



## NOTES OF A MEETING HELD ON

18.07.2011

**Venue: Council Chamber, Ebley Mill**

### YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:

#### **VOTING MEMBERS**

Beth Jones, Cam & Dursley YF  
 Kamila Gebicka, Cam & Dursley YF  
 Kit Powell, Thomas Keble  
 Ellen Wightman, Thomas Keble  
 Robin Ellis-Cockcroft\*\*, Stroud Town YF  
 Rosemary Dickinson\*, Stroud Town YF  
 Kieran Chadwick, Archway  
 Emma Sankey, Katharine Lady Berkeley  
 Shannon Eden, Katharine Lady Berkeley  
 Lindsey Driver, Rednock  
 Kathryn White, Rednock  
 Roxy Mould, Vale of Berkeley College  
 Blake Hewer, Vale of Berkeley College  
 Annie Pickering, Stonehouse VoYS  
 (Rudi) Blue Morgan, Stroud College  
 Charlotte-Louise Grigg, Stroud College  
 Chloe Boulton, Wotton under Edge YF  
 Laura Forrester, Wotton under Edge YF  
 Millie Gardiner, Maidenhill  
 Neil Bond, Maidenhill  
 Rob Sidwell, Marling  
 Max Feedman, Marling  
 Sally Holditch, Stroud High  
 Laura Byng, Stroud High

#### **EX-OFFICIO**

Thomas Lydon, Marling  
 Becky Batting, Cam & Dursley YF  
 Izzy Holley

#### **DEPUTY MEMBERS**

A	Laurie Watts, Cam & Dursley YF	Ap
Ap	Jess Lyons-Lynch, Cam & Dursley YF	Ap
A	Luka Chadwick, Archway	A
Ap	Charlotte Kruse, Archway	P
P	Kirsty Driver, Vale of Berkeley College	Ap
Ap	Jasmin Walker, Vale of Berkeley College	A
P	Tom Williams, Rednock	P
P	Jessica Fisher, Wotton under Edge YF	Ap
Ap	Abi Lee, Wotton under Edge YF	Ap
P	Lydia Stephens, Maidenhill	A
P	Dave Holder, Stroud College	A
Ap	Jakob Sparrow, Stroud College	A
Ap	Ruth Pilston, Katharine Lady Berkeley	Ap
P	Miriam Smith, Katharine Lady Berkeley	P
A	Eva Gilder-Hodgson, Katharine L'dy Berkeley	Ap
A		
P		
P		
Ap		
P		
P		
Ap		
P		
P		
A		

#### **CO-OPTIONS**

Ap	Reece Campbell, Young Carers	P
Ap		
A		

**\*\* = Chair    \* = Vice-Chair    P = present**  
**A = absent    Ap = apology**

#### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Steve Miles, Senior Hear By Right Youth Officer, SDC  
 Helen Smith, Youth Support Worker, Sub-Contracted from GCC Youth Service  
 Jess Howell, former SDYC Member  
 Damian Lea, Prevent Strategy Officer, Gloucestershire Constabulary  
 Matt Wicker, Police Participation Worker, GCC Youth Support Service  
 Paul Helbrow, Community Safety Manager, SDC  
 Steve Rush, Journeyman UK

## Minutes of the meeting

### Welcome & Energizer Activity

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting. The energizer was delayed due to time constraints.

### Apologies

Apologies were received from Kamila Gebicka, Elly Wightman, Rosie Dickinson, Shannon Eden, Blake Hewer, Roxy Mould, Laurie Watts, Jess Lyons-Lynch, Kirsty Driver, Millie Gardiner, Max Freedman, Jessica Fisher, Ruth Pilston, Eva Gilder-Hodgson, Tom Lydon and Becky Batting.

### Minutes of Last Meeting – 18 June 2011

The minutes were agreed as being an accurate record.

### Matters Arising

#### **Youth Consultation Event in Cainscross - 29 June**

Annie reported on a successful event held at the Youth and Social Centre in Cashes Green. A good number of local young people attended and were asked a range of questions about them and their opinions of the area. World Jungle supported the programme with circus skills, African drumming and henna tattoo workshops as well as music sessions. Media coverage came from Stroud Life. Steve thanked Robin, Annie and Neil for their work and invited them to present the report to the parish council with him at their meeting on Monday 25 July.

#### **Pride in Your Neighbourhood Event at Paganhill - 5 August**

Members were asked who would be attending this event in which to participate and give out the remainder of the community safety packs for young people. Annie agreed to attend, others would confirm in due course.

### **Prevent: Act Now – presentation from Damian Lea, Strategy Officer for Gloucestershire Constabulary**

Damian was welcomed to the meeting in which to give an introduction to a community engagement programme which focus's on violent extremism. He explained the programme entitled *Prevent: Act Now* involves participants undertaking a mock exercise for approx 2 hours and role playing as investigators in a terrorist incident in a local town. A DVD was played giving a very brief insight to the incident. The overall aim of the programme is to help dispel myths about how Police carry out their work with view to gaining a better understanding of what the Police do. The exercise touches on (and educates participants on) the extreme right views which some members of society have, including racism and the potential recruitment of young people to known groups promoting violence. The Police are in attendance throughout to assist participants to come up with answers throughout the very dynamic and fast moving exercise.

Damian invited SDYC to become participants and highlighted that they were the first group of young people to be approached. He added that a minimum of 12 and maximum of 30 was required. Members asked if there was potential to work with another group i.e. local youth forums, older persons forum or town council – Damian confirmed this was possible. Whilst there were further questions on the potential to evolve the programme to other issues such as drugs, it was agreed that SDYC would accept this opportunity and look to include it in the members training during the Autumn 2011. Members felt that there was potential to involve them in delivering the programme elsewhere in schools, youth projects and youth forums.

### Correspondence

### **Wheeled Respect – Coaley**

Helen explained that a speed awareness programme delivered by the Police with various local community groups was due to be carried out in Coaley on Saturday 23 July – it was agreed members of Cam & Dursley Youth Forum would be contacted with view to their involvement.

### **The Glee Club at Sub Rooms**

Helen promoted a forthcoming event at the Sub Rooms - *The Glee Club* a tribute act will take place on 28 July.

### **Journeyman UK**

Robin introduced Steve Rush a volunteer mentor from Journeyman UK. Steve gave an overview of the organization which works with young males aged from 13 to 17 years in the UK for up to a 12 month period and explained the Right of Passage Adventure Weekend which they run as part of their mentoring initiative with an ongoing programme of support and guidance. Based on an American model entitled *Boys to Men*, the organization is currently looking to work in Stroud following a successful period in Bristol during the last year. Steve used a 'symbolic mask' to explain how *The Mask I Wear* exercise is used during the programme to help young males understand how issues around peer pressure, self respect and relationships can be dealt with. Information was given out on a free introductory event at The Exchange in Stroud on 19 July. A formal presentation was offered to members later in the year. Members asked questions including whether such an organization and programme was available for young females, is the programme targeted at young males with behavioural issues and what sort of activities are carried out during the weekend? Steve briefly explained the various sociological and psychological models used but highlighted more details were available on the website. The cost of the 12 month programme is up to £300 per person. Members suggested that SDYC may not be the sort of group best targeted for recruitment but added that they may be able to help the organization get opportunities to promote the programme to schools.

### **BYC Choose Youth Campaign**

Steve highlighted the British Youth Council's campaign around cuts to youth services entitled *Choose Youth*. It was agreed details would be emailed out to all members.

### **Rural Youth Network Conference**

Steve reported on changes to the conference, which had previously been promoted at recent meetings. It was accepted by members, that the now shortened event programme made it unworthy of attending.

### **Update from Schools, Colleges and Local Youth Forums**

*Archway* – Kieran and Charlotte had nothing to report from Archway.

*Cam & Dursley Youth Forum* – No representatives were present.

*Katharine Lady Berkeley* – Mim reflected on the recent school council meeting which she chaired and was attended by Steve. Discussions on how student participation could work in the future was held, the school were looking to make improvements to the way current systems work ahead of September.

*Maidenhill* – Neil reported that whilst no student council meeting had taken place, much talk had been had on how the council would operate in light of the expected departure of the current lead teacher Mr Drennan. Steve asked Neil to forward details of the new lead teacher as soon as possible.

*Marling* – Rob commented on discussions about academy status and a forthcoming awards ceremony.

*Rednock* – Kathryn highlighted that the school becoming an academy was being reconsidered. Discussion was had on how student council could present feedback on various issues at the teachers training sessions.

*Stroud High School* – Sally highlighted Steve's recent visit to year group assemblies in which he promoted SDYC and encouraged the school to elect deputy representatives for the year ahead. Whilst there was only a very short time slot available, there was good interest following the year 9 and 10 assembly.

*Stroud Town Youth Forum* – Rob highlighted that a meeting (as reported three weeks ago) had taken place regarding lighting at the Stroud Skate Park where it had been agreed to pursue this further

*Thomas Keble* – No representatives were present.

*Vale of Berkeley College* – No representatives were present.

*Voice of Young Stonehouse* – Annie had nothing to report.

*Wotton under Edge Youth Forum* – Laura reported on a joint 'ending event' held with Cam and Dursley Youth Forum in which to say goodbye to their respective youth workers, Jemma Grieve and Helen Smith who have both been made redundant by GCC Youth Service.

Reece gave an overview of the recent three day national Young Carers Festival held in June. A meeting was scheduled for October regarding the future running of the organisation in light of the cuts to young people's services.

### **SDC Corporate Consultation**

Steve explained that he had been in discussion with relevant SDC officers regarding SDYC being consulted on the Council's Corporate Delivery Plan (CDP). Following on from the success of last year's event, the general feeling was that a similar approach should be taken with view to holding this year's event between late September and mid October. Members were asked if they felt it was appropriate to focus on one objective i.e. *Economy*, rather than all four (which feature in the CDP). On the basis that the Economy objective includes developing ways to tackle training and employment issues for young people, members felt this was a good idea. They added that the issue of apprenticeships and information, advice and guidance should also be included. Members asked for more information about the event as soon as possible.

### **Eat Well, Waste Less Project**

Kieran reported that members of SDYC project team met recently and gave an overview of ideas drafted by them using the previously agreed project objectives as a basis.

SDYC members would take part in an intergenerational programme with those connected with Stroud Older Persons Forum in which to learn about food production, how to buy it locally and economically, how to prepare, cook and serve with the least amount of waste including re-using leftovers etc. A series of practical sessions with young people and older people interacting would be filmed as a 'journey' and then culminate in a one off event whereby the same participants would prepare, cook and serve a meal to invited guests at an event hosted by the respected organizations. The 'journey' would be presented at the event by those involved. Kieran highlighted that these were initial ideas which would be shared with other organizations at the next joint project meeting (yet to be decided). Members thought these ideas were good, details of which would be emailed out as soon as possible.

### **Health Focus Group – Feedback from Group Members re NHS Survey**

Despite huge efforts members of this group were not able to meet NHS officers due to time constraints of both parties; however information on the NHS proposals were emailed out to group members in which to complete a survey. Mim reported that she had found it hard to access the link and suggested there was a block on the online version. After reading the hard copy, she felt it was quite repetitive. No other group members present commented. It was agreed the group would meet up soon to decide how they would work with various other organizations around young people's health issues.

## **Future Delivery of Youth Work**

Steve reported that the new youth support service had started (on 1 July) and highlighted that the main hub for this service is Stroud Youth Centre as previously reported. A summer programme had been forwarded to the District Council. He explained that the work he had been delivering in communities affected by the cuts (as reported at previous meetings) was beginning to culminate a closer relationship between the district council and parish/town councils as well as other organizations. A recent meeting took place at Ebley Mill involving representatives of those communities most affected, whereby an overview of this work was given and proposals for the process for accessing the £50,000 grant funding were given.

Lindsey outlined the grant giving process which had been discussed at the aforementioned meeting and highlighted that SDYC would act as key decision-makers following agreement to this by members at the last SDYC meeting. The finer details of the process and the application form had been worked upon by her, Rosie and Karen Toole (SDC Strategic Head of Community Services) recently – this would continue in the very near future.

Steve explained that SDYC would need to manage their involvement carefully with the Youth Cabinet taking on the main role in scrutinising the applications. A report would be given at the main youth council meetings.

Members were shown the application forms for what will be two funds, one for 'activities' and one for 'operational' projects and gave initial feedback. Further comments were requested urgently over the next week.

## **Youth Cabinet Report**

Other than the above, no further business had taken place.

## **BYC 2011 Convention**

Steve expressed his regret that due to the overwhelming response to this year British Youth Council 2011 Conventions by the many member organizations, SDYC had been unable to obtain places at any venue. He added that whilst being on a reserve list, it was unlikely that any places would come to fruition.

## **Visit to Houses of Parliament**

Former SDYC Chair and current ex-officio member, Tom Lydon had forwarded an email highlighting his work at the Houses of Parliament recently, had led him to share the good practice of SDYC and gave indication that a visit to London was a possibility in which to discuss the current issues of concern. He would keep members briefed accordingly through Steve.

## **Any Other Business**

Robin highlighted that following a recent project team meeting, members (and Steve) had met with Tara Nolan a researcher from 20/20 TV, a production company carrying out research into the current opinions of young people in the Stroud district, with view to incorporating them into a documentary to be aired on BBC2 this autumn. Members understood that the programme will centre on a church minister from Kingston, Jamaica who will travel to Stroud in which to re-trace the steps made by Thomas Burchell, a missionary worker in the early 1800's who came from the area and had made a significant impact on the abolition of slavery whilst carrying out his work in Jamaica. Tara had since made further enquiries about meeting up with young people in the Dursley and Wotton areas.

**Following a brief discussion on the 'optional' meeting scheduled for 8 August, it was agreed that a decision would be taken following feedback via text or email in the next few weeks. If the majority is in favour of not meeting then the date of the Annual Review session would be Monday 5 September 2011 at a venue to be decided.**