

Supporting Young People in our Communities - Motion as adjusted approved.

12 Councillor Aitken, seconded by Councillor Doherty, moved that

“Council expresses its deep concern about recent incidences of violence involving young people in Glasgow and elsewhere in Scotland and acknowledges that this is enormously worrying for our communities. Council mourns the deaths of Kory McCrimmon, Amen Teklay, Kayden Moy and any death or serious injury of a young person as a tragic and needless waste of young lives and potential.

Council understands the challenges that modern life can pose to young people, including pressures around body image and self-worth and the propagation of unobtainable and damaging lifestyles and ideologies through social media. Council also recognises the particularly acute impact of the Covid pandemic response on today's children and young people, with the loss during lockdown of life opportunities and learning taken for granted by previous generations.

Council understands that the vast majority of young people are not involved in violence and do not carry weapons but believes that the increasing vulnerability of some to becoming drawn into violent behaviour requires urgent work to understand the reasons behind this and develop early, effective responses. Council understands that well-established protocols are in place to ensure swift multi-agency co-operation following a major incident and acknowledges that officers from the Council and HSCP have already been working closely with Police Scotland. Council further acknowledges the wide range of existing multi-agency interventions taking place in communities across Glasgow with and for young people, whether led by the Council family, community planning partners such as Police Scotland, or by third sector and community-led organisations, and believes that sustained youth work on the streets and in neighbourhoods is vital to reaching young people at risk of becoming involved in violence or criminal activity, and that youth work along with access to good quality outdoor space, education and training, and other support services are crucial to creating engaged, resilient and fulfilled young people.

Council acknowledges and welcomes the activism of community groups, such as Parents Against Knives led by the parents of Kory McCrimmon. Council also welcomes the attention paid to this issue by the First Minister and Scottish Government, including the recent Youth Violence summit and the announcement of increased funding for the Scottish Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) of £1.2m. Council recalls the terrible statistics related to violence and knife crime that led to the creation of the VRU in 2005; commends its excellent and well-studied work on the prevention of gang violence; and believes that many young people are alive today because of their pioneering interventions and the 'public health policing' approach adopted in Scotland. Council recognises both that the recent incidences of violence involving young people are not of the scale experienced 20 years ago and that the current context is different and more complex but believes that the lessons learned then about evidence-based approaches, multi-agency co-operation and early intervention remain applicable today.

Council recognises however that the deep concerns about the emergence of a new wave of youth violence require a re-energised response by all agencies to tackle

generational challenges in the lives of our city's young people, along with a fresh approach to new challenges that they face in the social media age; and further recognises that, while no single organisation or layer of government has the answer to a challenge that requires a whole society response, Glasgow City Council has a key role to play, both through the delivery of our own services and also as a convener of other agencies.

Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to bring an update paper to the appropriate committee in the earliest possible cycle after recess, detailing the discussions and actions officers have already undertaken in response to specific recent incidences of violence; outlining existing work by the Council family, or by other organisations funded through the Council, with young people in communities, and particularly young people at risk of becoming involved in violence; and making recommendations to councillors on ways in which existing funding streams could be used to extend and enhance ongoing youth work carried out by the Council family or in partnership with others."

Bailie Murray, seconded by Bailie Lalley, moved as an amendment:-

- (1) at paragraph one, delete "recent incidences of violence involving young people" and replace with:

"recent incidents of violence affecting young people";
- (2) after paragraph 6, insert the following new paragraph:

"Council recognises that structural disadvantage, poverty, exclusion, and racism are contributing risk factors in violence affecting young people, and must be addressed through inclusive, trauma-informed, and anti-poverty strategies.";
- (3) at paragraph 2 beginning "Council understands that well-established protocols are in place...", insert after "or in partnership with others":

"This should include a place-based lens, beginning with communities experiencing the most acute challenges, where partnership approaches can be strengthened or newly developed in response to local need.";
- (4) at paragraph 4
 - (a) at sentence beginning "Council recalls the terrible statistics...", after "Council recognises both that the recent incidences of violence involving young people are not of the scale experienced 20 years ago", replace with

"Council recognises both that the recent incidents of violence affecting young people are not of the scale experienced 20 years ago"; and

- (b) after “multi-agency co-operation and early intervention remain applicable today”, insert

“and that this must include adopting a public health approach which prioritises prevention, early intervention, and support across the life course.”;

- (5) in the final paragraph, after “Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to bring an update paper...”, add the following paragraphs

“Council further instructs officers to explore how all young people can be meaningfully involved in shaping the direction of local strategies and services in response to these challenges, including through co-production approaches. Recognises the important role of third sector organisations and community policing in engaging young people who may be harder to reach or at risk of disengagement.

Council further requests that the Chief Executive consider convening a Multi-Agency Youth Strategy Taskforce, to coordinate a city-wide, public health-based response to violence affecting young people. This should include representation from Glasgow City Council departments, HSCP, Police Scotland, education, NHS, third sector organisations, and youth representatives, and be linked to place-based pilot work, including in communities who have been affected by violence.

Council further asks that a rapid needs and assets assessment is commissioned, focusing on communities where recent incidents have taken place. This should map existing resources and risks, involve youth consultation, and be co-designed with local organisations to build an evidence base for targeted investment and support.”

Councillor Anderson, seconded by Bailie Wardrop, moved as an amendment:-

- (1) at paragraph 3, at the end of the sentence ending “...and fulfilled young people”, insert

“Council recognises that young people are living increasingly virtual lives with fewer opportunities and spaces for in-person, recreational and social interactions which foster a sense of community and purpose. Council commends all organisations providing these opportunities and spaces agrees that this type of work should be supported to grow and that provision of opportunities and spaces like this are important considerations in planning, parks, culture and leisure, and community-led decision-making.”;

- (2) after paragraph 5, at the end of the sentence ending “...of other agencies.”, insert 2 new additional paragraphs:

“Council also recognises the importance of having an informed and evidence-led debate on this issue which does not stigmatise young people, unduly

sensationalise the discussion, or provoke undue fear in young people which then leads to increased carrying of weapons.

Council recognises the excellent work done by Education Services on pupil voice and participation by young people in decision-making in schools. Council notes, however, that young people ought to feel meaningfully involved in the decisions affecting all aspects of their lives, not just their education, and recognises that public bodies, including the Council and Glasgow Life, should continually work to improve the way they empower and listen to young people when making decisions that affect them. Council looks forward to the re-establishment of a Glasgow Youth Council and believes that this would represent an opportunity to further embed the youth voice in decision-making.”

During the debate Councillor Aitken, Bailie Murray and Councillor Anderson, with the agreement of their seconders, agreed to combine their motion and amendments resulting in the following adjusted motion:

“Council expresses its deep concern about recent incidences of violence affecting young people in Glasgow and elsewhere in Scotland and acknowledges that this is enormously worrying for our communities. Council mourns the deaths of Kory McCrimmon, Amen Teklay, Kayden Moy and any death or serious injury of a young person as a tragic and needless waste of young lives and potential.

Council understands the challenges that modern life can pose to young people, including pressures around body image and self-worth and the propagation of unobtainable and damaging lifestyles and ideologies through social media. Council also recognises the particularly acute impact of the Covid pandemic response on today’s children and young people, with the loss during lockdown of life opportunities and learning taken for granted by previous generations.

Council understands that the vast majority of young people are not involved in violence and do not carry weapons but believes that the increasing vulnerability of some to becoming drawn into violent behaviour requires urgent work to understand the reasons behind this and develop early, effective responses. Council understands that well-established protocols are in place to ensure swift multi-agency co-operation following a major incident and acknowledges that officers from the Council and HSCP have already been working closely with Police Scotland.

Council further acknowledges the wide range of existing multi-agency interventions taking place in communities across Glasgow with and for young people, whether led by the Council family, community planning partners such as Police Scotland, or by third sector and community-led organisations, and believes that sustained youth work on the streets and in neighbourhoods is vital to reaching young people at risk of becoming involved in violence or criminal activity, and that youth work along with access to good quality outdoor space, education and training, and other support services are crucial to creating engaged, resilient and fulfilled young people.

Council recognises that young people are living increasingly virtual lives with fewer opportunities and spaces for in-person, recreational and social interactions which

foster a sense of community and purpose. Council commends all organisations providing these opportunities and spaces agrees that this type of work should be supported to grow and that provision of opportunities and spaces like this are important considerations in planning, parks, culture and leisure, and community-led decision-making. This should include a place-based lens, beginning with communities experiencing the most acute challenges, where partnership approaches can be strengthened or newly developed in response to local need.

Council acknowledges and welcomes the activism of community groups, such as Parents Against Knives led by the parents of Kory McCrimmon. Council also welcomes the attention paid to this issue by the First Minister and Scottish Government, including the recent Youth Violence summit and the announcement of increased funding for the Scottish Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) of £1.2m. Council recalls the terrible statistics related to violence and knife crime that led to the creation of the VRU in 2005; commends its excellent and well-studied work on the prevention of gang violence; and believes that many young people are alive today because of their pioneering interventions and the 'public health policing' approach adopted in Scotland. Council recognises both that the recent incidences of violence affecting young people are not of the scale experienced 20 years ago and that the current context is different and more complex but believes that the lessons learned then about evidence-based approaches, multi-agency co-operation and early intervention remain applicable today, and that this must include adopting a public health approach which prioritises prevention, early intervention, and support across the life course.

Council recognises however that the deep concerns about the emergence of a new wave of youth violence require a re-energised response by all agencies to tackle generational challenges in the lives of our city's young people, along with a fresh approach to new challenges that they face in the social media age; and further recognises that, while no single organisation or layer of government has the answer to a challenge that requires a whole society response, Glasgow City Council has a key role to play, both through the delivery of our own services and also as a convener of other agencies.

Council also recognises the importance of having an informed and evidence-led debate on this issue which does not stigmatise young people, unduly sensationalise the discussion, or provoke undue fear in young people which then leads to increased carrying of weapons.

Council recognises the excellent work done by Education Services on pupil voice and participation by young people in decision-making in schools. Council notes, however, that young people ought to feel meaningfully involved in the decisions affecting all aspects of their lives, not just their education, and recognises that public bodies, including the Council and Glasgow Life, should continually work to improve the way they empower and listen to young people when making decisions that affect them. Council looks forward to the re-establishment of a Glasgow Youth Council and believes that this would represent an opportunity to further embed the youth voice in decision-making.

Council recognises that structural disadvantage, poverty, exclusion, and racism are contributing risk factors in violence affecting young people, and must be addressed through inclusive, trauma-informed, and anti-poverty strategies.

Council strongly supports a coordinated city-wide, public health-based response to violence affecting young people, including representation from third sector organisations, Glasgow City Council departments, HSCP, Police Scotland, education, NHS, and youth representatives, linked to place-based work, including in communities who have been affected by violence, and seeks to actively pursue this approach to addressing the complex and long-term issues affecting young people in our city.

Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to bring an update paper to the appropriate committee in the earliest possible cycle after recess, detailing the discussions and actions officers have already undertaken in response to specific recent incidences of violence, in particular how the needs and assets of communities where recent incidents have taken place are assessed and targeted; outlining existing work by the Council family, or by other organisations funded through the Council, with young people in communities, and particularly young people at risk of becoming involved in violence; and making recommendations to councillors on ways in which existing funding streams could be used to extend and enhance ongoing youth work carried out by the Council family or in partnership with others.

Council further instructs the Chief Executive to explore how all young people can be meaningfully involved in shaping the direction of local strategies and services in response to these challenges, including through co-production approaches, recognising the important role of third sector organisations and community policing in engaging young people who may be harder to reach or at risk of disengagement.

The motion, as adjusted, was unanimously approved.