



6TH NOVEMBER 2019

CULTURE AND YOUTH CULTURE

WALLASEY TOWN HALL



CONTENTS

Section One	Page
Introduction and Aims	2
Methodology and Theme	3
Section Three	
The Youth Parliament Debate	5
Section Four	
Outcomes and next steps	7

SECTION ONE

Introduction and Aims



This report covers the 14th annual Youth Parliament held on 6th November 2019.

Through a variety of forums including Wirral Youth Voice Group, Children in Care Council, Wirral Young People's Action Group and the Wirral SEND Youth Voice, Wirral strives to ensure that through listening and being responsive to the needs of children and young people that their views are at the heart of our services.

The Parliament fits into the Wirral Borough Council Children's Services strategic approach to youth engagement and participation and the Young People's Engagement and Participation Framework. It is a regular full council meeting. However, it is a closed meeting and, as such, the minutes are not for public view.

1.1. The aims of the annual Youth Parliament are:

- To provide opportunities for young people to develop debating skills
- To provide young people with the opportunity to debate with councillors and peers about issues important to them
- To help young people understand local democratic processes
- To influence the design and delivery of services for young people across Wirral
- To make services accountable to young people within a 'you said, we did' approach.

SECTION TWO

Methodology and Theme



2.1. Recruitment

Every secondary school, partner organisation and youth service project is sent notice of the event at least two months in advance. After the summer break, a briefing pack is distributed which is designed for teachers, youth workers and young people to advise on the debating process and to register their group and motion for discussion.

2.2. The theme

Each Youth Parliament has a theme which is decided upon by the Wirral Youth Voice Group in response to the key issues coming from their consultative work with young people and partner services through the year. This has proved to be a successful format; however, the theme is not compulsory with regard to the motions submitted.

This year young people were encouraged to focus on the theme of **culture and youth culture**. This was motivated by Wirral being the Liverpool City Region's Borough of Culture for 2019. One of the guiding principles for the Borough of Culture is 'children and young people accessing, enjoying, learning and thriving through culture and creative engagement with skills and talent pathways'. With this in mind, the Youth Voice Group decided that focusing on the theme of culture was important to ensure that young people could contribute to future events and to the legacy of this area of work.

2.3. The structure and content of the event

The timetable for this year was as follows:

4.30pm to 5pm

Social time

Social time in the Civic Hall for young people, councillors, council officers and partner organisation leads.

The aim of social time with councillors and service leads was to enable young people to meet with decision makers, share some food, and in so doing, 'break the ice' to enable young people to feel more relaxed in the Council Chamber meeting.

5.00pm to 6pm

Workshop for young people and councillors

The aim of this workshop was to look at how youth culture has changed and to raise the awareness of councillors and professionals around the needs of young people today in relation to this. The workshop was designed and facilitated by Wirral Youth Voice Group. Inclusion Dance Company also performed a piece demonstrating youth culture today as a stimulus for the debate.

6.15pm

Youth Matters Campaign Launch

A new campaign to rebrand youth work in Wirral was launched. The campaign highlights the life-changing youth services which support young people every day. Coinciding with National Youth Work Week 2019 (4-10 November), the 'Youth Matters' campaign includes the strapline: 'Building futures, Shaping lives'. The rebrand features an all-new poster and digital campaign led by some of the Youth Matters team, plus a video of staff with comments from young people about the positive impact youth workers have made on them.

6.30pm - 8.30pm

Youth Parliament Council Meeting

The young people and elected members assembled in the the Council Chamber and the Mayor of Wirral, as chair of the event, opened the 2019 Youth Parliament session. This year the Mayor was supported by one of the young people who has been elected as a United Kingdom Youth Parliament representative for Wirral. This year 7 motions were debated, details of which can be found in the next section. The meeting was closed with speeches from political party leaders.



SECTION THREE The Youth Parliament Debate

3.1. How the motions were chosen for the debate

The Wirral Member of the Youth Parliament (MYP), members of the SEND Youth Voice Group and the Youth Voice Group met with the Mayor prior to the conference to decide on the final motions and agree on the format of the Youth Parliament.

A total of 9 motions were submitted. Due to the timing of the event, which allows for up to 20 minutes per motion, 6 motions were short listed with 1 standby if time permitted. All 7 were debated this year and all were carried except Motion 6.

The motions presented this year were as follows :

MOTION 1:

We need to raise the awareness of the culture of being a young person in care.

GROUP PROPOSING:

'Aspirations' Junior Youth Voice Group – for children looked after.

The proposal was put and carried (36:6) (3 abstentions)

MOTION 2:

Wirral Council and other relevant organisations need to invest in young people towards increasing their employment opportunities within the creative industries.

GROUP PROPOSING:

Wirral Youth Voice Group

The proposal was put and carried (54:2).

MOTION 3:

Technology has created modern culture.

GROUP PROPOSING:

Upton Hall School

The proposal was put and carried (36:5) (13 abstentions)

MOTION 4:

We need to change the culture of intervention with young men and raise awareness of their hidden needs and disabilities.

GROUP PROPOSING:

Creative Youth Development

The proposal was put and carried 52:0

MOTION 5:

We need to change the culture of restricting employment opportunities for young people with disabilities.

GROUP PROPOSING:

Wirral SEND Youth Voice Group

The proposal was put and carried (49:3) (1 abstention).

MOTION 6:

As part of the New Brighton re-development plan, a cultural hub for young people should be set up, comprising of academic, creative and sporting activities, with additional courses focussing on diversity and culture.

GROUP PROPOSING:

Birkenhead 6th Form

The proposal was put and lost (6:38) (12 abstentions).

MOTION 7:

The voice of young people should be central to local and national political decision making on the environmental crisis.

GROUP PROPOSING:

Wirral Youth Voice Group

The proposal was put and carried (51:1)

SECTION FOUR

Outcomes and next steps



4.1. Attendees

The following schools, colleges and youth groups attended:

South Wirral High School	7
Creative Youth Development Girls photography	5
Upton Hall School	8
Birkenhead Sixth Form	6
South Wirral Youth Hub	4
Creative Youth Development 'LADS'	2
Wirral Youth Voice Group	10
Wirral SEND Youth Voice Group	5
Wallasey Youth Hub	3
The Hive	5
Calday Grammar School	1
Children in Care Council / Care Leavers Council	3

Totals:

- 59 Young people attended, an increase of 12 from last year.**
- 28 Elected members attended, a reduction in 7 from last year.**

4.2. The pre workshop

Questions related to being young now and in the past were discussed on tables that were made up of young people, councillors and professionals. The participants also completed questionnaires at the end of each discussion and the results below show that lived experience of young people now is significantly different today and therefore services need to reflect this.

QUESTION	SAME	NOT SAME	ABSTAINED
WHAT DID YOU DO AS A TEENAGER?	14	62	12
WHAT ISSUES BOTHERED YOU AS A TEENAGER?	32	53	8
WHERE DID YOU HANG OUT AS A TEENAGER?	38	41	9
HOW DID YOU CONNECT WITH OTHERS?	1	78	1

The follow represents ideas from the workshop on how elected members could communicate with and better serve the needs of young people within their wards and across Wirral:

1. Be nice, go to young people, listen to young people, and don't be too formal.
2. Get to know more young people in your area.
3. Get more involved with young people; join in their activities and events.
4. Communicate, respect and understand the changes in youth culture through the generations.
5. Talk to vulnerable young people more so than mainstream as this is where problems are at.
6. Talk to youth groups who are targeted by hate crime.
7. More events like this.
8. Attend Wirral Young People's Action Group and the Youth Voice Group meetings.
9. Via social media (Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook, Twitter) .
10. Council open days for young people to meet them.
11. Youth face to face surgeries, in more reachable informal settings for young people.
12. Councillors to take up requests to visit youth groups.
13. Some sort of area youth forum/meeting with councillors.
14. Photo sheet of local councillors and contacts for young people to access easily.

4.3. Feedback from elected members

The debate concluded with speeches from Councillor Pat Hackett, the Leader of the Council and the party groups - Councillors Lesley Rennie, Chris Carubia and Tom Usher who congratulated the young people and commented that the level of debate had been outstanding. Members said that they had also learnt a great deal from the workshop held before the debate and had heard many challenging questions. Young people were encouraged to hold onto their aspirations, make their voices heard and to contact local Councillors with any issues of concern. The Councillors also noted the young peoples' respect for each other's views and opinions and contrasted this with meetings of the full Council!

4.4. The next steps include:

- The motions and points raised in the debate and ideas from the pre-workshop will be taken forward through the Young People's Action Group to decide on how they will be acted upon and by whom.
- Consideration will be given to ensure that there is a meaningful mechanism for regularly ensuring and enabling young people's voices across the Council.