



Child and Youth Voice, Children Select Committee Update - December 2022

Mental Health First Aid

A subgroup of the Wiltshire Youth Council has been working with the Healthy Schools Lead Nick Bolton to become trained as Mental Health First Aiders. The training will take place in January, this will be for members of the Wiltshire Youth Council and also our Wiltshire Youth Consultants.

Healthy Schools Awards Auditors

Members of the Wiltshire Youth Council have conducted two Health and Wellbeing audits at Hardenhuish and Trafalgar. The Youth Councillors that attended had a tour of the schools, completed a focus group with pupils and interviewed the Head Teachers. The Wiltshire Youth Councillors supplied feedback about how well they thought the schools were achieving. Cllr Laura Mayes, and two Wiltshire Youth Councillors presented Trafalgar School with their bronze Healthy School Award in front of an assembly of pupils.

Shadow Youth Cabinet Members

The Shadow Youth Cabinet Members met in October Half Term to come up with their forward work plan, they then presented this to the cabinet.



SHADOW CABINET
MEMBER MEETING M(agreed actions)

Member of Youth Parliament

On the 4th November the 3 Members of Youth Parliament (MYP's) visited the Houses of Commons and took part in a national debate around what should be the focus of MYP's over the coming year. The MYP's did a great job with their debates, which were chaired by the Speaker of the Houses of Commons. The main focus for the next year will be looking at how the cost-of-living crises is affecting young people's health.

Wiltshire Youth Council Eco Week 2023

Eco Week is an event organised by both the Child and Youth Voice Team and Wiltshire Youth Council to promote being eco-friendly and positive changes regarding climate change. The date of the event is 6th March until 10th March 2023. During Eco Week we are asking participating schools to get involved with a range of different activities that contribute to being eco-friendly. Each participating school will make decisions on how they would like to contribute to Eco Week and post these on social media using the hashtag; **#wycecoweek**. Some ideas have included making art out of recycled products, having letter picks, sponsored walking to school and more.

Social Care

In January 2023, our Corporate Parenting Panel strategic priorities are again being reviewed with young people to ensure that they remain representative of their views and clear to them. Impact of voice is evident in all we do but specific examples include incorporating young people's views in recruitment panels for new Social Workers and Foster Carer applicants. We also routinely involve young people in evaluating services; for example, the Child and Youth Voice Team set up a Dragons Den style consultation where care experienced young people successfully scrutinised Wiltshire's Local Offer and provided helpful feedback that was used to improve the offer. Moreover, service users' views are routinely sought to coproduce new initiatives, for example, they have been consulted with around work such as the FACT Transitional Safeguarding Project, the Residential Block Contract, and the Staying Close Project. We have an active Children in Care Council with 46 children attending since 2021. These sessions are activity-based and fun, and they not only help us hear the views of our children in care, but they also help participants to make friends and feel part of a community. The Child and Youth Voice Team also recruited Youth Consultants, these are young people who are over the age of 16 and have been supported by Families and Children's Services. Wiltshire is also the top Local Authority user of the Mind of My Own application in England. Mind of my Own is an app to help young people express their views to their care team. They can use it to prepare for meetings, request a change in their care, or to ask for a problem to be sorted out. So far in 2022, the app has been used 970 times by service users, enabling them to effectively communicate their views, wishes and feelings with their workers. Wiltshire Council has regular 'Meet Your Leader's Meetings'. These have been themed sessions that follow on from a consultation the Child and Youth Voice Team has carried out with young people. The consultations have included mental health support, young carers support and support for young people that identify as LGBTQ. The young carers meet your leader's session had many great outcomes that have positively affected the way that the local authority works with them as a group. As a result of this consultation improvements have been made to the way that Wiltshire Council carry out young carers assessments, commitments have been made to explore the possibility of young carers having free access to council run leisure facilities and there is now a specific portfolio holder for young carers, Cllr Peter Hutton who will act as their champion. In collaboration with the Child and Youth Voice Team we are planning an annual Voice engagement survey to launch in 2023. Also, in 2023 the Child and Youth Voice Team will be expanding by recruiting

a Families Voice Worker, to help us communicate with parents and guardians about the service they receive. Further to this, we have commissioned Wiltshire Centre for Independent Living, who will work closely with the Child and Youth Voice Team ensuring that young people with SEND are involved in participation and co-production.