

Report on the activities of the Wiltshire Assembly of Youth
for
Children's Select Committee

14 March 2017

1. **Introduction**

This report offers a summary of activities of the Wiltshire Assembly of Youth (WAY) during the period December 2016 – February 2017.

2. **Meetings**

WAY members have met on two occasions since the last report, one of which was at the Wiltshire Youth Summit on 08 February. The January meeting was held at County Hall, to which a new member was welcomed. In addition, Members of the UK Youth Parliament attended a Regional Convention in Bristol in December at which they considered the campaign priority for the coming year – Votes at 16



3. **Progress on the Agenda for Action**

WAY seeks to organise its activities in relation to its Agenda for Action which has five priorities:

Priority 1: Improve emotional wellbeing and mental health support for young people

WAY members have continued to develop the www.onyourmind.org.uk website and offered input and advice on content. A group of young people met together to begin drafting scripts for short films that will be embedded on the website to promote positive health and wellbeing messages, as well as offer reassurance to young people and parents/carers.

Two WAY members are part of a Children and Young People's Reference Group, which has been formed to support the commissioning of a new child and adolescent mental health service across Wiltshire, Swindon and BaNES. Through this group, young people from across the three areas have been involved in preparing for the evaluation of bids for the new service; attending a presentation by the bidder and contributing to the decision-making process which awarded preferred bidder status. Future work is planned which will see the young people co-designing consultation activities and, also, informing the way in which participation is embedded into the new service specification.

Priority 2: Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

No specific work has been carried out in this period, although the link with the Healthy Schools has been maintained and young people will be reviewing the next round of applications for Healthy School status.

Priority 3: Bullying

Since the joint meeting of WAY, CICC and Oxford Health NHS Trust's User Participation Group in November 2016 to launch [Wiltshire's Anti-Bullying Charter](#), the Charter has now been circulated electronically and by post to all secondary schools, colleges and GP practices. A meeting is being planned with young people to consider future activities linked to anti-bullying and to prepare for Anti-Bullying Week 2017.

Priority 4: Public Transport

No specific work has been carried out in this period, but this issue was raised at Wiltshire's Youth

Summit; WAY members have requested that this issue is picked up again in 2017.

Priority 5: Environment

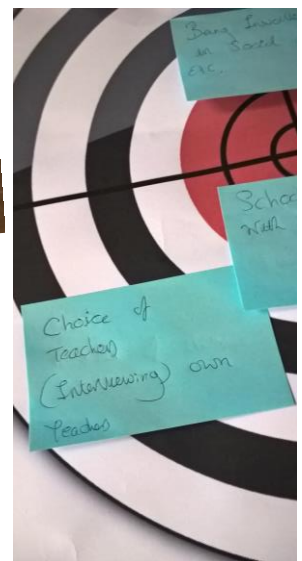
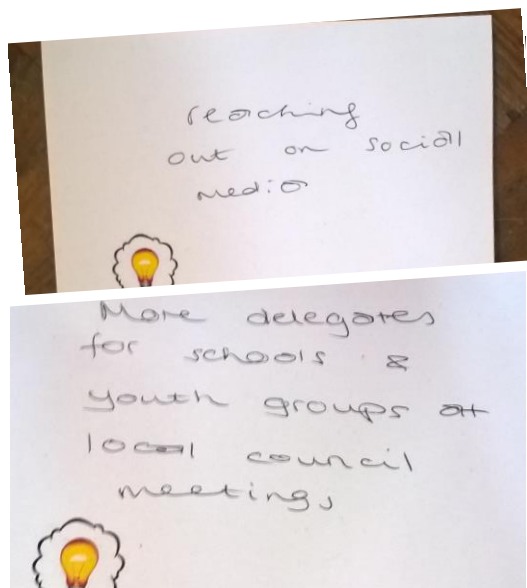
No specific work has been carried out in this period. More emphasis will be given to it in 2017.

4. Other activities

- Kirstie Stage and Cecilia George (members of WAY and UKYP) chaired the Wiltshire Youth Summit, alongside a Healthwatch Young Listener. Kirstie chaired a panel discussion at the end of the day at which panel members were Phil Bevan (Headteacher, Devizes School), Chris Graves (Chair, Healthwatch), Cllr Laura Mayes (Cabinet Member, Children’s Services), Ted Wilson (Community and Joint Commissioning Director, Wiltshire CCG) and Kier Pritchard (Asst Chief Constable, Wiltshire Police).



- WAY members Freya Pigott and Rebecca Richards ran a workshop on youth voice at the Wiltshire Youth Summit. The workshop gave young people opportunities to discuss and evaluate the value and meaningfulness of participation activities they had been involved in. These included opportunities to interview staff, taking part in community meetings, achieving outcomes such as free gym memberships for young people, and campaigning for more after school clubs.



- The Youth Summit elicited commitments from senior leaders, which will be followed up on at a future event and during 2017.

Laura Mayes

“My pledge is to come and visit young people where they are, rather than them always having to come to us”.

Phil Bevan

“My commitment ... is to systematically involve the students in my school far more in terms of student voice and to find and encourage ways of getting Devizes students more readily involved with community initiatives”.

Kier Pritchard

“It is ... important for us to create more engaging content for young people [on social media]. [We will] ... educate and engage with young people across the county on [cybercrime]. [We will] make efforts to explore the exciting possibility of introducing a youth panel”.

Ted Wilson

“We ... see this as the beginning of encouraging regular discussions with [young people] to help shape our local health services”.

Chris Graves

“Our Young Listeners will be visiting schools over the coming year to gather the experiences of students and we commit to ensuring that these views are heard by the commissioners. We also commit to developing YouthWatch Wiltshire”.

- WAY member Rebecca Richards chairs the Youth Safeguarding Board. She has attended meetings and progressed actions in that forum which has focused its efforts on online safety, and the development of the children and young people’s pages of the WSCB website.
- Members UK Youth Parliament (and other WAY members) contacted MPs on 20 January, the UK Youth Parliament ‘Day of Action’, raising awareness of the UKYP campaign to lower the voting age to 16.
- Member UK Youth Parliament Kirstie Stage joined Ofsted’s Further Education and Skills (FES) Reference Group for the South West. The remit of the group is to consider how well FES providers in the region are doing, how well Ofsted is meeting its objectives, and is an opportunity for sharing of good practice.
- WAY is trialling locality meetings on 28 March 2017 (County Hall), 04 April 2017 (Monkton Park), 06 April 2017 (Bourne Hill). The meetings will be chaired by Members of the UK Youth Parliament. These meetings are open to any young people wishing to attend and will provide an opportunity for young people to discuss the best means of getting young people’s voices heard to influence decision-making. These meetings will also encourage participation from more vulnerable and disadvantaged groups of young people.