



Report of the Director of Children's Services

Executive Board

30th March 2011

Response to the Deputation to Full Council: January 19th 2011 – Emily Humphries: The Mayor for a Day project – Don't Get Ill Get Soap

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In

(Details contained in the report)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report responds to a deputation presented to Full Council on 19th January 2011 by Emily Humphries. Emily's deputation was the winning manifesto from the 2010 Mayor for a Day project, run as part of Local Democracy Week. The deputation is attached to this report at appendix 1.
2. This year the Mayor for a Day campaign focused on Year 6 Pupils in primary and special schools. The winner, Emily Humphries, was from Bramley St Peters Church of England Primary School's and her key message was "Don't get ill, get soap". Emily's manifesto focused on the importance of good hand hygiene and suggested some initiatives to help promote this.
3. Participation officers have contacted the charity WaterAid and will be working with Emily over the coming weeks to help her put her proposals in place.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That a letter be sent from the Executive Board to Emily thanking and congratulating her for bringing the issue of hand hygiene to our attention and for highlighting the important work of the charity WaterAid.
- (ii) To support the work of Children's Services Participation Officers in helping Emily and her peers raise awareness of hand washing through a school based competition and other appropriate initiatives.
- (iii) To recognise the importance of good hand washing hygiene and endorse Emily's message.

Purpose Of This Report

- 1.1 This report responds to a deputation presented to Full Council on 19th January 2011 by Emily Humphries. Emily's deputation was the winning manifesto from the 2010 Mayor for a Day project, run as part of Local Democracy Week. The deputation is attached to this report at appendix 1.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 "Mayor for a Day" is a campaign that has taken place during Local Democracy Week since 2003. The campaign is organised by a partnership of staff from both Democratic Services within Leeds City Council, and the Healthy Schools and Wellbeing Team within Education Leeds.
- 2.2 The aim of the campaign is to actively engage young people in democratic systems as this is the key to establishing long term democratic involvement. It is an opportunity for schools to encourage and support pupils to be aspirational and recognise that their actions can influence change.
- 2.3 In previous years, secondary schools and special schools were invited to submit one manifesto from a KS3 or KS4 student. The winner was then encouraged to be elected to be one of the representatives from their school on the Leeds Youth Council. This year the campaign focused on **Year 6 Pupils in primary and special schools**. We hope that this year's winner will stand for election onto their school council when they go to secondary school and go on to be a member of the Leeds Youth Council.
- 2.4 This year schools were invited to submit their campaign pack (which included the candidates photograph, consent form, their manifesto and a poster promoting their campaign). Councillors and Leeds Youth Councillors then short-listed the entries to ten finalists. The ten finalists featured on the "Mayor for a Day Portal" on Leeds Learning Network for a 2 week voting period. 2591 votes were cast by children from across the city.
- 2.5 The final ten candidates were invited to the Civic Hall in November to have tea with the Lord Mayor, and receive a commemorative certificate. The winner was announced and then participated in the Christmas Lights Switch On with celebrities from the music and entertainment world.
- 2.6 The winner, Emily Humphries, was from Bramley St Peters Church of England Primary School's and her key message was "Don't get ill, get soap".
- 2.7 Emily presented her proposals to a meeting of the Full Council in January 2011.

3.0 Main Issues

- 3.1 Leeds provides a wide range of health initiatives and services to schools to promote children and families' health and wellbeing. The Health Initiatives Team within Education Leeds includes PE and school sport, Teenage Pregnancy and the healthy schools and wellbeing service. The Leeds Healthy Schools and Wellbeing Service is a traded service which provides schools with training and guidance in the following areas: Healthy Schools and Healthy Schools Enhancement, PSHE and Sex and Relationships Education, Emotional Health and Wellbeing, Participation and Pupil Voice and Sustainable Schools.

- 3.2 The Health, Safety and Wellbeing Team provide guidance and resources to help promote good hygiene. The aim is to encourage everyone to follow the basic hygiene practices that can help prevent flu from spreading, and schools have an important role to play in promoting these with children. NHS resources are available on Teachernet include posters, comic strips and nursery rhymes to appeal to a range of ages. See:
<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/educationoverview/flupandemic/flupandemicinfo/>
- 3.3 Emily's winning manifesto raised awareness about the consequences of poor hygiene. Specifically, Emily wants to raise awareness amongst school children about the importance of hand washing. Emily proposed the following:
1. Organise a competition for primary school pupils to produce hand washing posters, to be displayed on the back of toilet doors.
 2. Write to every Headteacher in Leeds outlining the importance of having soap in each in each school toilet and remind them to ask children to inform staff when the soap runs out.
 3. Encourage schools to raise awareness and fundraise for Water Aid.
- 3.4 Participation Officers from the Leeds Healthy Schools and Wellbeing Service have been advised by colleagues in the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Team of the latest local and national guidance and resources on hand washing and promoting good hygiene. They have also been in contact directly with WaterAid and sent the organization Emily's manifesto. WaterAid have sent through 270 flyers promoting their free "Spotlight on Water" action pack. This pack contains lots of activities and ideas designed to get children exploring water issues through singing, drama and interactive activities. WaterAid have written to Emily directly and offered to feature her story and manifesto on their website.
- 3.5 The Participation Officers are also meeting with staff, Emily and her school council on 9th March 2011. They will share the latest guidance and resource (including posters) with the pupils and discuss how Emily's proposals can be addressed. They will provide any support needed to help Emily make contact with Headteachers across the city and to help disseminate resources felt to be helpful and appropriate.
- 3.6 An update on progress following this meeting will be provided to Executive Board at their 30th March meeting.

4.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance

- 4.1 Local Democracy Week and the Mayor for A Day competition are extremely positive examples of work to involve children and young people in the services they receive. This approach is at the heart of our ambitions to become a child friendly city, so it is important that we give Emily our full support in helping to implement her manifesto.

5.0 Legal And Resource Implications

- 5.1 There are no specific legal and resource implications arising from this report. Support to Emily for implementing her manifesto will be provided from within existing resources.

6.0 Conclusion

6.1 The Mayor For A Day' competition is a valuable opportunity to showcase the opinions, talent and enthusiasm of many young people across Leeds. The winning entry was chosen after a significant number of votes were cast. It is important that this is recognized and reflected with the author of the winning manifesto, Emily Humphries given our full support in helping to implement her proposals. Though the work already being done by the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Team and by schools there is recognition of the importance of good hygiene and by working with Emily, her peers and waterAid in the weeks ahead we will look to build on this. We would like to thank Emily for submitting this manifesto and congratulate her on her achievement.

7.0 Recommendations

- (i) That a letter be sent from the Executive Board to Emily thanking and congratulating her for bringing the issue of hand hygiene to our attention and for highlighting the important work of the charity WaterAid.
- (ii) To support the work of Children's Services Participation Officers in helping Emily and her peers raise awareness of hand washing through a school based competition and other appropriate initiatives.
- (iii) To recognise the importance of good hand washing hygiene and endorse Emily's message.

Background Papers

There are no specific background papers to this report. Members may be interested to find out more about WaterAid at the charity's website: www.wateraid.org