

From: Sue Chandler, Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services
Richard Long, TD Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

To: **County Council**

Subject: **KYCC Annual Report 2019-20**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Past Pathway of report: N/A

Future Pathway of report: N/A

Electoral Division: ALL

Summary:

This report details the work of Kent Youth County Council during 2019/2020, reporting on the KYCC elections November 2019, when 21,059 young people voted to elect their KYCC Member and to select the KYCC Campaigns for 2020. This year's campaigns are Mental Health, Curriculum for Life and Environmental Awareness. More information of the key actions of each group can be found within the report and recommendations from KYCC on how KCC could support or work with young people on these issues.

Recommendations:

County Council is asked to Note the Youth County Council Annual Report 2019-20 and consider the following recommendations set out in the covering report which relate to each of the KYCC Campaigns.

1. Introduction

1.1 This year's KYCC members have only had the opportunity to meet together three times in person since being elected last November. Online meetings started in May, with campaign groups and project groups meeting monthly using Microsoft Teams. 69 Virtual sessions have been held from May – August and will continue online for the foreseeable future.

1.2 This year's KYCC members have joined with young people from Gravesham & Sevenoaks Youth Hubs to developing a project in response to the Black Lives Matter movement. The young people have now met twice virtually and have decided to work on tackling all areas of hate crime including disability, race, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity. The hashtag #BeAnAlly was chosen as a positive act everyone can take in challenging hate crime.

- 1.3 Seven new Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs) have been elected to represent Kent nationally at UK Youth Parliament. They have started to meet with virtually with other MYPs from the South East and participated in a virtual Annual Conference with MYPs across the UK over 2 days at the beginning of January. The Report concludes with young people's feedback on what KYCC means to them including:

"KYCC means the world to me and has changed me so much, even shaping my future career aspirations" Alice

"I'm in my 4th year at KYCC. It provides Kent's young people with an invaluable opportunity to build confidence, gain experience and make connections in a safe, welcoming environment." Lydia

2. Mental Health:

- 2.1. The Mental Health Group would like to be included more in plans involving the mental health of young people and how the council reaches them to gain their views and opinions.
- 2.2 We would also like to work together to help raise awareness and combat stigmas surrounding views of mental health and young people and KCC to share our mental health awareness posts on their social media accounts.

3. Curriculum for Life:

- 3.1 We recommend that KCC give support to the Curriculum for Life group by providing perhaps some meetings or opportunities to get advice from those who work in education within the KCC. We would also like to invite a KCC Member or appropriate staff member to sit on our Select Committee as it develops in early 2021.

4. Environmental Awareness:

Following on from Covid-19 and the increase in home working and working electronically we would recommend you also adopt a paperless scheme to prevent wastepaper, saving the environment and your resources. We would also seek any opportunities to work with KCC on environmental issues.

5. #BeAnAlly

- 5.1 Work with us to bring together the key people, such as Kent Police, Head Teachers etc to work jointly to produce clear information about hate crime, the process of reporting hate crime and what to expect. As well as providing support to young people who have experienced hate crime.
- 5.2 Producing a communication plan for KCC so that we can share important messages, across all of the social media platforms, KCC, Youth Hubs, KYCC, open access etc quickly. Young people felt there was a lack of support shown for Black Lives Matter from all KCC social media and we need to be doing more to ensure young people know services are open and inclusive.
- 5.3 More training provided for staff across KCC ensuring awareness of all levels of hate crime and microaggressions and how to challenge these. Training should

also be provided to all schools, youth organisations and available to young people.

6. Recommendations:

County Council is asked to Note the Youth County Council Annual Report 2019-20 and consider the following recommendations set out in the covering report which relate to each of the KYCC Campaigns.