

# Westminster Children and Young People Network

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday Oct 8<sup>th</sup> at One Westminster.

## 1. Last meeting update

Cuts in services for CYP in Westminster continue - further cuts to Children's Centres provision are proposed; youth clubs on estates through City West Homes are closing; the impact of further cuts to Youth Services are also being explored.

## 2. Nominations for chair of the CYP Network and process for election

Self-nominations were received for Chair:

Stuart Mathers, Director of The Avenues Youth Project. Joined Avenues as Director in January this year having practiced youth and play work for over 12 years.

And for Vice-Chair:

Mohamed Enaiem, Secretary of the Sudanese Community Information Centre, involved in youth work and sports with young people in Westminster for over 5 years; also member of Westminster Supplementary Schools consortium.

*The meeting thanked Stuart and Mohamed and agreed them as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Network.*

## 3. Borough updates and future representation of CYPN at borough meetings

The meeting agreed that the CYP Network will be represented by Stuart and Emma, with Mohamed deputising as needed, at the Tri-borough Children's trust meetings and the Early Help Board.

A discussion about the list of areas which the Network should be engaging with:

- Reminding all funders of the need for them to allow for the full costs of delivering CYP services.
- Youth policy; sign up to the Partnership for Young London Vision: <http://www.partnershipforyounglondon.org.uk/project/vision-for-young-londoners/> And the Children England Manifesto: <http://www.childrenengland.org.uk/the-policies/>
- What young people say they want – is that the same as what young people need? And can the outcomes from work that young people want be fundable? Are there new models of work which address these issues?
- How to respond to young people's needs/wants in a world where being on the street or in a youth club are both 'outside' and 'troubled' situations; CYP are more and more kept inside.
- Charging for activities – contributions (or full cost) towards trips and camps; our expectation of providing regular activities free at the point of access.
- The number one issue for young people – and as expressed by them – is housing.
- Keeping up-to-date with local needs – JNSA statistics are useful <http://www.jsna.info/local-health-profiles> ; child poverty remains very high in North Westminster wards.

## 4. Networking – information share

Mosaic LGBT youth centre - <http://www.mosaicyouth.org.uk/>, located on border of Westminster - the only LGBT youth provision in West London, with youth club plus counselling, sexual health etc. services. Also provide training for mainstream staff. 500+ yp per annum attend Mosaic.

Sudanese Community and Information Centre youth club - meets on Friday evenings; includes whole family sessions. Attracts 30+ 11-19 year olds. Looking for cheaper space to rent.

Paddington Arts - running 'Faith, Society and Belonging' spoken word sessions in schools, anti-radicalisation. Looking for speakers to join the sessions.

West London Zone - currently working in White City area; will include areas in K&C from next Sept and Westminster after that. Work identifies children at risk but not in receipt of statutory support, engaged with link worker to broker access to voluntary sector providers.

Positive Volunteering - free Safeguarding training programme for volunteers working with children and families, run by One Westminster on behalf of WCC.

**Dates for CYP Network meetings:      Weds Dec 16<sup>th</sup> 11.00 -1.00, at 37 Chapel St, NW1 5DP**

**Weds Feb 10th 11.00 -1.00, venue tbc**

**Weds April 13th 11.00 -1.00, venue tbc**