

## **Dumfries & Galloway's Youth Council (DGYC)**

### **September Meeting**

#### **Meeting Note**

Physical Meeting: Castle Douglas Town Hall, Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2019. 11am – 2pm

Online Meeting: Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019, 7pm – 8:30pm

#### **1. Welcome, Apologies, Member Update**

18 Members attended the physical meeting

10 Members participated in the online meeting

4 Members submitted their apologies and were unable to attend either meeting.

It was noted again that a number of Members were unable to secure time off work to attend the physical meeting. As a result of low attendance at the August Meeting, a list of monthly meeting dates until February 2020 were circulated however this was noted by Members to be presenting a challenge as Saturday is, for some, the only day they work.

Members were updated that Bradley Nimmo, Ward Youth Councillor for Dee & Glenkens has withdrawn from his role as he has moved out-with the region to attend University. In addition, Kirsten Clark has also withdrawn from her role as Young Parent Youth Councillor. Both vacancies, alongside the existing vacancy for the Gypsy / Traveller Youth Councillor are aiming to be filled as soon as possible.

Youth Work staff supporting the meeting: Rhona Jones, Tracey Wood, Cara Hyles, Regan Jackson.

- 2.** Members involved in the #ROOTS2.0 event steering group provided an update surrounding the planning and programme for the Youth Activism and Volunteer gathering taking place on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at the Easterbrook Hall.
  
- 3.** Members from Annandale South and Castle Douglas and Crocketford wards provided an update on their ward level introductory meetings between Youth Councillors and Elected Members that had taken place earlier in the week. To date, 3/12 meetings have taken place with the remainder having been scheduled to take place in November.
  
- 4.** Members participated in a workshop as part of Challenge Poverty Week that looked at inequalities in Dumfries and Galloway, the support available to people experiencing poverty and what the Youth Council can do to address this.

5. A development session focussing on DGYCs regional priority of Mental Health and Wellbeing was facilitated by Youth Work staff. This session explored the practical and realistic measures DGYC could campaign or advocate for as a regional collective.

The outcome of this was that Members felt their role in supporting young people to improve their Mental Health was through the provision of activities and groups that promoted positive well-being. This is relevant to some work undertaken by DGYC in partnership with the YOYP D&G Project Team in May 2019 in which they developed a funding application focussed on participatory budgeting for young people at a ward level. Members were asked to consider the general and specialist support available within their local communities for young people related to their mental health and wellbeing and consider what types of small-scale action there is a need for in their communities.

It was agreed by Members that an action related to well-being should be built in to the ward and nominated action plans due to be developed by Members in partnership with their communities. The deadline for these plans will be in January 2020.

6. Members were asked to participate in a review discussion surrounding the format and frequency of DGYC meetings. The date, location, time and frequency were all developed by Members during their orientation in May 2019 where it was decided that meetings would take place on the last Saturday of the month between 11am – 2pm. However, in practice this has been an unexpectedly challenging to implement due to Members existing commitments. The decision was taken by DGYC to change the meeting schedule to being bi-monthly, 1pm – 5pm on Sundays. Additional to this, locality meetings would also take place in the months where there is no regional meeting, the times and days of these are to be decided at the discretion of Members and the relevant Youth Issues Worker.

As a result of this shift, there will not be a regional meeting until Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> 2019.

7. Members were asked to develop ideas surrounding the content and purpose of the Joint Meeting between DGC and DGYC.
8. Following on from an expression of interest from Cllr Dougie Campbell, Environment Champion for Dumfries & Galloway Council, Members were invited to attend a meeting with Cllr Campbell focussed on climate change and broader environmental issues. 14 Members put themselves forward to participate and the

meeting was agreed to take place on October 21<sup>st</sup> 2019 in Dumfries at the Oasis Youth Centre.