

# MINUTES

**Meeting: London Youth Assembly**  
**Date: Thursday 30 May 2019**  
**Time: 2.30 pm**  
**Place: Chamber, City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London, SE1 2AA**

Copies of the minutes may be found at:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/london-assembly/london-assembly-publications/london-youth-assembly>

**Present:**

Barking & Dagenham	Hillingdon
Barnet	Hounslow
Bexley	Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
Brent	Lambeth
Bromley	Lewisham
City of Westminster	Merton
Croydon	Sutton
Enfield	Tower Hamlets
Royal Borough of Greenwich	Waltham Forest
Hackney	Wandsworth
Hammersmith and Fulham	
Haringey	
Havering	

## 1 Update from Chair (Item 1)

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed Members of the London Youth Assembly (LYA) to City Hall for their second meeting.
- 1.2 The Chair thanked a number of Greater London Authority (GLA) staff for their support and work on the London Youth Assembly, with special thanks to Gareth Bacon AM, the Executive Director of Secretariat and the Executive Support Officer, Secretariat.
- 1.3 The Chair thanked the Deputy Chair of the (LYA) for his support and work during the last year.

- 1.4 Members of the LYA held an election for the 2019/20 Chair of the LYA prior to the meeting. The current Chair announced Emily from Bromley would be the new Chair.

## 2 Minutes (Item 2)

### 2.1 Resolved:

**That the minutes of the meeting of 19 February 2019 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.**

## 3 Discussion on Youth Violence and Safety (Item 3)

- 3.1 The LYA held a question and answer session with Martin Hewitt the Chair of the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC).
- 3.2 The Chair, NPCC, discussed:
- The role of the NPCC;
  - The differences in policing in 2019 compared to the 1970s.
  - The difficulties police face in building relationships with particular communities; and
  - Issues relating to globalisation in London such as technology, violence and mental health, the role of the media, stop and search, and gangs.
- 3.3 The Chair of the NPCC made it clear that although part of the role of the police is to enforce the law partnership working across agencies and sectors is required to stop youth violence.
- 3.4 Members of the LYA asked a number of questions of the Chair, NPCC. Key summary points of his responses are listed below:

### Immediate responses to youth violence

- The Mayor of London set up the Violence Reduction Taskforce to provide a multiagency response and has since set up the Violence Reduction Unit;
- The police are also doing a large amount of work around recovery of weapons, searches and making arrests;
- Education on the self-esteem of young people is being included in all education provisions to help provide young people with a meaningful life.

### Engagement with the police

- The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) increased the number of officers working with schools including a nominated officer working at each school as part of their leadership team;
- Neighbourhood policing has been protected despite budget cuts to local authorities and the MPS;

**Greater London Authority  
London Youth Assembly  
Thursday 30 May 2019**

- The MPS have faced difficulties when developing positive relationships with young people so have been using the police community support group for some outreach work.

Youth Advisory Groups

- Despite there being a number of advisory groups there is not currently a youth advisory group;
- Further work needs to take place on how to get young people involved as their voices should be heard.

Police presence

- The Violent Crime Taskforce has a number of dedicated officers able to move to parts London based on the intelligence and evidence the MPS has on where violence is likely to take place.

The MPS and black Asian, and minority ethnic (BAME) communities

- There is a racial bias as stop and search disproportionately affects people from BAME communities more than the rest of London's population;
- Those injured and suspected in cases of youth violence also disproportionately affects BAME communities, although this varies across London;
- The Gangs Matrix does not contain figures on all violence.

Primary school aged children

- County lines operations have seen young people aged 10/11 years old carrying drugs across the country;
- The MPS wants to be involved in primary and secondary school education to explain the dangers to young people of issues relating to gangs, drugs and online risks;
- The period of transition between primary and secondary school is a key period as young people become more independent and their views of the world changes.

3.5 At the end of the question and answer session the Chair thanked Martin Hewitt on behalf of the LYA.

## **4 Discussion on Mental Health and Wellbeing (Item 4)**

4.1 Each sub-region provided an update on the work around mental health and wellbeing which had taken place since the last meeting.

- 4.2 Innovations included contacting Clinical Commissioning Groups to find out how the LYA can get involved, looking at sharing best practice from young people who have used mental health facilities and introducing posts in schools to help young people who are struggling with their own mental health.

## **5 Discussion on Recommendations to the Mayor (Item 5)**

- 5.1 The LYA received the report containing the LYA recommendation to the Mayor.
- 5.2 The Chair thanked Members of the LYA for their contributions to the report.
- 5.3 A copy of the amended report is attached as **Appendix 1**.

## **6 Date of Next Meeting (Item 6)**

- 6.1 The date of the next LYA will be in Autumn 2019.

## **7 Any Other Business (Item 7)**

- 7.1 The meeting finished at 4.30pm.

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Chair

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Date

**Contact Officer:** LYAChair@london.gov.uk