

Report No.  
CEF23018

## London Borough of Bromley

### PART 1 - PUBLIC

---

**Decision Maker:** CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES PDS COMMITTEE

**Date:** 14 March 2023

**Decision Type:** Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

**Title:** BROMLEY YOUTH COUNCIL MID YEAR REPORT

**Contact Officer:** Linda King, Youth Support Programme Manager  
Tel: 020 8466 3098 E-mail: [linda.king@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:linda.king@bromley.gov.uk)

Betty McDonald, Head of Service Youth Justice, and Youth Services  
Tel: 020 8466 3071 E-mail: [betty.mcdonald@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:betty.mcdonald@bromley.gov.uk)

**Chief Officer:** Richard Baldwin - Director Children's Services

**Ward:** All Wards

---

#### 1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 This report is to inform Members and Officers of the London Borough of Bromley of the mid-year progress of the 2022-23 Youth Council Manifesto Campaign Objectives. The report will show progress made by Bromley Youth Council and its members in working on their campaign areas of Youth Anti-Social Behaviour and knife crime and Relationships, Sex and Education.
- 

#### 2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 Children, Education and Families Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note and comment on the contents of this report and the progress made towards the actions identified in the Bromley Youth Council 2022/23 Campaigns Work Plan.

### Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: Bromley Youth Council aim to provide opportunities for vulnerable children to gain awareness and understanding of campaign issues and avenues of support through their work.
- 

### Transformation Policy

1. Policy Status: Not Applicable:
  2. Making Bromley Even Better Priority (delete as appropriate):
    - (1) For children and young People to grow up, thrive and have the best life chances in families who flourish and are happy to call Bromley home.
    - (4) For residents to live responsibly and prosper in a safe, clean, and green environment great for today and a sustainable future.
    - (5) To manage our resources well, providing value for money, and efficient and effective services for Bromley's residents.
- 

### Financial

1. Cost of proposal: N/A
  2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable
  3. Budget head/performance centre: R11002
  4. Total current budget for this head: £29,000
  5. Source of funding: Not Applicable
- 

### Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 2
  2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: 0.6 Full Time Equivalent
- 

### Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement to consult with young people.
  2. Call-in: Not Applicable: No Executive decision.
- 

### Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: Not Applicable
- 

### Property

1. Summary of Property Implications: Not Applicable
- 

### Carbon Reduction and Social Value

1. Summary of Carbon Reduction/Sustainability Implications: Not Applicable.
- 

### Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): Currently 1,500 young people have had some involvement with the work of the Bromley Youth Council during the 2022/2023 period. We anticipate this rising to 5,000 young people by the culmination of the campaign.
- 

### Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: Not Applicable

### 3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 Bromley Youth Council is a representative forum organised and supported by Bromley Youth Support Programme staff which enables young residents of the Borough to have a voice in local decision making and encourages young people to take part in campaigns and projects to address the priority issues that they have identified affect them.
- 3.2 Bromley Youth Council currently have 54 youth councillors elected or co-opted from Bromley secondary schools, colleges, and youth projects. We currently have elected youth councillors from 16 Bromley educational establishments. Bromley Youth Council host borough wide biennial youth elections. All educational establishments and local services working with young people are invited to participate. The next elections will take place in 2024.
- 3.3 The Bromley Youth Council Annual Manifesto Event took place in March 2022. The event was attended by 80 young people and represented various school council's and student voice groups. Participants on the day voted on the youth council campaigns for the forthcoming year and contributed with key headline areas they would like to see Bromley Youth Council campaign on the "on the day" votes were supplemented by a survey monkey campaign which gave young people across the borough who live, school or work in the borough the opportunity to have their say on priorities.
- 3.4 The 2022/23 Youth Manifesto was launched in May 2022. The Youth Manifesto sets out the key priorities that have been identified through consultation with young people, prior to and during the Youth Manifesto Conference held at The Warren, Hayes, which in turn, Bromley Youth Council members have committed to address during their term of office. The Youth Council was directed, as a result of young people voting, to focus on the following key issues, to campaign and facilitate positive change for young people in Bromley:
- Primary campaign Area: Youth Anti-Social Behaviour and knife crime
  - Subsidiary/Secondary Campaign Area: Youth Relationship, Sex Education

A copy of the full campaign Plan is available at Appendix 1

#### **The primary campaign area is Youth Anti-Social Behaviour and Knife Crime**

- 3.5 Areas of concern raised by young people included:
- Concerns around the increase in young people vaping in public places and their access to easy purchases of vaping.
  - Young people's perception that there is an increase in anti-social behaviour by young people locally and in town centres following COVID lockdowns.
  - A wish to engage with the local police to see more police tackling anti-social behaviour and in particular street robberies and youth on youth violence.
  - Young people feel there is a lack of education informing young people around what anti-social behaviour is and the social etiquette of being in public without an adult following a number of lock down periods, this has impacted young people's behaviour & young people need educating around what anti-social behaviour is and its consequences.
  - Concerns about young people carrying knives.

### 3.6 To address the issues the Youth Council proposed to:

- Provide training to skill up youth councillors around Anti-Social Behaviour & knife Crime to enable them to lead the campaign and raise the issues within their educational establishments.
- Contact LBB Anti-Social behaviour team & look at LBB anti-social behaviour strategy to understand how Bromley and its partners address the issues.
- Research current project Bromley Safer Partnerships, Community Safety and Safer neighbourhoods are currently undertaking to tackle youth anti-social behaviour within the borough of Bromley.
- Contact town centre Police Safer Neighbourhood teams and see what the local issues are.
- Complete a survey on Youth Vaping & e cigarettes use and purchase and present the findings.
- Meet with Education, trading standards, Public Health, and the Police to raise awareness around youth vaping in the borough and to support Information advice and guidance for professionals and educational establishments.
- Plan and deliver a fundraising event to support the hosting of a week of educational drama productions to schools around ASB and knife crime.
- Work with local drama companies, and The Mizen Foundation to put on a week of drama productions at the Churchill theatre for schools and youth projects to attend & offer direct education on ASB & Knife crime
- Promote and adopt the 'Sparkle' award in partnership with The Mizen foundation.

3.7 The outcomes achieved to date during this primary campaign include 45 young people contributing to the LBB schools' guidance on vaping and leading responses from their schools and projects to the vaping survey. In addition, 30 young people have taken part in researching outlets for purchasing vapes that are accessible to young people and have shared these results with trading standards. Young people also received input from Bromley Healthcare to ensure they were clear of the risks and potential issues of vaping, so they were able to share these with their school councils and youth groups.

3.8 Youth councillors have decided to encourage schools and groups to sign up to the Making communities safer – anti social behaviour principles document that supports tackling anti-social behaviour. 5 young people are currently negotiating this with their schools and colleges. Young people have met with colleagues from the community safety team and the youth Justice team presented to youth councillors on the trends on anti-social behaviour and knife crime identified from young people engaged with their service. The Youth Justice Strategy 2020/23 sets out the priorities of the Youth Justice Service and its partners, these include reducing offending, reducing first time entrants to the youth justice system and improving the safety and well-being of children in the system. Young people have found both these meetings informative and supportive to the work of their campaign. A further 4 young people have undertaken presentations and assemblies in their schools regarding anti-social behaviour and knife crime and its impact on others.

3.9 Youth councillors have met with Bromley police regarding stop and search and understanding how this is used in Bromley, young people's rights, and the impact of stop and search on knife carrying within the borough. 25 youth councillors have signed up to participate in a sponsored walk around Bromley which will support the cost of drama productions regarding risk and knife crime being offered to school during the spring term. These productions will also be made available to local youth groups.

3.10 Actual outputs of the work undertaken by youth council members during this campaign have been itemised at Appendix B to this report.

Further campaign work which is under way and will be completed in the next two months includes:

- Reviewing the survey monkey on vaping and presenting the results.
  - Signing up schools and youth projects to the ASB principles document.
  - Undertaking school assemblies to spread the knowledge of our campaigns.
  - Delivering 10 Knife Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Road shows in schools in partnership with Alter Ego Drama company, Police Engagement team and The Mizen Foundation.
- BYC Members participating in a sponsored walk around the borough

**The secondary campaign area is sex and relationship education.**

3.11 Areas of concern raised by young people included:

- Young people expressed that they would like better education on what consent is within healthy relationships.
- Young people are concerned about missing out on direct education through 'Your Choice Your Voice' on healthy relationships, sex education, contraception, consent, and LGBTQ+ education due to online learning because of lock downs and the global pandemic.
- Young people feel there is a lack of knowledge around contraception and sexual health services available to them locally and they are concerned about the lack of face-to-face young people's sexual health services.

3.12 To address the issues the youth council proposed to:

- Undertake training with Bromley Health Development around various Sex and Relationship Education issues.
- Work with Bromley HealthCare to support the distribution and promotion of the C Card scheme to young people within the borough.
- Consult with Bromley HealthCare, Public Health and LBB to produce a stock motion animation short film exploring what 'Consent' is and what it means for young people within the borough.
- Undertake training and research of relevant LGBTQ+ resources for young people within Bromley.
- Plan and distribute information packs and links on LGBTQ+ and RSE resources to schools.
- Undertake a survey monkey with LBB secondary head teachers to find out what and how they prefer to deliver RSE education within their settings.
- Meet with the Assistant Director for Public health to discuss the new service contract leading on young people's sexual health within the borough and for BYC members to participate in the coproduction of the new service.

3.13 Outcomes achieved to date include 42 youth councillors who are more informed regarding the key issues around Relationship, Sex Education facing young people at different age groups and an understanding of how that education works within an academy network. These same young people are now aware of the C-Card scheme that operates within the borough and are actively promoting access to the scheme within Bromley schools and youth projects. The c-card scheme is aimed at young people between 13-24 years old who can register to get a range of free

condoms, femdoms, information and advice. The aim of the service is to promote reproductive and sexual health and help young people to access local services.

- 3.14 26 youth councillors have undertaken an extensive piece of work which has researched the subject of consent for young people and studied stock motion animation to enable them to develop a script for a stock motion animation film. The film is about to be made, with the final scripts currently being approved. This work has included looking at other available resources for young people, such as the “cup of tea” video which is currently used to introduce the subject of consent within sex and relationships education.
- 3.15 All youth councillors have gained an increase in confidence in their research skills, their knowledge of wellbeing within sex and relationship education and the key issues that affect young people currently. This work has included increasing confidence and ability in researching digital resources and support avenues for young people in relation to the issues of consent and relationship education.
- 3.16 18 young people have been involved in researching current information available in relation to LGBTQ+ resources to enable them to create signpost links to good resources and encourage young people to understand current terminology and support networks. Youth councillors are currently producing an information pack of these links and resources.
- 3.17 Actual outputs of the work undertaken by youth council members have been itemised at Appendix B to this report.

Further work which will be completed in the next two months includes:

- Distribute information packs on LGBTQ+ resources to schools.
- Consent film script to be signed off and then their short stock motion video filmed.
- Survey and findings on RSE education in schools to be completed and presented.

### **Campaigns summary:**

- 3.18 Undoubtedly both BYC campaigns on Youth Anti-Social behaviour and Knife crime and sex education and relationships are important issues facing young people in Bromley today. They are both campaigns that have needed a partnership and joined up working strategy with local services to make a real difference and raise awareness, inform, and educate young people. There have been several challenges with both campaigns, alongside the challenges youth councillors have faced themselves as they have transitioned from online meeting and campaigning to balancing their time to support BYC with the additional demands from their Schools and Colleges, post pandemic. These pressures combined have meant that young people have had to adapt campaigns, but they have a strong plan in place to ensure that have been able to raise awareness on these issues by the end of this year's campaigns.
- 3.19 Nathan Ward – chair of Bromley Youth Council added that “Bromley Youth Council as a collective has made huge strides this past year with our campaigns. For Antisocial behaviour and knife crime we have collaborated with the Mizen foundation and adopted an antisocial behaviour pledge which we have shared with other organizations and are in final planning to collaborate with a drama group to bring performances to young people in the borough. We are producing a stock motion video covering the key issues around consent with a view to share as a resource for young people. The success of the past year has been down to the diligence and determination of the young people involved and because of this Bromley Youth Council has helped to leave a positive mark on the lives of Bromley young people this year. This we hope to carry on with our next campaigns and events in the fourth coming year

**4. IMPACT ON VULNERABLE ADULTS AND CHILDREN**

As above

**5. CARBON REDUCTION/SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS**

As above

**12 CUSTOMER IMPACT**

As above

<b>Non-Applicable Headings:</b>	Transformation and Policy/Financial/Personnel/Legal/Procurement/Property Implications; Ward Councillor Views.
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	BYC Campaign plan is added at Appendix A

**Bromley Youth Council  
2022/23 Campaigns Work Plan**

**Youth Anti-Social Behaviour & Knife Crime:**

This was voted in by young people as the BYC Primary campaign at the Youth Manifesto Event 2022.

Following the Covid 19 global pandemic, young people’s attitudes and behaviours following several lockdowns, have seen locally and nationally a rise in youth anti-social behaviour & an increase in young people carrying and using knives. At the manifesto event young people identified concerns about the increase in young people displaying inappropriate behaviour in public places, the increase in street robberies and knife crime and the increase in young people vaping.

Knife crime has been a bigger killer of under-25s than Covid 19 during the last year. The most recent statistics from the Office for National Statistics show that in the 12 months up to March last year, 84 under-25s died from being stabbed with a knife, whilst 50 young people were identified as dying from Covid 19. in England and Wales. Knife crime has continued to blight our society, robbing us of too many young, talented, and precious lives.

Antisocial behaviour is a range of behaviours that can cause nuisance and annoyance or harm and distress to a person in their home, neighbourhood, or community. It is a wide range of unacceptable activities such as:

- Noise nuisance including loud music, banging, DIY at unsocial hours, loud parties, and frequent visitors at unsocial hours
- Household disputes including shouting, swearing, and fighting
- Harassment and intimidation including intimidation through threats or actual violence, abusive behaviour aimed at causing distress or fear to certain people, e.g., elderly, or disabled people, and verbal abuse
- Environmental antisocial behaviour including dumping rubbish, animal nuisance, including dog fouling and dogs barking, vandalism, property damage and graffiti, antisocial drinking, driving in an inconsiderate or careless way, for example, drivers congregating in an area for racing/car cruising, and arson (secondary fires).Anti-social behaviour stats...

Date	Action (What)	Outcome (Why)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide training to skill up youth councillors around Anti-Social Behaviour &amp; knife Crime</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young people gain new skills, knowledge, and confidence to deliver the campaign</li> <li>• Enhance and empower the voice of young people</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To contact LBB Anti-Social behaviour team &amp; look at LBB anti-social behaviour strategy</li> <li>• To contact Safer Neighbourhood teams and see what the local issues are.</li> <li>• To complete a survey monkey on Youth Vaping &amp; e cigarettes &amp; present findings</li> <li>• To meet with Education, trading standards, Public Health &amp; Police to raise awareness around youth vaping in the borough and to support IAG and guidance for professionals and educational establishments.</li> <li>• To plan &amp; deliver a fundraising event to host a week of educational drama productions to schools around ASB and knife crime</li> <li>• To work with local drama companies, The Mizen Foundation to put on a week of drama productions at Churchill theatre for schools/youth projects to attend &amp; offer direct education on ASB &amp; Knife crime</li> <li>• To promote and adopt the 'Sparkle' award in partnership with The Mizen foundation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young people will develop their planning and organisational skills</li> <li>• Young people will increase their learning around ASB, knife crime, stop &amp; search &amp; their rights</li> <li>• Young people will be informed around what ASB is and the impacts on young people's lives</li> <li>• Young people will be more informed around locally services and initiatives promoting positive Mental Health and wellbeing.</li> <li>• Young people will plan, deliver, and evaluate a co-production programme on ASB</li> <li>• Young people will be empowered to work in partnership with local services.</li> <li>• Young people will increase their confidence in talking to their peers about ASB &amp; knife crime issues.</li> <li>• Young people will be informed about how to report crime young people will be empowered to fund raise for their campaigns and measure the impact of direct learning for all.</li> </ul>
--	--	---

Relationship, Sex Education was voted in as the secondary campaign.

RSE was voted by young people at the 2022 Youth Manifesto event, highlighting key areas around consent, contraception, and LGBTQ+. The key issues facing young people in Bromley that were identified are around accessing services, information and the current language used and inclusivity for young people.

The consent model has moved from No Means No to a pure affirmation model, where Yes Means Yes and both partners need to agree consciously and voluntarily to participate in any type of sexual act, whether that's kissing, hugging, sexting, exchanging photos or having sex, young people believe this message needs to be loud and clear to young people.

Date	Action (What)	Outcome (Why)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BYC would like to contribute to the commissioning of the new contraception &amp; sexual health service</li> <li>• BYC to undertake training around contraception, consent &amp; c card by Bromley health Care</li> <li>• BYC to use existing resources around c card/contraception posters, to create and send out a resource packs to schools/youth provisions &amp; educational establishments</li> <li>• BYC to work with Bromley HealthCare &amp; other leading agencies to develop a PHSE lesson plan pack on c-card, contraception, LGBTQ+</li> <li>• BYC to develop a short, animated film on consent for all age groups to share via social media</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased knowledge in local services</li> <li>• Informed about what is on offer locally</li> <li>• Young people informed, educated, and empowered around SRE, consent, contraception &amp; LGBTQ</li> <li>• Young people raise awareness locally during Your Choice Your Voice Programme</li> <li>• Young people plan, create, and use resources developed to raise awareness</li> <li>• Young people develop their skills using different social media platforms to raise awareness</li> <li>• Young people seek funding to develop, design a short film on consent</li> <li>• To work with LBB public health on the commission of the new service for young people in Bromley.</li> </ul>

## **Appendix B: Outputs achieved by Youth councillors:**

### Anti-Social Behaviour and Knife Crime Campaign:

- 45 young people have worked on this campaign to date.
- 32 young people have met with the Director of Education, Public health, and Trading Standards to raise and discuss the concerns around young people and vaping in schools and public places
- 45 young people contributed to putting together a survey monkey to gather young people's views on vaping
- 45 young people reported to the trading standards reporting line for young people purchasing e cigarettes and accessories locally
- 30 young people researched key principles from HMRC on tackling anti-social behaviour as a community
- 45 youth councillors met with the local metropolitan police engagement team to discuss concerns and explore key trends around youth anti-social behaviour within Bromley
- 42 youth councillors reviewed and consulted over the LBB anti-social behaviour strategy for the borough
- 18 youth councillors met with the Mizen Foundation and took part in their workshop/talk on youth violence and forgiveness
- 25 youth councillors participated in a workshop on Prevent: What is terrorism and online grooming
- 35 youth councillors distributed Stop and Search and Know Your Rights literature to their schools
- 40 youth councillors researched various drama companies to put on workshops and design an educational roadshow for young people to educate young people around anti-social behaviour and knife crime
- 40 youth councillors planned and worked on costings for an educational workshop for young people in the borough
- 10 youth councillors planned a sponsored walk to fundraise towards funding talks by the mizen's within schools

### Sex and Relationships Education:

- 45 young people have worked on this campaign in a variety of ways; they have researched, undertaken training, spoken to their peers, designed the campaign plan and started to progress the work.
- 45 young people developed the campaign plans to consider how to involve schools and local youth projects in the campaign.
- 28 youth councillors have met with Assistant Director of Public health, Bromley to discuss the tender process and the new contract for delivering Young Peoples RSE health services within the borough for the next 5 years
- 12 youth councillors spoke to their schools around the delivery of RSE and the impact of not being able to buy in Your Choice - currently a local sold service
- 15 youth councils have worked on drafting a survey monkey questionnaire for head teachers around RSE delivery within the secondary schools and the concerns if the sold service was not available