

My Say Matters Youth and Democracy
Annual Report
April 2025 – March 2025



1. Introduction

'My Say Matters', Barnet's Child Participation and Family Involvement Strategy has been in place since May 2022. The strategy is underpinned by the concepts in the Lundy model of participation – Space, Voice, Audience and Influence. This report updates on activity between April 2024 and March 2025. My Say Matters and the concepts of co-production and youth participation remain securely embedded, still enjoying impressive support across the council and partner agencies. We continue to see a diverse range of young people taking part, who represent the wider community of Barnet, including those from minoritised communities, disabled children and those with SEN needs. Young people in Barnet want and expect to be listened to and the Council continues to respond to this demand and act on what they say.

A separate report is available on the work of BOP (Barnet on Point) our child in care council.

2. Youth and Democracy

Barnet's Youth and Democracy offer covers 3 areas supported by Rebecca Morris, Participation Officer:

- The UK National Youth Parliament and Barnet Youth Ambassador schemes – 4 elected roles.
- Youth Assembly which sits up to 6 x per year in the Council Chamber – young people propose, debate and vote on motions in front of elected members and senior council leaders.
- Youth Board – council officers bring policies and projects to young people to get their input and to shape service delivery. This forum is monthly.

Our My Say Matters membership increased exponentially in the summer of 2024, likely due to the support of the Barnet Head Teachers network and other promotional activities

– we have seen 136 new members register since June 2024 and 113 young people, from 38 schools attended at least one youth and democracy event over the year. Our numbers peaked in October 2024 with 52 members attending Youth Assembly and 48 at the December session. Many of our Youth Assembly members attend Youth Board which has seen a peak of 26 attendees in February 2025. This compares very well to our active membership from 2023-24.

2.1 Barnet Youth Parliament and Youth Ambassador Scheme 2024-26 Cycle

Members of Youth Parliament are 11–18-year-olds elected to represent young people across the borough for a two-year term, and work on the issues of greatest concern to their constituents. MYPs take part in a national scheme supported by the National Youth Agency which includes an annual debate in the House of Commons chamber where two priorities are selected for the following year. There are over 300 sitting MYPs nationally.

Barnet's Youth Ambassadors work to identify the needs of local young people and support the work of Barnet's Youth Board where council officers and partners attend to consult young people and gain their views and involvement in policy making. All four elected young people attend Barnet's Childrens Partnership Board (BCPB) to represent the young people of Barnet.

Our Members of Youth Parliament (and pictured below) are:

- Connor Gill, age 17, Finchley Catholic High School (campaigning on improving mental health support)
- Freddie Atkinson, age 17, Saracens High School (campaigning on diversifying the curriculum)

Barnet's Youth Ambassadors are:

- Eleanor Sidnick, age 14, JCoSS (campaigning on reducing school stress)
- Sylvia Bega, age 14, East Barnet School (campaigning on preventing knife crime)

All four young people are actively working on their campaigns and have received support from and had the opportunity to meet with related professionals. Whilst campaigning has to take part alongside educational and other commitments, each young person has been able

to share their views and contribute to policy making in relation to their chosen topic as well as taking part in the broader My Say Matter offer. Connor has been a youth advisor to the NSPCC and is interested in developing a podcast to support the destigmatisation of talking about mental health and to sign post resources – discussions have started with our BICS service about this. Freddie has met head teachers and senior education leaders to share his proposals for creating safe spaces for difficult conversations in schools. Eleanor is in discussion with her own school regarding various elements of school support including toilet passes and Sylvia has met staff with our Vulnerable Adolescents service to share her ideas about supporting victims of knife crime.

Photo 1. Freddie, Sylvia, Connor and Eleanor on election night



On a national level Connor and Freddie attended the UK Youth Parliament 2 day residential conference in Warwick in July 24 and the Youth Parliament sitting in the House of Common's Chamber on 28th February which is live streamed on Parliament TV. Connor was selected to lead a debate and you can view him here [UK Youth Parliament 2025 - afternoon session](#)

Photo 2: Connor and Freddie at the House of Commons February 2025



2.2 Barnet Youth Assembly

Barnet Youth Assembly is a forum designed to encourage the participation of young people in the democratic process and to give them direct access to elected members and policy makers. It takes place in the chamber at Hendon Town Hall and is well supported by our councillors who take part in pre meeting networking with young people and listen to debates. Our Director of Children's Services and Chief Executive of BELS (Barnet Education and Learning Service) have also been regular attenders. Youth Assembly, which restarted in January 2023 remains an established part of the democratic calendar. The youth Co Chairs, elected by fellow Youth Assembly members are Purvi Shah, Rebecca Surcel and Vanshi Pujara. Rebecca meets with our Youth Chairs regularly to plan work and support their development in the role as they have full chairing responsibility during the Assembly sessions – this they do to a very high standard.

2.3 Barnet Youth Assembly Demographics

We are proud that our offer is accessible to and of interest to children from all walks of life. Our members appear to reflect the demographics of the borough in terms of gender, race, culture, religion and class. Although providing this data is not a condition of membership we know that young people attend from both the independent and state education sector. Our members have told us they have heritage from many parts of the globe: West, East and North Africa, the Caribbean, Central, East and Southeast Asia as well as European roots. We take an inclusive approach that means disabled and neurodiverse young people are supported to take part. Only 11 of our members have shared that they have a disability including vision and hearing loss, autism and Aspergers but we believe this to be an underestimate and will continue to encourage members to feel comfortable to share their additional needs. Whilst we do not ask our members about their personal background, we know from the information they chose to share with us that some have had adverse childhood experiences. We are pleased that our work offers a safe space for them to share these with peers and professionals who can affect the changes young people seek. We have slightly more female members. Young people are invited to share their preferred pronouns if they wish to.

Table 1 Sex, Race, Religion and Disability – self identified

Gender	Female	Male	Not Stated/Other
	62	47	4

Race	Asian	Black	White	Mixed Heritage	Other/Not stated
	40	13	25	4	31

Religion	Christian	Muslim	Hindu	Jewish	Agnostic /Atheist	Buddhist/Jain	Not Stated
	28	23	17	6	5	2	32

Disability	Disabled	None or not declared
	11	102

2.4 Barnet Youth Assembly Activity

This is what our members tell us about attending Youth Assembly:

"Youth assembly is very welcoming first of all. You feel free to give your opinion, your choice. You feel part of something, you feel you can actually make a change and impact"
Elitsa, 14

"As soon as I entered, I felt I was going to be part of something where I had influence. I felt I could make a positive change for Barnet. I have lived here all my life and I think it's important to give back". Reema, 15

"I really enjoyed our first Barnet Youth Assembly meeting of the academic year, where we engaged in a lively debate on an important motion. It was inspiring to hear everyone's perspectives and witness the passion for making a difference. The energy in the room was contagious, setting a great tone for the year ahead!" Paarth, 15

Young people are offered the chance to work with our Participation Officer to progress their motion if it passes. This year we have extended this to give all our members the chance to join a working group to realise the motion. This has enabled a wider range of children to learn more about the behind the scenes work of the council and meet officers and senior leaders in an informal way. They have learnt about policy making, the challenges of public sector delivery and gained confidence in navigating a professional environment.

Whilst it isn't always in the gift of the council to deliver the motion in full we are able to ensure our members have the chance to lobby for their ideas and contribute to change, whilst building skills for future life.

Table 2 Youth Assembly Attendance Data

Youth Assembly	Full Assembly	Motion Selection /Online Meeting	Motion Progression Meeting	Other Project Work Project Work
April	14			
May			5	
June	11	12		
July	18			
August				
September		13		
October	52		12	4 Full Council Speech
November		22		22 Question Time Planning
December	48			
January		14	10	33 Question Time 4 Full Council Speech
February	25			8 Video Making

Table 3 Youth Assembly Motions –Evidence of Influence and Impact

2024/25	Young Person	Motion Topic	Influence and Impact
June	Daniel	Financial literacy for young people	Discussions held with Daniel about his idea and Barnet's BACE service who hope to implement the Nat West UK Thrive Programme NatWest Thrive - National Youth Agency
	Paarth	Improving awareness of new age technology	Paarth was introduced to our BELS Chief Executive and Stem lead. Paarth has taken his ideas forward himself winning national and international competitions Paarth named national AI winner after designing app to help autistic children - Queen Elizabeth's School

			From waste to space: stellar prize for national winner of competition focusing on Planet Earth - Queen Elizabeth's School and winning the Mayors Youth Civic Award too! Paarth wins Young Citizen of Barnet award - Queen Elizabeth's School
	Judith	More public art	Judith is an active member of Youth Board and has had the chance to share her ideas with Rebekka Deighton Barnet's Public Art and Culture Officer.
July		End of year celebration	<p>3 videos shown made by professionals sharing updates on "You Said, We Did" - you can view the videos here:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Towards a Fair Barnet: https://youtu.be/SfHWT2K5xCU Allegations Against Staff – Leaflet for Young People: https://youtu.be/EAFRV3uwPVo Public Health School Food Project: https://youtu.be/zPIGXMLEheE
Oct	Freddie	Council's Financial Challenges – sharing information and consulting young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Videos have been made with Cllr Radford and the Interim DCS – to be sent to schools in July 25. A letter by Youth Assembly detailing the motion included in the Council's formal consultation on the budget proposals in February 2025.
Dec	Razi	Careers Videos with senior Barnet officials	Videos have been made with the Chief Executive Cath Shaw and Mayor Tony Vourou – see pictures below
	Leyla	Knife Crime Prevention	Leyla has researched knife crime resources via the Ben Kinsella Trust which she will discuss with her school after the exam period. She has also written a poem about knife crime.
Feb	Melika	First Aid Sessions in schools	Under discussion with Youth Assembly members – for further action after exam period
	Reyaansh	Work experience with local small businesses	
	Safiyah	Youth feedback in regeneration plans	

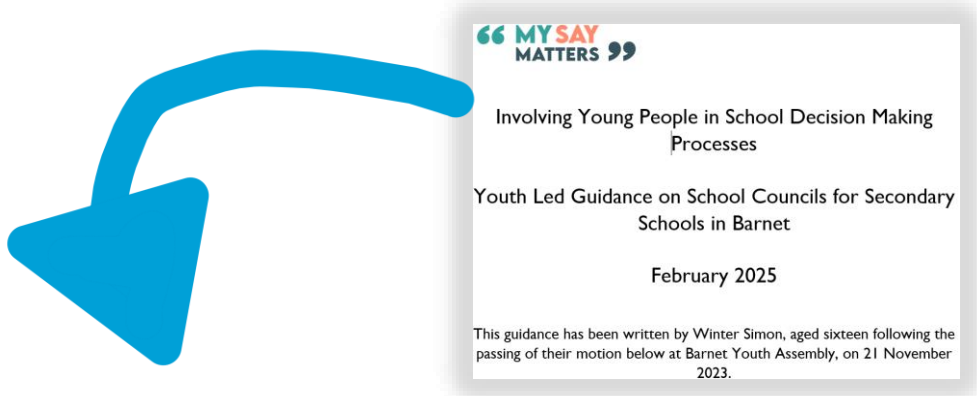
Photos 3. Youth Assembly members film Cath Shaw Chief Executive and Barnet's Mayor Tony Vourou



2.5 Links to Barnet Education and Learning Service

BELS Chief Executive Neil Marlow has been a champion for My Say Matters and regularly attends Youth Assembly and takes part in the debates and follow up. He has invited young people to be participants in Barnet's Schools and Settings Standards Partnership Board Meeting (SSSPBM) with headteachers and senior education staff and this has proved an effective way to progress motions that require the support of schools.

Winter's motion from 2023 regarding school councils has been discussed SSSPB meetings and as a result guidance written by him has been agreed by headteachers and circulated to all schools. It has also been agreed that Learning Network Inspectors will add an inquiry about school councils to their regular contact with schools, the result being a broader conversation about the ways in which pupil's voices can be heard. A recent survey to schools has explored this issue further. This is an excellent example of young people being part of all 4 quadrants of the Lundy participation model; Space, Voice, Audience and Influence.



School Council
Guidance Feb 2025 W

Freddie also attended SSSPB in April 2025, to discuss his campaign around diversifying the curriculum. This led to a fruitful conversation about the complexities of discussing sensitive topics for example global conflicts in safe spaces which also support open exchanges of views between students. There are plans for Freddie to have further meetings with head teachers and Barnets PSHE lead.

2.6 Barnet Youth Board

Youth Board offers a monthly forum where council officers bring policies and strategies at the early stages so that young people can be involved in co-production from the outset. It takes place in a mix of on-line and face to face sessions and is a sought-after slot for seeking feedback. Staff from across the council and partner agencies attend and there is strong evidence of the influence of young people on policy making as shown in Table 4 and Fig 1 below which illustrate that all council directorates have had contact with Youth Board.

Demographics of Youth Board members reflect the analysis in 2.3 above as there is considerable overlap in membership.

Photos 4. Consultation Exercise Barnet's Economic Development Framework Aug 24

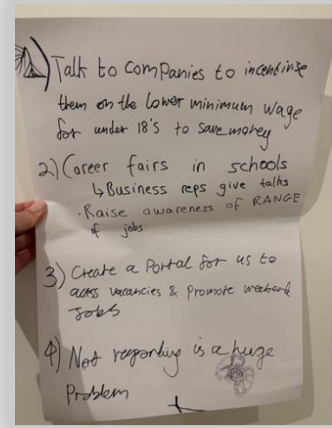
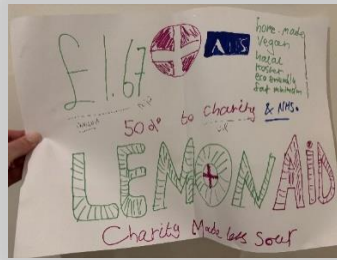


Table 4 Youth Board Topics –Evidence of Influence and Impact

Youth Board	Nos	Guest/ Topic	Evidence of Influence and Impact
April	11	<p>Change Grow Live, Barnet Drug and Alcohol Service</p> <p>Family Friendly Framework – Commissioning, Policy & Strategy Service</p>	<p>Young people consulted about substance misuse programme for schools and best way to introduce the subject</p> <p>Young people worked on a checklist to share across the council to help services self assess their family friendly approach</p> <p><i>'The Barnet Youth Board provided the perfect forum to road test our proposed Family Friendly Framework. Its members reviewed the proposal and sought to ensure it would provide benefit to young people, questioning assumptions and making recommendations.'</i> Lee Robinson, Commissioning Strategy and Policy Advisor</p>

May	7	Tacking Exploitation Strategy - Child Exploitation, Gangs & Missing Co-Ordinator	Youth Board they were consulted on the strategy and their views used to inform it.
Jun	13	Public Health School Food Project - Health Improvement Officer	<p><i>"It has been a pleasure working with the Barnet Youth Board. The young people continue to be incredible allies to Barnet Public Health activities adding knowledge from their lived experience and suggesting solutions. For example, the Barnet Youth Board have supported the Barnet School Food Standards Programme and have been assisting with the development of a healthy living adolescent campaign."</i></p> <p>Michelle Leon, Health Improvement Officer, Barnet Public Health</p> <p>Vanshi is now a member of the School Food Board replacing Sina – she has been nominated for a Jaimie Oliver Award</p>
Jul	8	Barnet Parks and Open Spaces Return Home Interviews	After consulting young people in Jan 24 the team returned to share updates on what they had done with their views and to involve them in the next stages of development.
		Child Exploitation, Gangs & Missing Co-Ordinator	Young people were consulted about the return home interview process for missing children.
Aug	11	Barnet Economic Development Framework – Business Engagement Manager	<i>'I've presented to the youth board twice on different elements of the economy in Barnet. Both times I've been impressed by how insightful and creative the group are. They are diverse and an important group to get buy in from. They can provide fresh perspective, critical thinking and new ideas on whatever project, programme or strategy you're developing.'</i> Oliver Pinch – Business Engagement Manager – Economy & Skills
Sept 1	13	Tacking Exploitation Strategy - Child Exploitation, Gangs & Missing Co-Ordinator	<p>Attended to feedback the outcome of previous consultations. Staff also explained public protection duties following an issue being raised by young people at Youth Assembly in response to prisoner early release scheme</p> <p><i>"The young people involved with the Barnet Youth Board helped us to shape both the current Serious Violence Strategy and the Return Home Check-In process. Their insight helped us to consider not only how young people engage with services within Barnet but also how they would like to be kept informed of the support that is available to them if they were to experience serious violence."</i></p> <p><i>Changes have been made to the Return Home Check-In process based on the feedback we were given around language and the way the check-in's are carried out. We agreed with the members of the youth board that we would meet with them for future co-production opportunities."</i> Amy Nowland, Child Exploitation, Missing and Gangs Co-ordinator.</p>
Sept 2		Domestic Abuse and VAWG Strategy – Domestic Abuse Consultant	Young people's views sought and used to shape new DA and VAWG Strategy eg was a discussion with male Youth Board members about the best

		School Food – Childrens Services Commissioning	<p>way to engage males and their concerns about the impact of football game outcomes on DV post match.</p> <p>Young people consulted on what factors influence pupil and parents food choices</p>
Oct 1	12	Barnet Healthy Weight Service – DDM Health	Prep and Introduction to Gro Health App in preparation for in person workshop (Online)
Oct 2	23	Barnet Healthy Weight Service – DDM Health	Gro App consultation workshop (in person) to get feedback from Barnet young people before finalising product
Nov	24	London Fire Brigade Community Engagement Team – Focus Group Economic Development Framework - Update	Consulting on young people biggest concerns are eg house fires, flooding, cold weather events, traffic collisions to help estimate risk and plan services/communication to diverse communities
Dec	21	Barnet Safeguarding Children's Partnership scrutiny visit- Red Quadrant	<p><i>"Of particular note is the involvement and co production by children and young people which is embedded in all aspects of the Council's work, not just within Children's services. Children's voices are heard and acted upon across Children's services. This was recognised and evidenced in the OFSTED inspection – 'Co-production is a strength and is embedded, with numerous opportunities for children to present and engage with leaders so that experiences of care and of wider services inform decision-making."</i></p> <p>Red Quadrant Review 2025 – see Appendix 2 for full text</p>
Jan	23	<p>Public Health, Adolescence Healthy Life Styles –Health and Wellbeing Policy Manager</p> <p>Session delivered by Youth Board member and School Food Board Vanshi and Public Health Staff</p>	<p>Barnet School Food Information Pack FINAL.pdf has been coproduced with young people with guidance written by Youth Board members on page 12.</p> <p>We approached the Youth Board for help as part of our wider consultation on the draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which ran during early 2025.</p> <p>Youth Board were an absolute joy to work with – engaging, full of ideas and really helped to road test the Start and Grow Well, and Healthier Places priorities.</p> <p>Their feedback on the draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities and goals was really helpful.</p> <p>In the final draft of the strategy, which goes to Health and Wellbeing Board to decide on 22nd May, we have included actions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteering strategy – where we will talk to leads about opportunities for under 16s to volunteer • Resilient Schools – our programme in schools to help support teaching and support about mental health and wellbeing • Fit and Active Barnet, and physical activity for young people

Feb	26	Barnet MYP's discussion with Youth Board members re annual sitting and priorities for national campaign	MYPs afforded chance to consult peers to take their views back to their national work
March	16	Libraries Service – Budget Consultation and access needs for young people eg at unmanned libraries Housing, Economy & Placemaking - Head of Placemaking – Placemaking Framework	<i>'The Youth Board made an invaluable contribution to the Library Service Budget consultation. Coming to speak to the group enabled us to reach an audience that we sometimes miss. Their feedback was insightful and extremely useful for the development of the service.'</i> Hannah Richens, Head of Libraries Young people were consulted on what placemaking means to them, what they want to see in their town centre and what makes a great place to live.

Fig 1. My Say Matters Directorate Bingo – 2023-25

Environment Highways and Transportation -Widening of A1000	Growth Economy and Skills Service-Barnet economic Development Framework Culture and Public Art – Borough of Culture bid Housing and Placemaking	Strategy and Innovation Communications Team – Youth Question Time Community Engagement- Budget and EDI Policy Consultation Sustainability – Youth Peoples Assembly
Children Services LADO Commissioning Team Vulnerable Adolescents Team BELS Libraries	Future Guests Regeneration Team	Assurance and Public Protection Governance Service – Youth Speakers for Full Council
Communities Adults and Health Parks and Open Spaces Public Health – School Food Steering Group, Substance Misuse, Healthy Living	Finance Public Budget Consultation 2025 Video Project on Councils Financial Position	Partner Agencies London Fire Brigade Ofsted's The Big Listen Youth Parliament Priorities for Action Red Quadrant Scrutineers-Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership

3. Other My Say Matter Activity

3.1 Barnet Youth Question Time

On 3 February, more than 30 young people aged 11-18 took part in the first ever Barnet Youth Question Time. The online session gave young people the chance to put their questions to the Council Leader, Cllr Barry Rawlings, and his Cabinet. For an hour the council's political leaders were grilled on a variety of issues affecting young people, from council finances and tackling the cost-of-living crisis, through to sustainability and dealing with the vape epidemic. Questions were submitted in advance with follow-up questions taken on the night and the discussion was lively, with the informed audience pressing the Cabinet on a number of tough subjects. Thanks go to the evening's excellent Youth Chairs – Dia and Zoi, both 13, and Winter, 16, all students at The Compton School, who planned the event alongside our Barnet Communications Team, asked the questions and encouraged the audience to ask their own and to get involved in other ways to make their voices heard in local decisions that affect them.

3.2 Barnet Mayor's Projects

Barnet Mayors continue to support My Say Matters vigorously and champion the voice of young people by offering a slot at the start of full council meetings. In October 2024 Onyinyechi, Isabel, Mimi, Tochi from Woodhouse College spoke about the importance of Black history under the theme Reclaiming Narratives, including celebrating the contributions of Black Barnet residents to the local education sector and economy.

In January 2025 Saba, Shaimaa, Alina and Alexa (all students at Copthall School) addressed full council on the topic of Barnet's 60th anniversary. Their speeches recognised all the elements that make Barnet a great place to grow up and their hopes for the Barnet of the future.

Young people greatly value this slot which brings them into the heart of local democracy giving them a chance to speak whilst also seeing the behind-the-scenes preparation for full council and meeting officers and council members on the night.

Photos 5. Young People address Full Council in October 2024 and January 2025



3.3 Interviewing the New Director of Children's Services

In May 2025 six My Say Matters members took part in interviewing for the new Director of Children's Services as part of the Youth Stakeholder Panel, which was also chaired by a young person - Zakia. This was an excellent opportunity for our members to gain access to the inner workings of a senior recruitment process and take decisions about how to conduct their interview, including writing their own questions and undertaking a scoring exercise. Their feedback contributed to the appointment of the final candidate who was also the Youth Panel's first choice. All our young people showed exceptional maturity and gave relevant and perceptive feedback.

Connor, our Member of Youth Parliament said:

"Thank you so much for the opportunity to be involved - I really enjoyed the experience and being able to see what it's like to interview."

Photo 4. Zakia, Chair of Youth Stakeholder Panel and Chris Spencer Interim Director of Children's Services at Hendon Town Hall



4. Conclusion and Forward Plan

My Say Matters remains an embedded way of working and has been further extended in 2024-25, with greater numbers taking part and the delivery of more complex and challenging projects. Our approach has visibility within the partnership and across the council via strong networks of support, with all directorates using the My Say Matters approach in some form. There is a thriving culture of coproduction and participation and strong evidence of impact which is actively fed back to our members.

It remains the case that My Say Matters sells itself to professionals who need little encouragement to have a go. The expectation from elected members of resident involvement supports this approach and the council is a place where officers are consistently linking to residents and services users in meaningful relationships to drive change and improvements. This continues to be business as usual with an increase in fun and creative approaches to the work that consistently engage young people.

Future Plans

1. Youth Assembly will be undertaking two trips to the Houses of Parliament in May and June 2025 (37 slots in total) including the chance to observe a sitting and meet MPs.
2. Preparation is about to start for the 2026-28 UK Youth Parliament and Barnet Youth Ambassador election cycle.
3. We will continue to target our offer to make it inclusive, and work alongside schools to increase our membership.
4. We will encourage teams or service areas who have not been part of My Say Matters to utilize the approach, being directed by our members to areas of their interest. For example young people have indicated they would like to know more about how their voices are included in regeneration plans.

Liz Shaw, Practice and Learning Manager and Rebecca Morris Participation Officer 18 6 2025

Appendix 1

Youth Assembly Motions Passing 2024 – 25

Date	Young Person	Motion Wording
June	Daniel	I call on the council to provide free-to access basic financial life skills materials to schools for PSHCE lesson and for them to also be available for students to access via the computers in the Sixth Form/ Secondary schools or via computers in Barnet libraries. Basic financial life skills would cover - Income vs spending calculations/Essential vs non-essential spending/Calculating tax payments
June	Paarth	Recognizing the rapid advancement of technology and its pervasive impact on all aspects of society, it is essential to equip our youth with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate and thrive in this new era. Artificial Intelligence (AI), Generative AI (GenAI), cloud computing, data science, and machine learning (ML) are at the forefront of this technological revolution. Introducing awareness and education about these technologies will empower students to understand and leverage these tools for their personal and professional development.
June	Judith	I call on the council to help local communities in Barnet to create more public art. Public art has many benefits, such as; Giving local people a sense of pride in their area Commemorating important events, places or traditions in the area Promoting the work of local artists considering a contract and who has been commissioned Beautifying areas, especially parks. Public art can also discourage young people from doing illegal graffiti and vandalism by inviting them instead to help create the art such as paint a mural or build a sculpture.
Oct	Freddie	“We as Youth Assembly, call upon the council to do the following: 1. Give more information to young people about the financial situation

		<p>2. To involve us in the conversation about financial changes by offering us the chance to voice our opinion if cuts are happening</p> <p>3. To make clearer what the impact will be on young people To make sure specifically how and if services such as youth services, leisure centres and youth assembly will be affected. The council to give us an assurance these services will not be shut down.</p> <p>4. Ensure council cuts are not impacting low-income families especially where it will affect educational attainment. Low educational attainment may lead to more crime in the future or a further dependence on the state.”</p>
Dec	Leyla	<p>I propose a motion that would prevent young people in Barnet from getting involved in knife crime and gangs. I would do this by researching organisations that could come into schools to speak to students (particularly with those that are young speakers) about the causes of knife crime (including what the police are currently offering schools).I aim to promote these existing campaigns through the support of the council. This will involve bringing in ex-felons to answer the youth’s questions. I will do this by going ahead and contacting organisations like The Ben Kinsella Trust and I will also be doing this in partnership with a previous Youth Assembly member.</p>
Dec	Ravi	<p>I propose a motion that guidance videos from professionals in a variety of different fields are available to watch for free on Barnet Council’s YouTube page and linked to the registered Barnet website. This will mean that instead of Barnet pupils/ residents having to go elsewhere and pay for job guidance workshops, they can access free videos on the Barnet website. We would publicise this through the school network to ensure schools in deprived areas have received this information. This can help save money and is an easy task to pursue; it will also provide support to young people in Barnet who are home-educated, attend a school outside of the borough or are young carers who may be unable to participate in events due to caring</p>

		responsibilities. We could share on social media who the speaker will be which will enable young people to submit questions that can be included in their video. The professionals will be those with a high status in a particular appealing field of work for example: The Mayor of Barnet in the field of politics. We will offer the opportunity for young people to select the fields and speakers.
Feb	Melika	Youth Assembly believes that first aid training and basic life support skills should be encouraged to be taught further in depth and consistently across all schools.
Feb	Reyaansh	This Assembly believes that Barnet Council should have an enriching framework to encourage local businesses and other organisations, such as Middlesex university to partner with schools to provide apprenticeships or work experience opportunities for children in years 9-13
Feb	Safiya	Youth Assembly believes that the council should do more to make clear the processes by which young people will be consulted about regeneration development, thereby ensuring more young people take part in giving their views. We call upon the council to provide transparent information about any proposed development, including any potential benefits the development might have and that this information be balanced and fair. Information should be shared in a young person friendly way eg an interview.

Appendix 2 Red Quadrant Findings – Interviews with Youth Board Feb 2025

11.2 Barnet Youth Board

Working Together 2023 requires scrutiny to 'Ensure that the voice of children and families is considered as part of scrutiny and that this is at the heart of arrangements through direct feedback, informing policy and practice.'

There was a meeting set up for the scrutineer to meet with a group of twenty young people from the Barnet Youth Board, with a wide age range. We would like to thank all the young

people who took part for giving up their time to contribute to this process. It was explored with the young people what they understood about keeping children and young people (C&YP) safe in Barnet; what the safeguarding issues were for them and what they would change to make C&YP safer in Barnet.

Some of the areas covered by the C&YP were issues about online abuse, particularly how children were targeted by bullies through this medium. Other areas covered were stop and search by police and there was a health discussion about whether parents should be informed of this or not. The discussion ranged from it was the private business of the young person, to parents knowing and understanding the circumstances so they could keep their child safe.

Interestingly vaping was a major issue covered by most of the groups, including pressure to vape as part of bullying. I understand this topic has been covered by the group to feedback to councillors within Barnet council.

Another topic covered by one group was about being able to have 'courageous' conversations in school – this was particularly sensitive around the war in Gaza. This group of (older) young women felt that it was 'shut down' in schools if this topic was raised. One young woman felt it would be better to be able to have a wider discussion.

When asked what they would change or improve, all suggested that better information in schools about who to go to for bullying support, including advice about how to handle difficult circumstances and deescalate situations, as well as handling cyber bullying. There was a general view that schools in Barnet did a good job keeping children safe when they were in school, it was the online environment where safeguarding was an issue for young people in this group.