

2020-2021

FINANCIAL YEAR



YOUTH VOICE

EAST SUSSEX YOUTH CABINET

ANNUAL REPORT



CONTENTS

03

**VISION AND MISSION
OF THE YOUTH CABINET**

04

FORWARD

06

MAKE YOUR MARK

07

TACKLING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

08

**SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE
THROUGH THE PANDEMIC**

10

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

12

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

14

HOW THE YOUTH CABINET WERE
SUPPORTED

15

LOOKING AHEAD

16

CONTACTS



VISION AND MISSION OF THE YOUTH CABINET

Our vision is for all young people in East Sussex to exercise their right to have their voices heard, valued and acted upon, as laid out in Article 12 of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child

Our mission is to embed equality, diversity and inclusion in all our work and represent the voice of local young people and work with decision-makers to bring about change and improve lives

FORWARD

Youth Cabinet Member
Seaford Head School



Hayden Roberts

"The East Sussex Youth Cabinet is an incredible opportunity to make a real difference in East Sussex.

It's been a real eye-opener this year, seeing what can be achieved if we work in partnership with others. It enables us to further understand our campaign issues, reach more people and see how our research helps services to support young people. East Sussex County Council let us have a say in the decisions made about us, so that youth-voice is heard and acted upon. We are hugely grateful to everyone who helps us along the way"

Youth Cabinet Member
Beacon Academy



Oscar Whittle

"Youth Cabinet representatives work on campaigns, selected from schools across the country in the annual Make Your Mark ballot. On top of this, the Youth Cabinet works alongside the county council to ensure that local needs and representative groups engage with young people and consider our opinions.

This year, the Youth Cabinet has taken up two campaigns - to tackle domestic violence and protect the environment. It is the second year in a row that the the environment has been voted as a priority by the young people of East Sussex!

Youth Cabinet Member
Willingdon Community School



Amelie Anastasakis

"I encourage everyone to promote the Youth Cabinet elections and Make Your Mark ballots this year. This small action makes a big impact and ensures youth voice is heard locally and nationally.

All secondary schools and colleges, SEND schools, alternative education and those who are home-schooled are entitled to one representative. The election period opens from October this year, and those of us who will be staying on for a second term look forward to meeting new members and building a bigger and better youth voice for East Sussex!

Lead Member for
Education and ISEND



**Councillor
Bob Standley**

"This report is an excellent showcase for the Youth Cabinet, who worked so hard during the Covid lockdown period. I want to thank the schools who have supported their pupils to participate. I would encourage schools to use this report to highlight the value of youth voice to their pupils. I hope schools will be inspired to encourage their pupils to stand as Youth Cabinet representatives in their schools this year. The Youth Cabinet is a huge testament to the power and value of youth voice, and our schools are key to making this happen."

Lead Member for
Children and Families



**Councillor
Bob Bowdler**

As the newly elected member for Children and Families I am very excited to work alongside the Youth Cabinet. I am already impressed by their fantastic work responding to the pandemic, by raising awareness of issues young people face. Youth Voice plays a crucial role in shaping the work of East Sussex County Council and I want to personally thank the young people and staff who have participated in the success of Youth Cabinet campaign work."

Chief Executive
of East Sussex
County Council



Becky Shaw

"The Youth Cabinet plays a hugely important role in ensuring the voice of children and young people is heard across the whole of East Sussex County Council, with our partners in the NHS, Sussex Police, District and Borough Councils, and through the voluntary sector partner organisations we work with. I am always delighted to discuss their views, and to have their valuable insight into how East Sussex can be a good place for children and young people to grow up in."

Director of
Children's Services



Stuart Gallimore

"I am proud to lay claim to hosting the Youth Cabinet in Children's Services. They have continued to work diligently throughout the pandemic year, and to ensure youth voice is kept high on the agenda. They are a credit to young people in the county."

MAKE YOUR MARK 2020

TOP 5 LOCAL ISSUES

- 1st **Tackle domestic violence**
- 2nd **Reduce homelessness**
- 3rd **Better access to training and jobs**
- 4th **Improve transport**
- 5th **Address childhood obesity and food poverty**

TOP 5 NATIONAL ISSUES

- 1st **Free university
No Tuition Fees**
- 2nd **Support our mental
health**
- 3rd **Take Action on climate
change**
- 4th **End plastic pollution**
- 5th **Tackle child poverty**

TACKLING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Background

Voted as the top concern in November 2020, Youth Cabinet are working with the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership to develop a campaign to *Tackle Domestic Violence*.

Actions

Contributed to the national violence against women and girls consultation

Developed and co-hosted a 3-hour pan-Sussex schools seminar titled 'Protecting Young People from Harmful Sexual Behaviours'

Developing a young person's survey to understand young people's views and experiences of domestic violence

Outcomes

Members learned about how to inform the development of the governments next tackling violence against women and girls strategy

Over 85 delegates signed up; members worked in partnership with independent youth voice company, Priority 1-54, and noted best practice to share in their own schools and wider

Members learned how to develop surveys and the importance of involving all partners to achieve the best outcomes; survey results will support prevention work and contribute to local domestic violence strategy

EQUALITY



SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH THE PANDEMIC

Background

From education through to mental health, the impact of the global pandemic on young people has been huge. In response to this, the Youth Cabinet voted to focus their efforts supporting young people to access information, advice and guidance through their STAY campaign.



Actions

Developed a social media campaign to share information, advice and guidance about issues relating to the pandemic and subsequent restrictions

Recorded an interview with the Director of Children's Services hosted by 3VA

Created a series of webinars with creative company, Make (Good) Trouble relating to the lockdown

Supported the development of a young people's survey with Healthwatch - to better understand the impact of lockdown; the services they use; their health and wellbeing

Informed messages to schools via ESCC Covid-19 Schools' Message Board by debating what was working well/what could be improved

Recorded a series of webinars with head teachers and East Sussex County Council, in order to record a Return to School video September 2020 with Make (Good) Trouble

Devised a list of recommendations for schools, the council and partners around improving communication and access to information

Outcomes

Members upskilled and learned how to deliver a social media campaign; the resource was shared with schools as part of their wellbeing offer

Members raised awareness of the pandemic effects on young people and parents/carers - shared with schools and ESCC partners

Members gained interviewing/podcasting skills, and shared views for resolving family conflict; living with separated parents; dealing with anxiety; and the impacts of homeschooling

970 young people responded to the survey that influenced how the voluntary sector and its partners shape their community services

ESCC able to highlight issues young people viewed as a concern, such as exam confusion and sharing best practice

Raised awareness of why schools took different approaches; catching up on schoolwork; additional support for vulnerable pupils; travelling safely; exam confusion and signposting to further information

ESCC continued to support hosting of Youth Cabinet meetings via Zoom

Former Youth Cabinet member Emma Garrod; Doreen Cronin, St Richards C.C.; Anne Robinson, Beacon Academy; and Peter Marchant, Cavendish School



Youth Cabinet addressing lockdown issues with school leaders in partnership with Make (Good) Trouble



**MAKE
(GOOD)
TROUBLE**



Youth Cabinet; Stuart Gallimore, Director of Children's Services; and Adam Chugg, 3VA

Return to school webinar



Youth Cabinet member

Darrell Gale, Director of Public Health

Jessica Stubbings, Children's Services

Doreen Cronin, St Richards Catholic College

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

Background

The Youth Cabinet voted to continue their environment work to finish the fantastic work already completed and planned with the Communities, Economy and Transport Team at East Sussex County Council.

Actions

Created a comprehensive schools energy audit toolkit for all secondary settings in East Sussex

Consultation with Lewes District and Eastbourne Borough councils on local climate action work.

Advised on a communications outline for East Sussex County Council's climate action work for schools and young people

Created a social media personal pledge campaign

Lobbied East Sussex MPs on the Plastic Pollution Bill that is being discussed in the House of Commons

Member of Youth Parliament for Hastings and Upper Rother co-hosted UK Youth Parliament's national climate conference addressing plastic pollution to over 90 delegates

Outcomes

Members worked in partnership with climate charity Ashden, to develop the resource that will be launched in schools in Autumn 2021

District councils have youth voice informing their action plans

Members worked in partnership with Communities, Economy and Transport Team to develop a youth-proofed plan for effective communication across the county

Members upskilled themselves using creative platforms to develop engaging content; raised awareness of issues to young people by signposting to learning and ways they can make a positive impact on the planet

Youth Cabinet and UK Youth Parliament members worked in partnership to write letters and gained an understanding of how to lobby effectively

Member gained experience of hosting a large online event and equipped delegates with the tools and resources to carry out the next steps in the campaign



ENVIRONMENT CAMPAIGN

ECO PLEDGES!

#timetochange

EAST SUSSEX
YOUTH
CABINET

DAISY'S PLEDGE

"I PLEDGE TO ALWAYS TAKE A REUSABLE BAG WITH ME WHEN I GO SHOPPING TO REDUCE PLASTIC WASTE!"

#timetochange

JAMES'S PLEDGE

"I WILL BECOME A VEGETARIAN TO REDUCE MY CARBON FOOTPRINT"

(hashtag)timetochange
(hashtag)ecopledge

BELLA'S PLEDGE

"I PLEDGE TO ONLY BUY SECOND-HAND CLOTHING!"

EAST SUSSEX
YOUTH
CABINET

OSCAR'S PLEDGE

"I PLEDGE TO WALK TO SCHOOL AT LEAST 4 TIMES A WEEK!"

#timetochange

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS...

Background

Youth Cabinet support and influence many different events and projects, including working on the UK Youth Parliament's national campaign work and through their links with other partners. This is a snapshot of their activity over the past year...

UK Youth Parliament

Activity

James Jenkins developed a speech for 'Tackle Plastic Pollution' to be chosen for the Make Your Mark ballot - he delivered this in front of 100s of young people at UKYP's Annual Sitting

Took part and voted on national youth priorities via Annual Conference

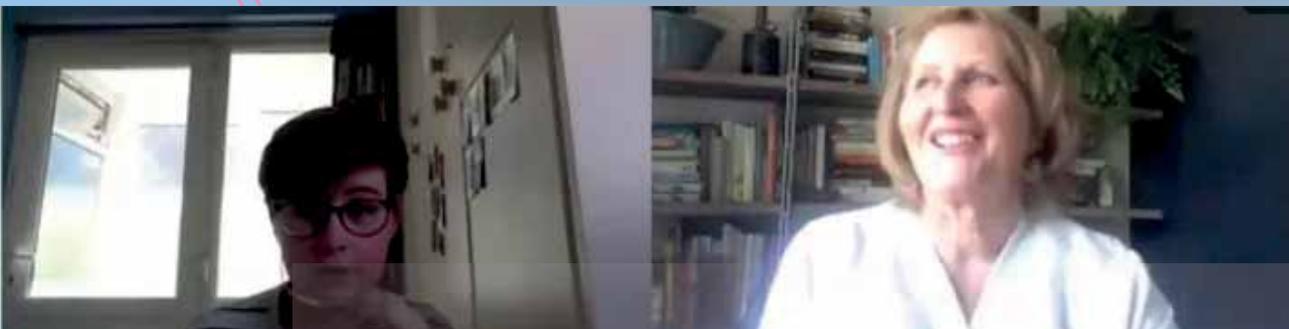
Supported the 'Make Your Mark' process in East Sussex

Outcomes

The campaign was voted as main national campaign - first time for East Sussex!!!

Members' represented East Sussex young people's voices

1000s of young people took part and results were shared with other youth voice organisations, like the Hastings Youth Council who use the priorities to shape borough and district work



Anne Longfield, former Children's Commissioner for England

Activity

Interviewed the former Children's Commissioner for England, Anne Longfield, on issues relating to young people with Make (Good) Trouble

Reviewed the Race Equality Guidance for Schools

Reviewed the LGBTQ+ virtual exhibition

Opened the Children's Services staff conferences with recording of members discussing issues that affect children and young people

Outcomes

Other young people gain better understanding of the commissioner's role and achievements

Recommendations included as part of the editing process

Shared suggested improvements with the project lead

Helped staff discussions focus on a 'child first' approach

WHAT MEMBERS SAY

Knowing I'm helping others is priceless!

The team has always been very well structured and helpful

Thank you to the staff for all of your hard work! :)

Youth Cabinet gives young people the opportunity to develop skills and move onto other projects that they would have never dreamed of being involved with otherwise

Youth Cabinet gave me something constructive and rewarding to work on when I felt quite isolated in lockdown

The staff that support us are dedicated to helping us

It has been a GREAT experience so far!

Being a Youth Cabinet member really is the best intro into Youth Voice work!

I've been given opportunities through our partnership work that I would have never had access to

HOW MEMBERS WERE SUPPORTED

Service User Feedback

100% of Youth Cabinet members felt that matters relating to race, religion, culture and heritage were taken into account; they were treated with dignity and respect; and that their needs wishes and feelings were taken in account

Six of the nine felt that that they had a lot to be proud of since being a Youth Cabinet member, and two felt this was always good

100% felt listened to; involved in decision-making and supported. One person was unsure of what was expected of them

LOOKING AHEAD

Tackle Domestic Violence

- Ensure all schools, and other settings that involve young people, have access to the survey
- Analyse the survey results with Sussex Police and Children's Services
- Share survey results and recommendations with East Sussex County Council and its partners
- Develop creative media to highlight survey result findings with young people, parents and carers

Protect the Environment

- Respond to the Members of Parliament lobbying letters, by involving them in further discussion or events
- Launch and pilot the schools' energy audit toolkit in secondary schools
- Support East Sussex County Council's climate action plans and communications to young people, parents and carers
- Connect with and support local climate action organisations

Other activities...

- Work with the Children and Young People's Trust and its partners to promote equality priorities
- Support the Youth Cabinet school election process and Make Your Mark ballot
- Further develop and organise the schools' Democracy Awards
- Improve Youth Cabinet social media and other communications
- Increase visibility of Youth Cabinet consultation offer for services
- Build on partnership work with other youth voice groups
- Support the annual policy and resources discussions at East Sussex County Council
- Call for fairer government finance for East Sussex

CONTACTS

East Sussex Youth Cabinet

youth.cabinet@eastsussex.gov.uk

County Hall, Lewes, BN7 1UE

Supporting staff members

Natasha Cummings

Equality and Participation Officer,
Children's Services

natasha.cummings@eastsussex.gov.uk
07879 117 561

Tom Goulden

Participation Worker, Children's Services

tom.goulden@eastsussex.gov.uk
07803 179 257
07511 557 634

Nicola Bryson

Participation Worker,
Children's Services

nicola.bryson@eastsussex.gov.uk

Atiya Gourlay

Lead - Equality, Participation and Strategic
Partnerships, Children's Services

atiya.gourlay@eastsussex.gov.uk
07825 452 543

Social Media

Instagram @east_sussex_youth_cabinet

Twitter @EastSussexYC

Facebook facebook.com/esyc.official

