

Young Healthwatch Hillingdon Project Update - November 2017

Background

We have been awarded funding by The Big Lottery (from their Awards for All fund) to develop and deliver the first year of Young Healthwatch Hillingdon. A bespoke volunteering framework to enable young people aged 11 to 25, who live, work or study in Hillingdon, to engage with health services and issues which affect them.

Update

To date (13.11.2017) we have:

- Developed the full framework for Young Healthwatch Hillingdon (YHWH) including structure, role descriptions (Panel, Health Champions and Health Inspectors), Terms of Reference, training programme, application forms and induction pack. We are in the process of finalising the interview questions and scoring framework for applications and interviews.
- Started the process of accrediting Young Healthwatch Hillingdon with the Hillingdon Young Volunteer Awards (Hillingdon Council's initiative through their Targeted Youth Programmes Service).
- Started to publicise YHWH and invite applications through schools and partner organisations such as the council, Hillingdon Carers, P3 and Asphaleia.

The closing date for applications is Friday 15 December. We will shortlist and inform interviewees before the Christmas break and hold interviews in January.

We do not want to discourage people from volunteering and our link with the Hillingdon Young Volunteer Awards (who have volunteering links with many other organisations) will allow us to refer applicants to them if we are oversubscribed and/or feel that certain individuals may be better suited to other volunteering opportunities.

Further opportunities

Pastoral leadership at Global Academy Hayes have asked if we would work with them to develop a health mentoring programme for their students. We feel this could be a fantastic opportunity to offer as an extension to the YHWH programme.

Our current proposal is to recruit two YHWH Health Champions in each secondary school in the borough (as well as two from Uxbridge College and two from Brunel University). However, if several students from Global Academy Hayes are interested in becoming health mentors, we could provide them with training as an extension of the Health Champion role. Before doing this, we need to first recruit to YHWH and assess the level of support the volunteers require. We would also need to consider how we would fund the training of the extended role, particularly if it is something other schools raise as a potential project.