



Youth Voice

Chair:	Tom Shimony
Deputy Chair:	Eve Clayton
Secretary:	Katie Dance

Youth Voice Overview



The Youth Voice Executive Committee brings young people together with professionals to discuss key issues and share ideas for improving service delivery for children and young people.

Youth Voice has been an area of work within the Council for several years but it has recently changed.

There are 4 key parts to Youth Voice:

- 1) Youth Voice Executive Committee
- 2) Focus Groups and Consultation Work
- 3) Youth Voice Events
- 4) Online Youth Voice Community (on the Youth Voice Webpage and the Youth Voice Instagram page)

Buckinghamshire County Council

Youth Voice Executive Committee



Becoming an Executive Committee Member is an opportunity for us to act as a representative for a number of schools, colleges, youth groups and community groups across Buckinghamshire.

Attending meetings ensures that Buckinghamshire County Council, and other organisations, are able to hear and respond to the issues experienced by young people.

It is also a chance for us to debate issues affecting children and young people and interact with other young people who we may not otherwise cross paths with.

Youth Voice Executive Committee



The Committee consists of 12 members representing the views of young people from the following settings and experiences:

- We Do Care Forum for looked after children and young people
- SEND Forum
- Action4Youth Board
- Aylesbury Youth Action
- Chiltern Youth Project
- Wycombe Youth Action
- Wycombe Youth Council
- Home Education
- Traineeships and Apprenticeships
- Work Experience settings

Our Role



As committee members, our role is as follows:

- To attend 4 committee meetings per year
- To develop and deliver a work plan to ensure that key priorities for young people are summarised and achieved
- To undertake work outside of the meetings with a view to report back to the Committee
- To participate in focus groups and consultation events throughout the year in response to requests received
- To actively promote Youth Voice activities and events to young people in our own local area or youth groups



We were invited here today to talk to you about the issues affecting young people in Buckinghamshire.

The timing of this was really convenient as we have just completed a piece of work on the National Make Your Mark Campaign which gets the views of young people across the Country.

As part of this we then get a breakdown of responses from young people across Bucks so we will use this information as part of our presentation.



Make Your Mark Campaign

Make Your Mark is a National Campaign run by UK Youth Parliament that takes place every year.

This year's Make Your Mark campaign has seen over 1.1 million young people take part across the country, making it one of the largest youth consultations of its kind in UK history, with 1 in 5 of all young people aged 11-18 taking part.

Each young person had the opportunity to vote for 1 priority



Make Your Mark Results

- This year saw 2328 votes in Buckinghamshire
- We are now going to share the Top 5 priorities for young people in Buckinghamshire.
- Please note:
 - 1) This is not necessarily our personal opinion
 - 2) This does not necessarily mean that young people think these are issues in their own local area – more that when reflecting on national priorities, these are the areas they feel are most important.



1) End Knife Crime (634 votes)

‘Too many young people’s lives are lost to knife crime; the Government need to do more help end the knife crime epidemic’.

Although Buckinghamshire does not have the same issues as some of the big cities, many of our Buckinghamshire Schools as well as targeted and statutory services such as Youth Offending Service, the Youth Service and Exclusions Team educate young people on issues such as safety and the impact and dangers of weapons.

Also in Buckinghamshire we have the Safer Buckinghamshire Plan and Safer and Stronger Buckinghamshire Partnership Board that is made up of BCC and other organisations that aims to continue to see crime reduce and support those most vulnerable to crime.



2) Curriculum for Life (332 votes)

‘Schools should cover topics like finance, sex and relationship education and politics’.

Youth Voice have been part of the PSHE Consultation to inform the developments of the new Curriculum that will be introduced in September 2019 (20)

3) Homelessness (319 votes)

‘Every person should have a place to live and the opportunity to live comfortably. Let's make it happen and put a stop to homelessness’

Under the law local authorities are under a duty to help anyone who is under the age of 18 as they would be considered to be a ‘child in need’.

Buckinghamshire County Council has recently launched Buckinghamshire Community Housing Support Service to prevent vulnerable people in the county from becoming homeless.



4) Equal Pay, Equal Work (304 votes)

'Give young people the same amount of pay, if they are doing the same work as adults in the same job'

Age	Current rate
25 and over	£7.83
21 to 24	£7.38
18 to 20	£5.90
Under 18	£4.20
Apprentice*	£3.70



5) Mental Health (180 votes)

'Mental health services should be improved with young people's help; and should be available in schools'

This is an area we have already been working on by linking in with the Time to Change Hub as Ambassadors and also designing a resource to promote early access to support



Next Steps

- Our next Executive Committee Meeting is Wednesday 5th December
- We have some community based events coming up in February whereby young people will be brought together to explore some of the issues presented today and consider how it relates to their own local area or school. We would welcome you to be part of that!
- We will be continuing our consultation work including work on the Aylesbury Garden Town programme and PSHE development.
- We will continue to raise awareness of Youth Voice and encourage more people to come and work with us



Questions?

Do contact us for more information about what we do and how you can work with us:

Email youthspacebucks@buckscc.gov.uk

Visit the Website

<https://www.bucksfamilyinfo.org/kb5/buckinghamshire/fsd/youth.page?youthchannel=2>

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