

Broxbourne Youth Council Minutes

12 November 2025 (week 7/10)

Participants: Youth Mayor Havana Marshall, Recruitment Officer Ayla Kayaga, Health Officer Anastasia Filimonova, Zara Djemal, Thomas Vaciago, Grace Watts, Liberti Kenny, Ollie, Nicholas

Facilitators: Natasha Morgan (Services for Young People), Alessandro Principato (Broxbourne Borough Council)

Minutes by Alessandro Principato

1. Welcome and Introductions

The group introduced themselves and took part in an ice breaker activity.

2. Grievances

With Youth Mayor Havana planning to write a letter to the local MP on behalf of the Youth Council, the group discussed and shared several concerns to be included.

These focused mainly on issues within healthcare, including:

- Pay for junior NHS workers
- Long waiting times at A&E
- Delays in diagnosis and access to mental health support (CAMHS)
- Lengthy waiting lists for orthopaedic treatment
- The need to research new health conditions
- The importance of improving medication support

Action: Havana to request a Council meeting to discuss these issues further.

3. LMD

No updates provided at this meeting.

4. Prom / SFYP Concerns

The group raised a number of questions and concerns about how finances are being spent and the recent staff changes at the Waltham Cross Young People's Centre. Members expressed worry about the sustainability of current projects and the potential impact on relationships with young people. They noted that referral-only sessions have limited access and make it harder for young people to engage informally with youth workers.

Concerns discussed included:

- How Services for Young People (SFYP) are serving the community and making full use of the new Young People's Centre
- The lack of open, drop-in opportunities, making it difficult for young people to just walk in and take part in sessions
- Limited conversations and refreshments available, reducing the sense of welcome
- Staff shortages and restricted working hours at Youth Centres
- Long waiting times for young people seeking support
- A desire for more informal "human" drop-in sessions and opportunities to be seen and heard

The group did, however, praise the ongoing work with SEND young people but raised questions about who will now run the SEND Youth Council following staff changes.

Action: Havana to invite Mark and Natalie to a meeting to discuss issues further.

Prom Updates: Zara met with Mark Hughes, who confirmed that it is approved to host the prom and that it will be funded. The Homeschooling Team will support planning once final approval is given. Zara will also be featured in the Daily News regarding the prom, and discussions have begun around the invitation process. She will be provided with a professional email address to support coordination.

5. Recent Local News

The group discussed recent news regarding Cllr Steve Wortley and expressed concerns that the Council may be focusing too much on internal tensions between councillors, rather than prioritising work that serves the community.

6. AOB

Marty from ReThink Mental Illness expressed interest in attending a future Youth Council meeting. It was agreed that he could attend as a guest speaker at the meeting on 26 November.