



PROJECT:	SAYC		
PURPOSE OF MEETING:	Monthly meeting		
VENUE:	Committee Room 1		
MEETING DATE:	29th March 2010		
MEETING TIME:	6.30 – 9.15pm		
ATTENDANCE:	<p>Abdullah Tahir, Henna Zia, Dan Olive, Angela Thick, Sam Potts, Dominique Smith, James Crossley, Jessica Cunliffe, Hugh Baillie-Lane, Alex Ferguson and Debi Roberts, Youth Connexions</p> <p>Apologies –Joe Gess, Ben Oppedjik, Nicole Harding, Elise Morgan,</p> <p>Absent - Josh Molloy</p>		
AGENDA:	Agenda Led	Action Officer	Dead - line
<p>Apologies and introductions Apologies rec'd from Joe, Ben, Nicole and Elise</p> <p>Debi Roberts introduces herself – she will be working with Alex on all youth council projects, primarily SAYC.</p>			
<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>YOF Assessment Panel Group reminded of Steve's email – dates for training 16th/17th Aprils. All those interested to ensure they respond as soon as possible</p> <p>Summer Sounds 10 Meeting SADC Wednesday 7pm – Elise?, Jess and Dan to attend NB; t shirts to have 'youth councillor' on to ensure presence at event</p>			
<p>Website</p> <p>James had found invoice from July 09 – July 10 from EAB Designs showing a cost of £345 per annum to the youth council. Group agreed to close site but keep hold of domain name and use channelmogo as a site for information/discussion boards/event advertising, etc.</p> <p>Debi mentioned cheaper web hosts – Vistaprint which James was aware of and will research if he feels appropriate.</p> <p>James to take forward with EAB keeping AF aware of actions.</p>		James	

<p>LSP – Local Strategic Partnership</p> <p>Dan and Josh are now members of the LSP, attending three/four meetings per annum. First meeting was back in February which they found very interesting. They were made to feel very welcome and felt that they were able to participate in the discussions.</p> <p>Unfortunately, Josh was not at the meeting and was unable to feedback his views on how he feels the opinions and thoughts of young people will affect the decisions made by the LSP.</p>		
<p>Political Education project. The group then broke in to two smaller groups to focus on the Political Education projects</p> <p>MiPod consultations – Henna, Dom and James Education – Abdullah, Dan, Angela, Sam, Jessica, Hugh.</p>		
<p>MiPod consultations</p> <p>Pilot MiPod to be held at STAGS. Henna is in touch with teachers to arrange – email to be sent re process and expectations</p> <p>Before assemblies/ form tutors to advise students of SAYC attendance</p> <p>Plan 3 lunch hours, prob 40 mins consultation time, Quad area After Easter All year groups able to drop in Music to attract?</p> <p>Questions to ask teachers - How is pol ed taught at present?</p> <p>i.e. focussed lessons in citizenship/PSHE? number of sessions per year group covering what issues? delivered amongst other subjects? What is participation of students like?</p> <p>Planned questions (subject to change)</p> <p>can you name the three main political parties? can you tell me who they are? can you name any others? do you think you should have the vote at 16? If so, who would you vote for? Why / Why wouldn't you? (So do you still think you should have the vote at 16?) If you knew more about politics, would you be more encouraged to vote? Do you think politics should be taught separately? Have you heard of SAYC before today? if so, how?</p>	<p>Henna</p>	
<p>Education</p> <p>Notes from Debi attached – Jess can you send over the content ideas that you have please?</p>	<p>Jess</p>	

<p>AOB Co options Hugh was co-opted on to St Albans Youth Council</p> <p>Dates available AF will send of spreadsheet for youth councillors to complete re exam dates and holiday dates so YCH can be aware of pressures and absences likely over coming months.</p> <p>Dates for future SAYC meetings Group keen to have more regular meetings on a fortnightly basis. AF to arrange dates with SADC and SAYC and send out via email. N.B. avoid Summer Sounds meetings and future YOF ass panel meetings.</p> <p>Feedback for St Albans Sport & Health Development Team Further feedback for agency recd in addition tot hat recd by email; paintballing, tennis, table tennis and football. AF to pass on</p>	<p>All</p> <p>AF</p> <p>AF</p>	
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Planned meetings

7pm - 9pm

Monday 19th April - interview rooms on balcony
Wednesday 5th May - Council Chamber
Monday 24th May - Committee Room 2
Wednesday 9th June - Committee Room 2
Monday 28th June - Committee Room 2
Monday 19th July - Committee Room 2

Minutes

Political Education Project – Sub group

29 March 2010

In attendance:

SAYC -Abdullah Tahir, Sam Potts, Jess Cunliffe, Dan Olive, Hugh Baillie- Lane, Angela Thick

YC - Debi Roberts

For the benefit of the new youth worker (DR) the session began with a summary of the project so far and the background to it. SAYC believe that political education prior to A level study is insufficient and even then is limited to those who study politics (and to some extent economics) They suspect that many teenagers feel constrained by their lack of political knowledge which they believe, is reflected by the low turn out of young voters during elections.

SAYC plan to address this problem by creating and running sessions (1-3 to be confirmed) delivered during PSHE and Citizenship class within local schools to year 9/10. The outcome of these sessions is to give an understanding of democracy and how youths can participate politically even though they might not yet be able to vote. Specifically the sessions will detail;

- how candidates people become elected ,

- what issues impact youth – what can be done about it
- how young people can get involved - (Campaigning, lobbying etc)

Sustainability: SAYC hope to generate political interest from their activities and hope to support those they have influenced by ensuring all students attending these sessions are aware of the opportunities that already exist (e.g. SAYC) and those that could easily be instigated (debating clubs, public speaking, lobby groups within school etc) They hope to be able to support schools and pupils beyond this project to set up groups within the school that can continue this work.

Previously it had suggested that an interesting campaign issue may be 'votes for 16's'.

Abdullah started the meeting by asking the group to consider if the 'votes for 16's' message was the best use of the projects time as it was not something that they were likely to influence given the time frame. He was concerned that pursuing something that was unlikely to actually happen would then re enforce to youths that they were ineffectual and powerless (the exact opposite of what they want to achieve). This was accepted by the rest of the group as a valid point. It should be noted that Josh who had suggested the under 16s initiative was not in attendance and may still wish to add to this debate.

Much interesting discussion followed, based on ideas for lesson content and delivery.

Ideas for content:

1. Throwing a ball to someone within the class and allowing them to create rules – a kinesthetic opener that would lead into a discussion about how rules are made and how politicians get elected.
2. Randomly assigning class members group affiliation as they enter the class. Each group would have its own manifesto and objectives – another whole class opener that would lead into discussion about the election process, campaigning and lobbying.
- 2a. Class members select affiliation to a group based on shape – triangle/circle/rectangle. They then decide what their shape party stands for and what their manifesto would be. They can then campaign within the class, canvass for members from other parties etc. A role play exercise that incorporates the basic principles of our political system.
3. With permission from the school, allow students to remove their blazers and ties and discuss rules. Who sets them, what the purpose is etc.

Some group members were interested to explore if specific information regarding legislation, House of Commons, The Lords etc was necessary to include. Sam suggested that as a brief intervention there was not time to be too specific and detailed, rather content should be more 'big picture' and cover the basic and core principles of politics.

All members wanted to relate what they were doing to the specific issues raised by the ipod research. DR encouraged the group to consider what specific political concerns or issues they each had as a guide to what other might think, or, what they felt might be relevant to year 9/10 pupils. Jess suggested the issue with Mosquito's and Angela suggested lack of knowledge was the biggest issues (you don't know what you don't know).

Delivery:

Concerns were raised about engagement. Abdullah felt very confident in his ability to manage a class and stated that class teachers would remain in class to support.

Jess and Angela raised concerns that delivery should be different to typical teaching styles

There was a brief discussion (unresolved) as to whether content should be adjusted to reflect generic issues for mixed schools (Beaumont / Sandringham etc) and more

gender specific for single sex schools (Verulam / STAGS / St Albans / SAHG etc) DR suggested to see if this was tenable to consider if there were differences or specific gender issues within SAYC. DR suggested tax on sanitary ware may be a specific issue but members did not feel this was relevant to year 9/10

This discussion was not resolved however most members seemed to feel most issues would be generic. Sam did support the notion that lesson content may be improved by making it specific (where possible) to the audience.

Abdullah and Jess made full notes on the discussion for content ideas which Jess has kept.