

## **Update of the Cabinet Member for Young People & Culture**

Children, Schools and Families Committee - 11 July 2023

### **1. Purpose of the Cabinet Member update**

- 1.1. This paper provides a short round of updates from across the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Young People and Culture. It presents an opportunity for the cabinet member to speak directly to the CSF Scrutiny Committee and highlight key pieces of work, both to share successes and identify challenges and opportunities in the coming months.
- 1.2. The Committee are invited to consider the information below and ask questions of clarification at the meeting, subject to the Chair's discretion. Requests for additional information can be addressed to the relevant director/s outside of the meeting. The Committee may also use the cabinet member updates to inform their scrutiny work planning for the coming year.

### **2. Camden Apprenticeship Awards**

- 2.1. The Camden Apprenticeship Awards 2023, which took place at Samsung Kings Cross, recognised the work of apprentices working in the Council and organisations in Camden, as well as the training providers and staff supporting them.

This event celebrated the great achievements of our apprentices, whilst also recognising managers and training providers who work incredibly hard to make apprenticeships such a success in Camden.

- 2.2. Apprenticeships are a fantastic way to help local people get the training needed to secure good employment. Last year we delivered 166 apprenticeships and over 150 work experience opportunities for Camden residents and we are committed to increasing this programme to ensure more opportunities and training programmes are available for even more residents.

It was great to hear the stories of our apprentices in Camden. All the winners and the nominees were incredibly deserving and should be proud of themselves.

### **3. Roundtable with the Hon. Corey Lane, Minister of State from Barbados**

- 3.1. I was part of a group that met the Hon. Corey Lane, Minister of State with responsibility for crime prevention, Office of the Attorney General in Barbados, as part of a study tour in London. The visit was organised by the Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose (IIPP) who together with Camden Council, set up the Renewal Commission in 2020 which established our four Missions including the one for Youth.
- 3.2. Minister Lane was interested in learning about approaches to investing in youth and addressing the social and economic determinants of crime as part of a

wider effort that has started to identify missions that could guide a transformational economic agenda in Barbados.

We talked about Camden's Missions and our approach to Youth Safety. The group was made up of a range of people and organisations that work in this area. The police, health service, charities and the Mayor's office were all represented. Minister Lane then visited the Avalon project to meet Camden young people and staff and to see the Honest Grind coffee employment project.

#### **4. Launch of Creators House**

- 4.1. I was delighted to attend the launch of Creators House which provides a free multi-purpose creative studio, free therapy and mentoring for 18-25 year olds in Kentish Town. The services on offer are giving young creatives from all backgrounds the opportunity to build their careers and gives a boost to our creative industry.
- 4.2. It's an amazing facility offering young people the opportunity to use best in class podcast and music production facilities at no cost. It's so important that there is support for young people's mental health and wellbeing so it's great this is part of the offer at Creators House.

#### **5. Honest Grind**

- 5.1. I went to the launch of [Honest Grind Coffee](#) (HGC) our radical social enterprise funded by the Youth Justice Board. Honest Grind is a great example of the work we do in Camden, it is innovative and will provide young people involved with a variety of skill that they can take forward and use in other roles. I also had a separate meeting with the founder to discuss how the project could develop in the future.
- 5.2. HGC is a paid work experience scheme for young people engaged with our Youth Justice Service (YJS) aged 16+ who are NEET (not in employment, education or training) in response to feedback from Peer Advocates in the service that more paid opportunities to access work experience are key to supporting children and young people trying to avoid a criminal lifestyle.
- 5.3. The scheme is centred on the coffee industry and the young people involved in the scheme will gain work-related skills that are transferable as well as work experience they can use on their CV. Opportunities include coffee roasting, barista training, customer service, stock management and product development. The young people will also be paid for each shift they complete.

## **6. Google**

- 6.1. I met with Google's community engagement manager to discuss their new UK headquarters which is currently under construction and how they can help support young people into the community space.
- 6.2. Google are one of our STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) Pledge employers. The STEAM vision is to work together building a future where Camden is a beacon of inclusive opportunity and innovation. Young people, regardless of background, will be inspired by STEAM opportunities and they will be ready for the world of work in Camden's STEAM industries. STEAM employers have access to a local diverse talent pipeline to meet their recruitment needs and help them to innovate and flourish.

## **7. RADA (Royal Academy of Dramatic Art)**

I had a meeting with the senior team at RADA to discuss their role in the borough and how they could get more involved with our work and supporting young people. We may be moving ahead with a project where they deliver confidence and presentation training to some young people.

## **8. Donmar Warehouse**

I met with the schools outreach team at the Donmar Warehouse theatre to get some insight into their schools programme and discuss how we can extend it into more of our schools. The Donmar is one of the UK's leading producing theatres, situated in London's West End and it's exciting to be working with them.

## **9. The Camden Schools Music Festival**

- 9.1. In April, over 2,000 children and young people from the borough's primary, secondary and special schools took part in Camden's Schools Music Festival.
- 9.2. Organised by [Camden's music service](#), with support from the [Camden Music Trust](#), [Camden Learning](#), [Arts Council England](#) and [London Music Fund](#), 2,000 children from across Camden's schools came together to perform a fantastic array of original, classical, jazz and international songs.
- 9.3. Held at one of London's most famous music venues, the Royal Albert Hall, the festival brought together pupils and their families, teachers, music tutors, musicians, and composers for the first time in person since the pandemic.
- 9.4. The centrepiece for this year's concert was 'Camden to the Caribbean', a newly composed piece created with children from St Alban's, St Mary and St Pancras and Fleet primary schools, and Regent High School as part of a Windrush project they took part in during the autumn term.

- 9.5. Musicians from performance group [Kinetika Bloco](#) worked with students on drums, steel pans and brass instruments as part of the piece, which took inspiration from four countries in the Caribbean.
- 9.6. 'Camden to the Caribbean' was funded by Camden's Culture Service and the London Music Fund and could only be brought together for performance by the full cast of 2,000 performers on the day.
- 9.7. Taking place biennially, this was the 13th Camden Schools Music Festival to take place since 1998, also marking the 25th anniversary of the event.
- 9.8. As I haven't been to the music festival since I was in it as a child, it was great to be back at the Albert Hall and see all the amazing musical talent we have in the borough. The Camden Music Trust do an amazing job pulling this event together and they and all the participants should be really proud of how it turned out.

## **10. Camden Youth Council Shout Out and Social Action Grants**

- 10.1. We have a brilliant Camden Youth Council that includes our two Youth MPs and two Deputy Youth MPs, and every year they host a Shout Out event for young people in the borough to come together and take part in workshops to let us know about the issues that matter to them covering the environment, mental health, jobs and careers and youth safety. Over 80 young people attended this year's event held in May.
- 10.2. At the event, the Youth Council launched their exciting opportunity for young people in Camden to make a real difference through social action by offering grants of up to £5,000 to help tackle three areas of concern for local young people.
- 10.3. The themes for the grants were decided on by the Youth Council based on the findings from their first regular borough-wide survey aimed at young people - their [Skills for Life survey](#) showed that there are three areas young people want to do something about:
  - Young people's safety
  - The environment
  - Skills for life - CV writing, finding a job, managing finances and how to secure a home in the future.

The deadline for applications is September 2023 with the campaigns to be show-cased at next year's Youth Awards.

## **11. Roundhouse Works**

11.1. In May, I attended the launch of the new space at the Roundhouse for young people.

11.2. The space will offer lots more people the opportunity to learn about the creative industries and develop their own businesses and skills.

11.3. The new sustainable building on the Roundhouse site houses a large music studio, a triple-height studio for circus and performance, and a dedicated podcast studio as well as multi-use spaces. Roundhouse Works will offer various membership options, giving access to work and studio space, talks, skills workshops and networking events. Help with childcare and travel costs will be available. The venture will double the number of young people given assistance by the Roundhouse since it reopened in 2006, the majority from disadvantaged backgrounds. Young people will learn skills, build confidence and make connections to equip them to work in the creative industries.

11.4. Roundhouse Works will be the “largest creative centre for young people in Europe” Marcus Davey, the chief executive and artistic director of the Roundhouse.

It’s a wonderful addition to the Roundhouse and the borough.

## **12. Shakespeare in Schools**

Cllr Gould and I met with the playwright and critic Bonnie Greer to talk about a Shakespeare in schools programme that she’d like to develop and deliver in Camden. The programme would use plays, workshops, and visits to the British museum to bring Shakespeare’s work to life. We are keen for Bonnie Greer to meet the STEAM Hub and head teachers so that sessions can be planned properly.

## **13. Youth safety**

13.1. The Youth Safety Taskforce was set up in December 2017 in response to the significant increase in youth violence incidents in the borough over the previous year. Councillor Georgia Gould, Leader of Camden Council, asked Keir Starmer QC, MP and Councillor Abdul Hai, our then Cabinet Member for Young People and Cohesion, to chair a Taskforce to look at the underlying causes of youth violence in the borough and see what more could be done to keep our young people safe. The work of the Taskforce continues through our Youth Safety Steering Group that I am a member of.

13.2. At the start of June, we launched the annual local Youth Safety Week with a series of events and activities for children, young people, parents, carers and professionals, to raise awareness of what is being done in Camden to keep young residents safe – as well as helping to equip young people and the community to stay safe. It ran from 22 to 28 June and is the fourth annual event

of its kind in the borough so far – and comes in the run-up to the fifth anniversary of the publication of Camden’s Youth Safety Taskforce Report, which set in motion a wide range of initiatives to help safeguard young residents.

13.3. On 16<sup>th</sup> June, the winners of the annual Youth Safety Multi-Media Competition were announced at the launch event I attended together with Keir Starmer QC MP and Abdul Hai.

The joint winners were [Mary's charity](#), with a film about the young people who are supported by the charity, including their hopes, dreams, interests and sense of community and safety, and William Ellis School with Parliament Hill School, whose male and female students jointly produced a film called '[What it means to be a teen in 2023](#)'. This focuses on the pressures and dangers for young people of social media, the safety and wellbeing of young women and girls, toxic masculinity / peer pressure and mental health.

The runners-up in this year's Youth Safety Multi-Media Competition this year were:

- British Somali Community (BSC) film - '[My Hijab](#)' - focusing on personal identity and pride, as well as feeling safe; featuring a poem and film by hijab-wearing Somali girls and young women from BSC
- Acland Burghley School - '[Call of Duty](#)' dance piece by their boys' dance group, supported by the school's PE and dance teacher Sean Osinlaru. Their contemporary dance focuses on the pressure to be part of the camaraderie and show-up for friends or peer groups and the toll this can take, with potentially devastating effects
- Fitzrovia Youth in Action, in partnership with Camden Council's Detached Youth Team, for their [animated film 'Guardians'](#). This focuses on what we can all do to help keep our local young people and community safe and was produced by local young people as part of the Regent's Park Estate Community Champions and Guardians resident-led project.

13.4. Young people involved in the projects won money for their school or youth centre, as well as vouchers for themselves. Two of the runners-up and one of the winners also received funding to help produce their films as part of the Council-run competition.

13.5. One of the main events at this year’s Youth Safety Week was the first Young People’s Assembly on young women and girls’ safety held on 26 June for young women and girls.

13.6. The event was hosted by Ellie Rudd from Fitzrovia Youth in Action and Suraya Miah former peer advocate with the Youth Justice Service. Together with Cllr Pat Callaghan, deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Safer Communities, we opened the event and gave our commitment to listening and acting on what young women said.

13.7. Speakers included Laura Bates, founder of the Everyday Sexism Project, an ever-increasing collection of over 200,000 testimonies of global gender inequality. Laura is the author of Everyday Sexism, the Sunday Times bestseller Girl Up, Misogynation, The Burning, The Trial, and Men Who Hate Women. Her most recent book, Fix the System, Not the Women, was named one of Waterstones' best books of 2022.

The aims of the assembly were to:

- Create a safe space for young women to share their experiences of sexism, misogyny and violence in Camden, and explore what actions are required to make Camden a safer place.
- Explore how safe and confident individuals feel in the community and in local facilities/institutions (e.g., neighbourhoods, schools, and youth spaces)
- Raise awareness of the broader work happening in Camden to challenge prejudice and build stronger, safer communities
- Inform how the Council, local partners and institutions can take shared responsibility for their safety.

A follow up assembly for both young men and women will be held in November 2023.