

Notes of Voices in Action Youth Council Meeting

Derby City Council

Monday 16 March 2020


Who was there?

Voices in Action Members	Abdul Siddiqi – Youth Mayor – Chair	Gagandeep Kaur	Adele Styles – Co-ordinator
Russell - Facilitating	Alix - Facilitating	Skye - Facilitating	Natalie –Signing in & Facilitating

Guests:

- Carol Woods – Vulnerable Children and Young People’s Development Officer
- Dr Mandy MacDonald – Child Protection Manager
- Alex Hough – Acting Head of Democratic Services
- Mark Stevens – Manager at Catch 22

What we talked about

1.	Election Cycle
	<p>Alex gave a presentation on the election cycle.</p>  <p>Electoral Cycle VIA Presentation March 2020</p> <p>Young people were asked:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Which system do you prefer the current or proposed and why? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 groups were for the proposed system • 2 groups were for the current system 2. How do we encourage more young people aged 18 to 25 to vote? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online/text voting • Promotion through social media • Lessons/discussions/voting systems in schools • More opportunities to get exposed to politics – trips to Houses of Parliament • More engaging – memorable, spice it up, songs, what affects young people, lower voting age at local election to 16 <p>Please see appendix 1 for full details.</p>
Action	Alex Hough to pass the information onto the wider consultation and feedback the outcome to ViA Youth Council



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2.**Children at Risk of Exploitation**

Dr Mandy MacDonald gave a presentation on children at risk of exploitation.



DDSCP Exploitation
presentation for VIA.p



DDSCP Exploitation
Cases.pptx

Young people were given 2 different case studies to discuss.

Sam

1. What are the dangers?
 - Caught in possession/criminal record
 - Escalation of harm/risk
 - Peer abuse/pressure
 - Health and wellbeing
2. Are there any benefits?
 - Friendship/sense of belonging
 - Cash
 - Popularity
 - Protection
 - Health
3. What kind of exploitation is this?
 - Criminal
 - Human trafficking/modern slavery
 - Grooming/manipulation
 - Radicalisation
 - Gang
4. What support and services might Sam need to help with this?
 - Family
 - Friends
 - Social groups
 - School
 - Online services
 - Social care/family support

Rahib

1. Are there any concerns?
 - Misconception of forced or arranged
 - Might not know
 - Taken out of the country so less access to help
 - Vulnerabilities e.g. disability
 - Neglect/hurt/pressure by family
2. What type of exploitation might this be?
 - Forced marriage
 - Abuse – physical, sexual, honour based
 - Modern slavery/trafficking
 - Extremism
 - Lack of education
3. What support and services might Rahib need to help with this?
 - Support at school unauthorised absence
 - Voluntary and community sector
 - Friends
 - Support services – police, health, children's services

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airline staff • Helpline • Awareness of exploitation <p>Please see full details in appendix 2.</p>
Action	Dr Mandy McDonald and Carol Woods to feedback the outcome to ViA Youth Council.
5.	AOB
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people were asked to wash their hands before and during the meeting. • EIA Derby Museums Wednesday 8 April 2020 young people put themselves forward to attend the meeting.
6.	What we are going to do next
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contextual Safeguarding • Domestic Abuse
Next Youth Council Meeting	
Monday 20 April 2020 – dependent on the Coronavirus	

Appendix 1

1. Which system do you prefer the current or proposed and why?	
Group 1 - Unanimous vote for the proposed system	
Saves money	Other system is confusing
Easier to vote, once every 4 years	Save time for voters
Easier to compare candidates	Fresher outlook
In current system change cannot happen due to party changes	
Group 2 – 7 for proposed system 1 for the current system	
Proposed system saves more money could be used elsewhere	Current system quicker process, if somebody's ill no by-elections
How long does it take for things to happen	What do we gain/what does it benefit?
Does it make a big deal?	Diverse political culture
With the once every 4 year model it may be harder for parties to find candidates	
Group 3	
New System	
Good	Bad
Save vast amounts of money and time	If a ward votes in a conservative etc they can add in a labour representative after one year
Allows for more working, no 'drips and drabs'	May be confusing having to vote for 3 people
Get time to bed themselves in – long term planning and decisions are easier	Missing out on new ideas as you have the same people
Newbies do not have to join an already established team	If you vote only 1 in 4 years then you will discourage people from voting because it is not as frequent
	Everyone has to run again, people who are on year 1 have to run in a consecutive year which is unfair. Told someone they have a job for 4 years but then might not
	If you had an increased number of councillors in a transition period to phase it out then the money you save is spent on salaries
	Independent councillors silenced
Old/current system	
Good	Bad



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Express your opinion and change your mind more frequently	An expensive system
More room for variation	Oh I voted last year, I'll vote next year
Councillors ideas have to be good as to set high standards if they have to meet the level here	
Decisions are considered more rigourously	
During elections 2/3rds of people are still focused on working	
Parties can focus on getting individuals through not 3, so may choose better candidates	
No bi-elections	
Group 4	
Whole Council Election	
Pro's	Con's
It is less hassle	Might forget about it
Easier to understand	Risk of choosing a bad representative
Election by thirds	
Easier to keep on top of things	
Possibility of political diversity	
25/26 councillors every 2 years	

2. How do we encourage more young people aged 18 to 25 to vote?	
Social Media – reminders to vote, promotes voting as something for younger people too	Online voting – time to go/remembering a postal vote, can you do secure email? Or texts, don't have to count votes, ID verification or a postal vote is not very secure anyway
Text idea – update changing details if you have a new number, could have a code to login to a secured website	Lower voting age to 16 in local council
Teach or discuss more in schools so that people are more well informed from a younger age	More polling stations in universities etc
Let them know their vote matters	Teach them the effect they have on politics
More enterprise days about politics at school	Make politics less boring
Songs about politics for younger children	Show why it is important
Online voting using – National Insurance/passport number	Convenience
Spice it up/memorable - not plain	Voting propaganda
Implement voting system in school/college/school/out of school club to get young people used to/informed on practice, show how to, important, class lessons	More opportunities to get exposed to politics – trips to Houses of Parliament, political places, still learning but having fun

See the actual change	Young people are disillusioned with the government
More education within schools about voting	More exposure on media
See more policies that will affect them e.g. mental health	Identity, young people don't identify with politicians

Appendix 2

Case Study 1 - Sam

1. What are the dangers?

Get caught	Repercussions from friends – possible gang relation
Stolen from them – in debt to gang or an accomplice	Arrested can lead to prison, criminal effect
Butterfly effect – family, work, education aspects	Health risks from smoking it
Mental health issues – anxiety	Could become a regular thing
Can lead to drug running	Meeting a stranger in a dangerous environment
At risk of physical harm	Could get arrested
Could lead to worse drugs	Friendship abuse
Addiction	Criminal record – could ruin future
Could lead to more serious offences	Mental/physical disadvantages
Could affect future children – mutations	Caught for possession/dealing
Consequences	Pressure
Smoking impairs judgement under the influence	Could take to shady area – danger
Bad company - abuse	

2. Are there any benefits?

Can help friend get out of trouble	Cash
Health benefits	Respect from others – popularity
Encourage protection from outsiders	Protect his friendship
Sense of belonging	Social status better in school/area/gang

3. What kind of exploitation is this?

Criminal	Gang
Human trafficking – county lines, modern slavery, forced labour	Radicalisation via grooming in gang
Enforced criminality	Grooming
Blackmail	Online if contact via social media
Criminal exploitation	Retribution, robbed, could be hurt/silenced
Manipulation	County lines
Potentially gang related	Police set up

4. What support and services might Sam need to help with this?

Friends/family	School
Police	Catch 22
Social groups – safe and sound, enthusiasm, school clubs, sports to preoccupy or find something more productive	Family support services, social workers

Online services	Anonymous tip line – secure
Rehab	Social care support
Check in system	

Feedback from St. Andrew's School Representatives	
Dangerous, Sam could be in danger from knives or guns.	The other person is a stranger 'Stranger Danger' he might want money or he might hurt Sam. Taking drugs is bad for you and dangerous. Sam should tell the police. Sam should tell his teacher or staff they trust in class.
I would tell my keyworker, because key workers keep you safe	

Case Study 2 - Rahib	
1. Are there any concerns	
Forced Marriage	Against his will
Might not have told him	At risk of being estranged from family
May be big part of culture/family	May have a lot of pressure from family members
Concerning that he is being taken out of country/less access to help	May not know where he's going – recorded as missing
Short space of time to intervene	He may feel scared and pressured
Does he know he might be being exploited	The s/o hasn't consented either
Might lead to other mental difficulties – feel silenced/trapped	He thinks this process is normal
If he's too late to gain help	The victim may be neglected/hurt by their family
If the victim has a disability, makes them more vulnerable	If he thinks it's an arranged marriage – misconception of arranged marriage and forced marriage
Does he know the details of the marriage	The S/O hasn't consented either

2. What type of exploitation might this be?	
Forced marriage	Physical and mental abuse
Sexual	Trafficking potentially
Honour based abuse	Modern slavery
Lack of education	Extremism (extreme behaviour)

3. What support and services might Rahib need to help with this?	
Support at school (unauthorised absence)	Childline and other hotlines
Charities and organisers	Call police
Friends	Doctors/health care staff
Airline staff, other professions trained to notice trafficking	Support workers and children's services
Some online service	Childline if he realises that he's not comfortable
Friend – he might not know it is a normal thing so his friends opinion might give him insight	School need to talk about it a lot

Contact the person he is marrying to see if she supports the marriage	People need to know websites/services for exploitation
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Feedback from St. Andrew's School Representatives	
Report it to the police or school staff especially the head of school	I would tell my mum because my mum looks after me and protects me.
I would tell my mum about boys if they did something I didn't like	