

# Youth Voice

**YOUTH  
VOICE**

Follow us on Instagram  
[bucks\\_youth\\_voice](https://www.instagram.com/bucks_youth_voice)



# Introduction

Who are we:

- Grace Allen
- Eve Clayton
- Annabelle Dixon



# What is Youth Voice

The aim of Youth Voice is to bring together young people and professionals across Buckinghamshire to shape future opportunities and influence change

There are 3 parts to Youth Voice:

- 1) Youth Voice Steering Group
- 2) Youth Voice Events
- 3) Online Youth Voice Community on Instagram



## The role of the Steering Group is:

- To work with different organisations who want to get young people's input on particular issues or pieces of work. Any professional from any organisation can contact us to come to a meeting!
- To promote Youth Voice
- To plan 2 events a year, including arranging venues, food and activities



Examples of our work so far this year includes:

- Feedback on the RUWise to it CSE campaign
- Feedback on Sexual Health Bucks Website
- Early Help Consultation
- Education Strategy Consultation work
- Make Your Mark Youth Parliament Voting
- Supporting CAMHS with development of a video to go on their website
- Contributing to Voice of the Child Select Committee





We have also completed training to help us in our role as Steering Group members.



# Youth Voice Event

Our most recent event took place on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November at The Waterside Theatre in Aylesbury

70 young people came to the event, representing 14 different youth groups, schools, youth forums and specialist groups from across the County.

Young people had the choice of 7 workshops and then had the chance to ask questions to a panel of professionals from a range of organisations.









# The Headlines from the Workshops

## **PSHE and Life Skills:**

- Lack of good quality PSHE in schools came up in several of the workshops and was clearly a priority
- The most important skills young people feel they need are Budgeting, Job Skills, keeping a house, cooking, independent travel, emotional skills and personal skills e.g. bedtime routine

## **Safety:**

- The things that make young people feel unsafe are Bullying, being left out or not being liked, going out after dark, climate change. Lighting and better processes to tackle bullying in schools were identified to improve this.



# The Headlines

## **Activities and Leisure:**

- Young people do not feel that they know what services and activities are available to them, where to look for them or how to access them.
- The biggest barrier to young people taking part is cost, group size too big and transport

## **Involvement in Decision Making:**

- Young people do not feel that they are asked before changes are made that affect them e.g. activities closing, funding being stopped



# The Headlines

## **Post 16 Options and Employability:**

- Information about post 16 options and work experience is not accessible to all young people
- It was felt that work experience should be organised by a central organisation rather than individual schools, with quality placements arranged based on the young person's interests and that provide real career experience
- Lack of opportunities for young people in terms of employment, apprenticeships and housing was highlighted, with young people feeling discriminated against in these areas



# The Headlines

## **Mental Health and Resilience:**

- Barriers to good Mental Health were social isolation, fear of what others might think, and lack of communication (e.g. parents at work, teachers).
- Things that support good Mental Health were relaxation techniques and talking to people e.g. friends, family, Youth workers, support groups.
- Young people feel that how Mental Health is currently supported is not working and that support needs to be provided earlier and in different formats. It was felt like counselling is the only option provided.



# Our hopes for the future

- To take feedback from the Youth Voice Event to plan next steps
- To build our new Wycombe Steering group starting in December
- For more young people to join the Steering Group
- For more professionals to work with us and discuss their plans with us
- For professionals to give us more feedback about how our suggestions have made a difference.
- To build up trust and understanding between young people and those in charge!



Any Questions???

