

Agenda Item 3

JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WITH ETHNIC MINORITY
ORGANISATIONS
27 MARCH 2019

PRESENT Councillors Councillor Edith Macauley (in the Chair),
Councillor Eloise Bailey, Councillor Omar Bush,
Councillor Joan Henry and Councillor Marsie Skeete

Councillor Anderson, Councillor Akyigyina, Revd Neale,
Mr Sheikh, Mr Savage, Mr Siva, Mr Rajasingam, Ms Addai,
Dr Dawson, Ms Wiley, Ms Leacocu, Mr Poole, Ms Poole,
Ms Copeland, Mr Simpson

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda Item 1)

There were no declarations.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 2)

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Agenda Item 3)

Correction: Cllr Henry clarified that the Police knocked at a resident's door after an anonymous tip off.

The minutes were agreed.

4 ART THOU SPIRIT (ATS) FILM AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT
PROGRAMME- SABRINA AND JUSTIN POOLE, 3RE SOULS
PRODUCTION (Agenda Item 4)

Mr Poole gave an overview of the company. 3RE Souls is a film and video performance company. The performance programme is being delivered at Pollards Hill on Wednesday and Thursday and will be extended to Phipps Bridge. The company is working with young people to make a documentary (called the Problems We're Facing) on gun and youth crime. The documentary is available on Amazon TV and through community screening.

Funds generated from the project will be put in trust for the Young People for the future until they reach the age of 21.

The aim of the project is to keep up to date with the media and digital platforms and is working with the following associates:

- Friends of Pollards Hill
- PHCC – Pollards Hill Community Committee
- Pollards Hill Youth Centre
- Councillor Joan Henry
- Film Merton
- Grindworks Media Broadcasting
- Amazon Fire TV

The film tour will take place in June in association with Film Merton.

The company has embedded literacy and numeracy, creative writing, project management, sales and distribution and social inclusion. There is also a behavioural aspect to the programme. Having a mentor will provide participants with various skills including money management and financial independence.

The company aims to take 3 Young people on a youth exchange to the USA for 4 days, during a term holiday. Fundraising is being done to raise money also sponsorships are being sought. Donations and Community funding are also welcomed.

In the future the company aims to:

- Have ATS Programme available to the wider Merton
- Have an ATS Employability Programme for Adults
- Deliver an ATS Mentorship Programme to assist Disadvantaged and Disengaged youths in Merton
- To have a premises, which will be a Film Studio/media base, having apprenticeships available for young people age 16 – 25
- Having the ATS Programme as a Nationally recognised qualification, which will be portfolio based
- Having ATS Programme available to the rest of Wider London

Questions/Comments

Councillor Henry asked for more details about the Youth Exchange. Mr Poole replied that ATS wants to do a youth exchange and has a choice of 5 states. The aim is to integrate with other young people abroad.

Cllr Akyigyina asked how the young people will be selected. Mr Poole replied that it will be attendance based. The top 3 participants to show a positive attitude will be selected.

Cllr Anderson asked who will escort the young people. Mr Poole confirmed that a youth centre worker and two other adults working on the programme will accompany the young people.

Cllr Henry asked who will sponsor the trips abroad. – Mr Poole replied that fundraising is being done and ATS is contacting airlines for discounted air fares and accommodation. Community funding will also be used.

Revd Neale asked where the young people will come from. Mr Poole confirmed that they are members of the youth centre.

Cllr Bush commended the work and asked how younger people can be attracted to join the programme. Mr Poole confirmed that they are trying to do outreach work to increase the numbers.

Ms Copeland felt that the programme is ambitious and asked what the target number is that can realistically be worked with and how is the target reached. Mr Poole replied that the programme takes 90 hours to complete and can work with 5 to 25 people at a time.

Ms Copeland also asked how will ATS secure the Trust Fund and track the young people. Mr Poole explained that the funds will be in the parents' name and ATS will keep in regular contact with the family.

Cllr Macauley thanked Mr Poole and Ms Poole for their hard work and commitment to helping the borough's young people.

5 EARLY INTERVENTION PROJECT/ RESPONSIVE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TEAM (RECET)) - KEITH SHIPMAN, EDUCATION INCLUSION MANAGER (Agenda Item 5)

Keith Shipman introduced the item by firstly explaining about Contextual Safeguarding. It is defined as:

“An approach to understanding, and responding to, young people’s experiences of significant harm beyond their families.

Different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse.

Parents and carers have little influence over these contexts, and young people’s experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine parent-child relationships.” Carlene Firmin, 2017

He explained that Contextual Safeguarding looks at how young people put themselves at risk. It is about looking at the risks in their neighbourhood, schools and community. Young people are victims and need help.

Mr Shipman gave an overview of the work being done in the borough. He added that Merton has secured funding for one year to undertake early intervention work and has established the Responsive Community Engagement Team (Re-CET).

Where there is evidence of:

- Antisocial behaviour affecting community sites
- High volume incidents in a single site
- Spikes in offences (e.g. moped theft or shoplifting)
- Group based / territorial serious youth violence

Re-CET will respond by engaging young people through groups delivered on an open access basis but referrals for intervention will be prioritised to those most vulnerable to involvement in crime, in particular 10 – 14 year old boys with the following concerns / presenting needs:

- Missing episodes
- Excluded from school
- Displaying ASB / early involvement in offending
- Looked After Children / Child Protect / Child In Need – particularly with older family members involved in crime

The team will deliver a range of interventions involving restorative justice, community engagement, 'call-ins', incentive packages and youth work. The aim is to engage young people early alongside communities and those impacted.

Mr Shipman asked the JCC:

1. How well are these risks understood in your communities?
2. How well can you/we support young people and reduce their risk of becoming victims?

Questions/ Comments

Cllr Akyigyina asked what will happen after 12 months and how many young people will the project work with. Mr Shipman replied that the learning will be reviewed and used to inform bids for further funding. There will still be a detached team. The library project had 30 children but it will depend upon the issues as to how many young people that the team works with. It will not be a large group, just the most risky young people.

Emma Wiley asked how will referrals be made and whether the Police can make referrals. Mr Shipman replied that the Locations Board takes information from communities about areas of concern and councillors raise concerns also. The Anti-Social Behaviour Panel takes referrals from the Police and community.

Cllr Anderson asked if parents are involved. Mr Shipman replied that this project is just for young people. The aim is to get the young people back with their parents.

Cllr Henry commented that the problems had reduced due to the approach and thanked Mr Shipman and his team for all their hard work.

Revd Neale commented that the programme is almost too late to help some young people and the work really needed to start earlier. She also asked whether a small group could be community connectors to train others. Mr Shipman replied that there are junior groups, work is done with schools and Bond Road is the main work for early help. He added that the community connectors is a good idea as young people can influence each other well.

Cllr Macauley asked if the project will liaise with the Youth Court after community service and after their orders. Mr Shipman replied that is done. Unique Talent run workshops at the youth clubs. He added that getting the right young people when they are ready can be good role models.

Cllr Macauley asked when there is a Conditional Discharge with a 12 month period can the project engage with the young person. Mr Shipman confirmed that the team would indeed work with them.

Mr Savage asked if the small numbers will make a difference. Mr Shipman asked if crime is risky. He said that there is a perception that it is. Knife crime is going up but is still lower than the 1990s. Recorded crime and experience of crime is different. He added that the team is trying to find out if it will work. Evidence based interventions work for 30%-40% of the time. Engaging young people is key and can change behaviour. If there are other influences this has an impact. Triage is being used more but the young people are not going on to offend. There are lots of factors contributing to reducing youth offending.

Mr Sheikh commented that the presentation and the work of the team was interesting and asked if Mr Shipman would like to visit Wimbledon Mosque. Mr Shipman replied that he would like to do so.

6 JCC MEMBERSHIP - EVERETH WILLIS, EQUALITY AND COMMUNITY COHESION OFFICER (Agenda Item 6)

Evereth Willis presented a report firstly outlining concerns about the low number of representatives attending the JCC meeting and secondly recommending that the Polish Family Association is formally made a member of the JCC.

There was much discussion about the low turnout at meetings.

Mr Sheikh commented that he has had concerns for many years regarding the low turnout and he has been involved since the beginning. He suggested that a letter be sent to ask if organisations still want to be members of the JCC and ask them to attend meetings. If no response is received they should be taken off the list.

Emma Wiley commented that there seems to be no interest in politics and suggested that there may need to be some work around education and outreach to encourage people to get involved.

Revd Neale commented that part of the problem is that the community does not know how the issues that they've raised are being taken forward. People may be more willing to come to meetings if they received feedback and could see progress.

Mr Savage agreed with Revd Neale's comments and added that everyone needed to work together.

Cllr Macauley commented that many of the BAME organisations had folded over the years and encouraged BAME Voice member organisations to attend the JCC also.

Cllr Akyigyina commented that people were fed up with the council's 'Tick-Box' approach. She suggested that the engagement is not genuine and the organisations don't get the help and support that they need or real feedback. They need to see progress.

Cllr Macauley commented that funding has been an issue and small groups are struggling.

Revd Neale commented that the funding goes to the larger organisations who then come to the smaller BAME organisations in order to deliver their funding objectives and this needed to change.

Resolved: To admit the Polish Family Association to the JCC membership.

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda Item 7)

Cllr Macauley informed the meeting that the Wimbledon Prowler has been caught and charged.

Cllr Henry introduced Grace Addai. Grace will run a training course working with the college to deliver courses for 19 years plus. She is looking to deliver courses in Pollards Hill and aims to provide employment opportunities. On 8 April there is a course for 5 days for local unemployed residents.

Emma Wiley informed the meeting about a politics workshop taking place on Tuesday 8 October to encourage BAME women to get involved in politics.

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