

Kent youth police commissioner Paris Brown apologises for offensive tweets



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PhilHayesDE
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UNDER-FIRE Kent youth police commissioner Paris Brown has apologised for any offence caused by her tweets about sex, drugs, violence, immigrants and gay people.

Her boss Ann Barnes has offered a robust defence of the 17-year-old who bagged the £15,000-a-year role last week.



SORRY: Kent youth police commissioner Paris Brown has apologised for her offensive tweets

Mrs Barnes, recently elected as Kent Police and Crime Commissioner, also dismissed claims Miss Brown's role is a PR stunt or "gimmick".

Mrs Barnes said: "I absolutely do not condone the content and language of Paris' tweets.

"I suspect that many young people go through a phase during which they make silly, often offensive comments and show off on Facebook and Twitter.

"I think that if everyone's future was determined by what they wrote on social networking sites between the ages of 14 and 16 we'd live in a very odd world.

"I also suspect that thousands of parents would be at best surprised and at worst deeply shocked and ashamed if they looked into the social networking of their children."

Tweets on Miss Brown's old account, as revealed by the Mail on Sunday, include the following observations.

On sex: "Worst part about being single is coming from a party/night out horny as f*** and having to sleep alone."

On drugs: "I really wanna make a batch of hash brownies."

On violence: "I don't condone violence but im so pleased that my brother thumped the fat little ****."

On reality Television show Made In Chelsea: "Everyone on Made in Chelsea looks like a f***** fag."

On ordering pizza, two months ago: "F***** hell why are the people from Direct Pizza so difficult to talk too!! IT IS CALLED ENGLISH. LEARN IT."

In response to these tweets hitting the front page of a national newspaper on Sunday morning, Miss Brown said: "I deeply apologise for any offence caused by my use of inappropriate language and for any inference of inappropriate views.

"I am not homophobic, racist or violent and am against the taking of drugs.

"If I'm guilty of anything it's showing off and wildly exaggerating on Twitter and I am very ashamed of myself, but I can't imagine that I'm the only teenager to have done this.

"Just as one example, the line about 'Hash Brownies' is a reference to a Scooby Doo film.

"I have a genuine interest in working with young people as demonstrated by my current work as an apprentice for a local authority helping teenagers in a local community."

Mrs Barnes added: "The idea of a Youth Commissioner was born out of my long experience in the world of Policing, as a teacher and as a parent.

"There is a growing gap between younger people and the Police and others agencies of law enforcement.

"Young people are too often demonised by certain elements in the press and are often criticised mercilessly.

"This new post is a practical step aimed at engaging with them. It is not a 'gimmick'.

"It formed part of my election manifesto which the people of Kent supported and voted for and which I am honour bound to see into being.

"People will make their own judgement about the approach of the Mail on Sunday who have chosen to highlight just one facet of their very long and very detailed interview with Paris."

Dover MP Charlie Elphicke also backed Miss Brown.

The Tory said: "Younger people can sometimes see drunkenness and violence as glamorous and trendy.

"I think that's what we have seen here.

"I hope the youth commissioner has learnt her lesson and will help other young people see it's not cool to do drugs.

"It's really important that people use Twitter and Facebook responsibly.

"She could play a really important role in tackling online bullying.

"She could turn this crisis to some real good."

But Keith Vaz, chairman of the Commons Home Affairs Select committee, is quoted as saying: "I am deeply shocked by these disclosures.

"This individual must be removed from their post immediately.

"Public money should never be given to anyone who refers to violence, sex, drunkenness and other anti-social behaviour in this offensive manner."

And Tunbridge Wells Conservative councillor, Nicholas Rogers, this morning tweeted: "Naive to throw a teen into robust political environment.

"Youth PCC nice bit of PR but ended in tears."

What do you think? Leave your comments below.

Read more: <http://www.thisiskent.co.uk/Kent-youth-police-commissioner-Paris-Brown/story-18636102-detail/story.html#ixzz2PrxctZLD>

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