

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

The Chair welcomed members and guests to the meeting. Introductions were given by those in attendance. Apologies are listed on the record above.

2. Minutes of the last meeting on 21 June 2021

Minutes were formally presented and agreed as a true and accurate record. Proposed by: Cate James-Hodges; Seconded by: Brandon Watkins.

3. Matters Arising

a) GCRP Youth Empowerment, Diversity and Inclusion Project - discussion

Members had received the project outline proposal prior to the meeting as requested. They generally felt pleased to have been invited to participate, however it was agreed that more information was needed on how they could be involved and what level of commitment would be expected from them, either as a group or as individuals. GCRP would be contacted to ascertain the above.

b) Nomination of Officers & Leaders 2021/22 – Round 3 (Representatives to BYC)

It was noted that no nominations had been received. Members agreed that Round 3 should be re-opened as it had become known that some potential nominees had emerged.

4. Correspondence

Retiring – Freya Sinclair

Freya has recently informed us that she is no longer able to represent Wotton Youth Forum, having moved away from the community following her exams. She will therefore be retiring from her role as SDYC representative – Freya was thanked for her participation.

Retiring – Archie Gent

Archie has recently informed us that he is no longer able to represent KLB School, having left following his exams. He will therefore be retiring from his role as SDYC representative but has accepted the non-voting advisory role of Ex-Officio member – Archie was thanked for his participation.

SDC Draft Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Policy Consultation Survey

SDYC was given the opportunity to comment on the draft policy for SDC's approach to EDI. Whilst an officer and member (District Councillors) working group had been functional for some time (involving the Council's Senior Youth Officer), they were particularly keen to hear what SDYC members felt about the draft policy. Members were reminded that at a SDC Full Council Meeting earlier this year, the then SDYC Chair, Tom Wickham-Bassett spoke passionately about the importance of a strong EDI policy and that involving young people was crucial.

It was agreed that given the deadline of early September and the forthcoming school and college break, the online survey would be sent to all members for completion in a personal capacity; and that the Leadership Team would formally review and give feedback to the working group at their next meeting. Members were encouraged to share their thoughts and views with the team, to inform them as much as possible.

5. Updates from School & College Councils and Local Youth Forum Groups

Archway School – Cate recently met with the Head Teacher to discuss plans for September onwards regarding the inclusion of Year 7 in the school's student voice. They also discussed application process for the school ambassador programme, including training as well as the importance of it being meaningful.

Berkeley Vale YF – no representatives were present. However, it was noted that their community survey was being compiled as a report, which will be shared with local parish / town councils.

Cainscross YF – no report was available.

Cam & Dursley YF – members of the group visited the two recent community events in Victory Park, Ebley and The Pulse, Dursley where they engaged with the Heart Community who attended with their vintage American school bus – the purpose was to promote healthy lifestyles through mindfulness techniques and various other programmes relating to a health. Members were looking to support local events and activities

during the summer break.

Chalford Cubed YF – no representatives were present.

Hardwicke YF – no report was available.

Katharine Lady Berkeley School – no representatives were present.

Maidenhill School – no report was available.

Marling School – the last school council meeting was held recently. A review highlighted that two themes should be focused upon in September; mental health and the environment.

Nailsworth & Minchinhampton YF – the group were planning an activity event in the Forest Green community, with a focus on it being a family fun day.

Rednock School – still no progress on the school council being re-launched. Hopefully this September will bring more support from the school. However, following intervention from some students and parents regarding how the school dealt with managing grief amongst students following the loss of loved ones, forthcoming teacher training would include learning on this matter.

Stonehouse Action 4 Youth – progress had been made on some projects since reviewing them recently with new members. The group met their local Neighbourhood Warden and the next focus would be on the old Ship Inn site project.

Stroud High School – no representatives were present.

Stroud Town & 5 Valleys YF – the Bench's Project co-ordination had led to engagement with the Town Council and a charity that has agreed to fund this project. A formal proposal to Stroud Town Council would be made in September.

Thomas Keble School – There has been approximately 12 Ambassador roles created for Year 11 students, which is set to function alongside the student council.

Wotton YF – no representatives present.

6. Stroud Young Peoples Communiversality – Presentation from Jade Bashford

Jade was welcomed to the meeting. In her presentation, Jade gave an overview of Stroud Young Peoples Communiversality, in that it is a relatively new concept aimed at helping 18 to 25 year olds to get into work and generally contribute to improving their community. A particular focus is on helping young people gain work experience in a range of settings, whilst being paid. Such opportunities will require no exam grade or qualification. The presentation led to Jade consulting members on a wide range of factors for young people when taking initial steps for a career, such as: how would gaming as a leisure activity (for example), link to work in the educational sector or being involved in the military. Conversations led to a discussion on how improvements can be made for those with disabilities or learning difficulties; and how changes in the voter system would make a positive impact for young people.

Members gave feedback on how the education system is becoming an increasing barrier to transitioning in to a career, such as: teaching styles not allowing access to life skill learning; schools try to create perfectionists whilst shaming young people's weaknesses – there was a general agreement that the focus for schools was to get high academic grades, rather than and in some cases, at the expense of students being healthy and resilient. In addition to this, it was felt that the schools awarding system was not equal and diverse.

Any further questions from Jade would be sent to Steve in due course. Jade was thanked for her presentation and discussion. Equally, Jade thanked members for their contribution to the setting up of this programme.

7. Health Focus Group Report from meetings on 5 July 2021, presented by Maxie Wells

Healthy Lifestyle Officer Update: Members were asked to note; *that the group discussed ideas about how funds given to SDC from the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group could be used to improve young people's wellbeing.*

Future Me Gloucestershire: Members were asked to note; *that the group have received an invite to a Future Me Glos meeting in October and that the group wishes to have a say in future material that they produce. The documents from Future Me will be shared within schools and also promoted on SDYC's social media.*

Sexual Health and the C-Card: Members were asked to note; *that The Eddystone Trust is being approached to provide sexual health training to all SDYC members and that those over 16 will have the opportunity to*

become C-Card Champions.

Covid-19 and its impact on young people: Members were asked to note; that the group reviewed the document prepared initially for a S&BV PPG network meeting, containing statements from SDYC representatives on their experiences during the lockdowns and school closures and what impacts this had had on them.

Exam Stress and School Pressure: Members were asked to note; that the group discussed the promotion of Kooth and the differing services TIC+ provide to young people. It was felt that this should be done by potentially creating a guide or sending information to schools with an email and that these will also be posted on SDYC's social media pages.

Proposed by: Maxie Wells; Seconded by: Miki Bailey. The report was approved.

8. SDYC Leadership Team Reports from meetings on 12 and 14 July

SDYC Manifesto and key Projects and Issues – Actions: Members were asked to note; that the Leadership team discussed the manifesto and various key projects and issues for the 2021/22 year in order to determine the best way to progress the projects and issues of concern.

Consider Policy Motion Proposals to the BYC: Members were asked to note; that the Leadership Team determined that it was not necessary to submit a new policy motion to the BYC ahead of their 2021 Annual Council Meeting.

Member Training: Members were asked to note; that the Leadership Team discussed possible training for members

Lobbying Councillors and Members of Parliament: Members were asked to note; that the Leadership Team recognized the importance of lobbying all adult decision-makers including Councillors, Members of Parliament and Lords, and that preparation will be required before proceeding.

Performance Monitoring of SDC Committee's: Members were asked to note; that the Performance Monitoring meetings for SDC Committees were discussed and attendance at these meetings was to be two representatives from Leadership Team, the Chair and Vice-Chair.

SDC Draft Corporate Delivery Plan and Work Plans of each SDC Committee: Members were asked to note; that the Leadership Team have taken the new opportunity to view and give feedback on the new draft SDC Corporate Delivery Plan and will be viewing the respective Work Plans of each SDC Committee at their next meeting.

Proposed by: Ben Stone; Seconded by: Cate James-Hodges. The report was approved.

9. British Youth Council (BYC) Report

Information received from BYC, included details of forthcoming meetings and events: The Big Conversation will focus on mental health, taking place online on 31 July; opportunities to join the NHS England Youth Forum were about to end, with the latest programme commencing in September.

The BYC Annual Council Meeting is set to take place on Sunday 26 September – with opportunities to influence their manifesto via policy motions and amendments now underway.

10. 2030: A Strategy in Action – SDC's Commitment to Tackling Climate Change

SDC's film entitled, 2030: A Strategy in Action with reference to their commitment to tackling climate change was shown to members. The purpose was to promote the work across services that was underway and highlight what was needing to be done. As SDYC Principal Member for Environment, Cate James-Hodges features in the film, with regards to stating the commitment of SDYC to work with the 2030 team from the perspective of young people's involvement.

There was little meeting time available to discuss this further, but the hope was that the SDYC Environment Team would meet soon to explore the involvement of members going forward.

11. Nomination of Officers & Leaders 2021/22 – Round 3: Open from 22 July

It was noted that nominations for the following positions would be open from 22 July; Representatives to the British Youth Council: 2 positions

A question was asked, as to whether any unfilled positions regarding that of BYC Rep', would be kept open until filled? Steve advised that it would probably need to be a decision taken by members following the outcome of Round 3.

12. SDYC Project Teams and Focus Groups – self nomination (voting and deputy members)

Members were encouraged to become active members of either the two project teams (Anti-Bullying and Environment) which work on one project; and / or the two focus groups (Health and Local Democracy), which work on more than one project.

13. Dates of Forthcoming Meetings and Events

- a) SDYC Health Focus Group Meeting – 9 August
- b) SDYC Leadership Team Meeting – 23 August
- c) SDYC Anti-Bullying Project Team Meeting – TBC
- d) SDYC Environment Project Team Meeting – TBC
- e) SDYC Local Democracy Focus Group Meeting – TBC
- f) BYC Annual Council Meeting – 26 September

14. Any Other Business

Youth Voice Summer Social

Members generally agreed it would be good to have a 'summer social' in August, although some highlighted their attendance would depend on the date, as they had prior comments such as family holiday breaks planned.

15. Date of the Next Meeting: Monday 20 September 2021