they are good but for young people like i, i found it hard to tell anyone i needed these services and my friends also didn't know where to direct me. I believe that within schools we should be more open about counselling and getting the help you need, by breaking the stigma surrounding mental health.

Another issues i feel strongly about is young people withing the community. Alot of people my age isn't fully involved within their community. The East Ayrshire council is currently doing a great job with their many music festivals, for example the Kilmarnock fair on the 29th of June. I believe though that if there was more advertising for these events and opportunities for young people within our community were highlighted many would be involved within our community. It is also a great way to make friends and to have a sense of belonging. The cabinet has helped me feel welcomed and part of the east Ayrshire community.

I am extremely grateful to be able to even be considered for any of the positions on offer and i appreciate any votes i get. It would be a great experience for me and i would be happy to be a voice for the young people within east Ayrshire! Thank you.

Cabinet Speech– Aimee Sharpe

Hello everyone it is a pleasure to be here today, my name is aimee and i am one of the girlguiding reps for eacypc beside the wonderful emma simpson and have just left stewarton academy to go and train in musical theatre at NCLAN arts in Motherwell this august.

I have been a part of the cabinet now for almost two years and in that time i have learned incredible life skills and attended meetings with various councillors and speakers discussing important topics that involve young people in our society.

I am delighted to be running for one of the cabinet positions on offer as being chair or vice would allow me to discuss matters that i feel need to be covered and approached for young people in society within east Ayrshire, and represent you're voices on matters you wish discussed.

One of these issues would be the recently discussed funding cuts for the council that will affect instrumental school music services, this would take away lessons and instruments to many children, not allowing them to thrive in a musical environment and build confidence and major life skills that will benefit them in the future, as the east ayrshire young musician of the year and the scottish young vocalist of the year this is an issue i strongly wish to resolve as i myself have benefited from the instrumental services provided by the council and to see them cut due to financial reasons would be extremely difficult for me to stand by and watch , by resolving this young people would be allowed to continue free instrumental services, keep instruments and gain major life skills for the future, by working with likeminded youngsters in ensemble environments.

Another issue i would feel strongly about approaching is the support of mental health services for young people, this would allow for young people to feel heard and supported allowing them to thrive better in education and through extra curricular activities something in which i strongly believe in as someone who has struggled with support in the past, by resolving this issue hundreds of children would be benefited allowing them a safer space when things become overwhelming at school etc, aswell as giving them someone to discuss any issues with.

i am extremely grateful to be considered for any of the wonderful positions and appreciate any votes, i hope you can see my plans for wanting to make east ayrshire a better environment for our young people as i would love to represent you're voices and make sure they are heard! thank you so much!

Chair's Annual Report

East Ayrshire Youth Cabinet 23/23

AGM

Our initial meeting! Discussion of future plans and election of office bearers

Meeting with Head of Finance

Chair and Vice Chair met with the Head of Finance, prior to a meeting with the rest of Cabinet. Discussion surrounded financial challenges faced by the council, with emphasis on areas facing young people.

Cabinet Meeting

Priorities set for the rest of the year: vaping, mental health and wellbeing, and road safety.

Note: Vaping was later changed to Skills for Life due to legislation introduced to the Scottish Parliament

Participatory Budget Event

Chair and Vice Chair Secured £5,000 of funding towards Colour Run Event

Meeting with Inspectors

Colour Run

Planning meetings were held on a bi-weekly and then weekly basis. Event was well attended despite the weather and enjoyed by all!

Joint Cabinet

Young people presented our priorities and have since taken forward actions/working groups.

Children's Services Review

Chair engaged with Sina Currie on what leadership and positive change looks like in Children's Services. Report has since been published.

Equalities Forum

Initial planning had taken place, however event was postponed due to General Election.

Skills for Life

Following Joint Cabinet meeting, working group discussed potential of a community-based youth work programme. Work is still being completed.

East Ayrshire Employee Awards

Attended by Chair and Vice Chair, with a wonderful performance from Aimee!

YouthLink Awards

Chair, Vice Chair, Tammy, Heather and Cllr. Cowan attended the awards in Glasgow. We were runner up - many thanks again for all your hard work!

Education Meeting

Members met with Head of Education to discuss Education Service Improvement Plan.

