

Broxbourne Youth Council Minutes

22 April 2026 (Week 1/11)

Participants: Deputy Youth Mayor Tej Nundah, Recruitment Officer Ayla Kayaga, Health Officer Anastasia Filiminova, Declan Twum, Chase Hall, Teddy Hall, James Vaciago, Gabrielle Robinson, Thomas Vaciago, Ayan Maradia

Facilitators: Linton Sutherland (Services for Young People), Alessandro Principato (Broxbourne Borough Council)

Minutes by Alessandro Principato

1. Welcome and Introductions

The group began the session with introductions and an ice-breaker activity, before reflecting on last term's session with Tom Culley and discussing volunteering opportunities with the local MP.

2. What Matters Activity

The group split into two smaller groups and took part in an activity ranking key issues affecting young people, from most to least important.

The issues discussed were the following:

- Substance-use
- Positive Mental and Emotional Wellbeing
- Social Media Pressure and Digital Overload
- Education and Career Uncertainty
- Discrimination and Social Injustice
- Personal Safety including Anti-Social Behaviour
- Environment and Climate Change

Members also shared ideas such as promoting White Paper opportunities linked to positive wellbeing for young people, discussed Hertfordshire County Council's campaign against rogue shops selling non-compliant vapes to young people under the age of 18, and highlighted concerns around the accessibility of vapes and changing societal expectations.

3. Sponsored Walk and Non-Mainstream School PROM

Zara shared that her sponsored walk has now been approved and will take place either on Thursday 30 April or Thursday 7 May, starting at 6.30pm from Waltham Cross Youth Centre and finishing at Brookfield.

The walk will collect product donations only, including sanitary products, nappies, and baby items, which will be donated to a local foodbank.

It was noted that the Mayor of Broxbourne may attend and deliver a short speech at Brookfield. Members were invited to join the walk or attend the speech, and Girl Group members will be wearing specific t-shirts on the day.

The Youth Council are awaiting updates regarding the Year 11 non-mainstream school PROM.

4. Year Plan

The group discussed inviting Mark Hughes to attend a future Youth Council meeting to explore key issues and projects they would like to develop, as well as contributing to the completion of the Youth Council year plan.

Members also focused on promoting the Youth Council and other youth projects, particularly through increased visibility in schools. Plans were discussed to contact schools across the borough to deliver assemblies and lunchtime engagement sessions before the end of the summer term, including:

- Goffs Churchgate
- Goffs Academy
- Haileybury Turnford
- Hertfordshire Regional College
- St Mary's Cheshunt High School
- Broxbourne School
- Robert Barclay Academy
- John Warner School

5. AOB

A Cabinet meeting took place prior to the session, during which members discussed the overall direction of the Youth Council and identified potential initiatives to develop within the community. Key ideas focused on youth mental health, including opportunities to engage directly with local young people and to work alongside health professionals to better understand needs and shape future projects.