

Youth Voice: POSITIVE STORIES



July, August September 2016



Annual Council Meeting 2016

Youth Voice: POSITIVE STORIES

**A report by youth representatives and the workers that support them
July, August and September 2016**

Welcome to the latest edition of Positive Stories including stories from July, August and September. Our format reflects part of our commitment to the **UN Convention on the Rights of a Child Article 13 - Freedom of expression** 'Every child must be free to say what they think and to seek and receive all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law,' (UNICEF UK).

The British Youth Council will share this report regionally and nationally, with local councillors and MPs, and certain media outlets, in order to raise the profile of the fantastic local work that we know is happening every day.

The case studies and stories of the work of young people in their local communities are reproduced here in their own words. If you would like to find out more about one of the projects you read about in this report, please email: info@byc.org.uk

The online survey remains open and we produce reports once a month, providing young people the opportunity to shout about the great work they have been doing in their local areas during the previous month. Previous reports are available online: www.byc.org.uk/positivestories

The British Youth Council would like to thank all the workers and young people who took the time to promote and complete the survey and we look forward to hearing more from everyone over the coming months.

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Young People's Stories

East Midlands

Derbyshire

Oliver Scheidt, 17, Member of Youth Parliament

In July I held assemblies at my school for the 'Don't Hate, Educate' campaign. It helped raise awareness and challenges racism and discrimination. Across my school it has also raised the profile of the Youth Parliament as well as helping me engage with more young people.

Leicester City

Brhmpreet Gualati, 15, Member of Youth Parliament

In Between the months of June and July, we as Leicester city have been working with Leicestershire reps to join forces and work on the 'Don't Hate Educate Campaign'. In this we have managed to work with Third Party charities (Sophie Lancaster foundation) as well as the police. As Sophie Lancaster foundation is a hate crime based charity, we invited them to a 'sjo' in Leicestershire and hosted an event there alongside Leicestershire police. Myself and Ryanair have visited our local MP for the east of Leicester, and early on this year I was able to meet MP for Leicester west. Upon meeting them, we successfully managed to start the mental health campaign and we also updated them on UKYP's current work. Both of us as MYP's are currently in the processes of getting 'Make Your Mark' started and are promoting it outside of school, in places such as faith groups and youth clubs!

East of England

Luton

Joe Stockley, 21, UK Young Ambassador

The last few months as a Welsh representative for UKYA has been really busy and enjoyable. I am a Young Ambassador working on a European project called Structured Dialogue. Over the summer months we have been consulting with young people both online and via face to face workshops on the theme of an “Inclusive, Diverse and Well Connected Europe”. As our consultation period fell over the time of the EU referendum and its aftermath, a lot of our consultation focused on gathering young people’s opinions and reflections on Brexit. I met with other young people in Cardiff and in London and helped to run round table events. We then took all our evidence from the online consultation and the events ran across the UK to write a report that was submitted on a European level in preparation for the European Youth Conference in Slovakia in October where youth representatives will meet with decision makers to write joint recommendations. The report was enjoyable to compile, and fueled by lots of coffee, we got together with young people from all four nations of the UK and made it happen. I have also been using the role at UKYA to join the calls to push for a national youth parliament in Wales, which has been rewarding. In August I had the privilege of attending an International Culture Summit with several other UKYA members as UK representatives, and we made the most of being in Edinburgh by attending lots of fringe shows! To talk to people who were making a difference in the world of Culture, in the world of Politics, and in the world of Charity work was really inspiring. To find out more about the work of the UKYA you can visit our website: www.ukya.org.uk

London

Brent

Shivani Trivedi, 17, Youth Councillor

Over this quarter the Brent Youth Parliament have been able to participate in many different activities and consultations, while developing relations and skill swift groups in and out of the borough. The Chair of our Youth Parliament, Leesha Varsani attended and made a fantastic speech at the 'Time To Talk' hate crime event earlier this month, which was a great achievement. In addition to this, we have also received many visits from both the Parliamentary Outreach team that allowed our MYPs to get involved in parliamentary styled activities and to also allow them to expand their knowledge on our parliamentary system. This was another wonderful opportunity for our young people to gain knowledge on our democratic system from professionals, which resulted in it being a very enjoyable and engaging activity.

Over this period of time we were also visited by additional groups.

The NHS Healthwatch consultation allowed our young people to participate in a youth consultation regarding the current mental health system and suggest any changes the government should make to make this more comfortable for young people. Our MYPs were able to share their views on behalf of the young people of Brent, and will now also be referenced in the parliamentary report which will be published soon. The final group of visitors were two representatives from Merton Youth Council. This visit allowed us to engage with members of another Youth Parliament in order to share and discuss ideas and initiatives that we have taken throughout the last year. This enabled us not only to share and gain ideas, but also allowed us to develop good relations and take notes on how other youth parliaments run themselves and potentially apply what we learnt to improve ourselves. Finally, UKYPs were able to run a very successful anti bullying campaign which has now been delivered to every school in Brent to participate in. Overall, this has been a very successful and productive quarter and we hope that the next is just as great.

Islington

Honey Baker, 14, Youth Councillor

We have started to hold monthly 'Meet and Greet' sessions to speak to more of Islington's young people. Last term we held Meet and Greet sessions at youth hubs and schools. Our first meet and greet session at Rose Bowl, focused on youth provision. A fellow YCllr (Youth Councillor) introduced the facilities provided at the youth hub to everyone who attended. We used the Meet and Greet session at Platform youth hub to provide opportunities for young

people to meet us and discuss ideas; this has included the naming of Launchpad (programme of activities for 16-24 year olds). We have also provided updates about the Youth Council at school assemblies including St Aloysius College. One YCllr organised a visit to young people at Samuel Rhodes School and enjoyed answering questions about the youth council and its priorities. Honey, (a YCllr) organised with her school (Islington Arts and Media School) to hold an info stand during lunch time. It was very successful as over 40 young people visited the stall, which provided them with information about the Youth Council and activities taking place during the school holiday. "I enjoyed hearing from young people face to face, about their ideas regarding free time activities and am planning to hold further meetings during the term. In addition, I am hoping to also set up a meeting with my Head Teacher about work experience". Young people have contacted us directly about issues concerning them, including housing and improving education.

Redbridge

Bruna Franco, 16, Member of Youth Parliament

In July, Redbridge Youth Council hosted its triannual event - the Schools' Council Conference. Formerly the Schools' Council Conference. We amended the title to make it more accessible (due to some young people being deterred from attending because their school didn't have a school council or they were not part of it). We also altered the event to enable young people to acquire skills from the experience. We offered students a Leadership Training Session from the Mental Health Charity, 'Time to Change'. The students took part in an array of practical sessions that would help to develop key leadership skills. The hope was that the students and supporting teachers attending would be able to help develop a Leadership Team in School to help support campaigns that their school council or young leadership team want to take on. 32 people from 12 different schools attended. Additionally, there was be a session on around 'Make Your Mark' which encouraged the participation of young people through becoming a 'Champion'.

Amishta Aubeelack, 17, Member of Youth Parliament.

Attending the UK Youth Parliament Annual Sitting was an amazing way for us as MYPs to understand more about our upcoming campaign on Make Your Mark, but also allowed us to think how wider issues may have an impact on us as a borough. We met a lot of boroughs who were facing cuts to their youth services and this made us think of ways to prevent any more cuts from taking place and doing the best we could for those constituencies in particular. Aside from this, several guest speakers attended Annual Sitting including John Bercow, he expressed his passion and support for the youth in sharing their voice. The Annual Sitting allowed Bruna and I to learn more about our role and aided us well in preparing for 'Make Your Mark'. If your school or organisation hasn't signed up, please get in contact with Redbridge Youth Council to make sure you all can vote!

Proud to Call it Home

This July we were invited by the Mayor of Redbridge to attend an event at Valentines Mansion that focuses around civic pride and the launching of a campaign to engage more within our community and to increase our pride in our borough. We were able to find about renovations that might be taking place in Redbridge throughout the coming years. As well as this, we featured in our local newspaper and represented Redbridge Youth Council as a council that are keen to get on board this campaign and support enthusiasm with regards to our neighborhood.

Lakshan Thangarasa 16, Youth Councillor

I'm a young cabinet member at the Redbridge Youth Council (RYC). The RYC hold a number of informative and engaging events throughout the year to help young people like me in Redbridge to develop skills but also raise awareness on key issues. One such event is the School Council's Conference (SCC), an event held thrice every year to help people of different schools to gather, share ideas but also have some fun. During the last SCC we were split into different groups, tackling a variety of challenges such as matching quotes to famous people to identify leadership traits but also building boats using limited resources ranging from card and paper to straws and blue tack. Personally, I had a lot of fun getting my hands dirty when making the boats. We also had a speaker coming in talking to us about Tuberculosis including but not limited to causes, prevention and cures. Overall it was a fantastic and deeply insightful experience.

Victoria Trumpulyte, 16, Youth Councilor

In September we were visited by the 'Fusion Organisation' who aim to increase awareness about the types of drugs there are and ensure young people are aware of the dangers and avoid situations where there are any potential hazards. This was interesting because, as a youth council, we are all interested in learning about drugs as it is such a taboo subject in school. Having a spokesperson come to our meeting made us realise there are organisations out there that help people and can guide you.

Richmond upon Thames

Oscar Thames, 17, Member of Youth Parliament

This July and August, I have been organising the make your mark campaigns around the borough. As part of this I have managed to sign up 15 schools and organisations to take part in the ballot- the second best in London. This is a massive improvement over the 6 schools and organisations signed up last year. The next step is to actually complete the make your mark vote. Typically, Richmond hasn't performed as well as other London boroughs in the campaign. But, last year I got 26% of young people voting (an increase of 10% from the previous year). If the pre-registration is anything to judge by, this year's make your mark campaign should be really strong in Richmond.

North West

Blackburn with Darwen

Hamza Khan, 17, Member of Youth Parliament

On the 1st September I attended a meeting with an executive member of the council to discuss a issues that affect the youth in Blackburn With Darwen. It was good to get the views of young people across to ensure we are being represented when it comes to the decision making!

Cheshire West

Lucy Coulson, 15, Member of Youth Parliament

I have recently attended a meeting with my local MP (Antoinette Sandbach) following a visit to the Houses of Parliament arranged by her good self and her colleague Andy Atkinson. During our session we discussed a number of topics including transport for young people in my local area, engaging Antoinette in our senate session, and also working on a campaign containing young people's views on keeping safe in our areas. Furthermore, we discussed the pressing issue of broadband in our local areas in which a great deal of progress was made. Coming back to the issue of 'keeping safe' we agreed to send out a survey to a number of schools and youth clubs and find out their views and opinions on the issue at hand; thus giving us the tools to create a plan to ensure their safety. I have also attended a meeting in York University where I discussed and debated in great depth the Top 10 issues which have appeared on the ballot paper. To add to that, I have also created a ballot box situated in the careers library in my school, allowing me understand the issues and start making a difference. On a wider scale I have written a number of letters to UN ambassadors and MPs surrounding a number of issues and have had encouraging replies from a number of them including the French and American Ambassadors.

Jessie Leigh, 15, Deputy Member of Youth Parliament (DMYP)

On the 15th September, I attended a 'Make Your Mark' event at a local college. Not only did we receive plenty of ballot papers for 'Make your Mark' but it also greatly raised my confidence. I talked to so many people, which I never would normally do! It helped gain me confidence and communication skills. Definitely an experience I will treasure!

Cumbria

Jacob Reid, 14, Member of Youth Parliament

All six of the Cumbrian MYPs and DMYPs were invited to a one-night induction residential at Brathay- and it was amazing! Apart from all of the basics (organisation, transport, communication etc. etc.) Frankly, I am definitely not alone in expressing my gratitude for such a great trip (or not-weekend-weekend, as we ended up calling it). I thoroughly enjoyed my time with some amazing people- Lucia Harrington, Bethany Thornton, Justin Mahone and our youth workers Chris Barry and Lynne Murray- and I have some great memories. Some of the activities in the action-packed 'weekend' included a ghyll scramble (which, despite being thoroughly wet and extremely cold was really, really fun and gave us all a great sense of achievement), going on Brathay's whaler (which, in the dark was the most relaxing activity imaginable and, in case you were wondering, did not involve catching whales- much to our disappointment!), a self-led walk (which was great for bonding and I am proud to say that we only went 'exploring', AKA getting lost, once!) and an abseil (which really pushed us to the edge of what we thought we could do). Also, there were several extremely useful MYP sessions; one of which, we went through the MYP handbook to gain a better understanding into our role, and the other, extremely productive session was spent creating action plans for our campaigns. Also, and I can't not mention this, the food was absolutely second-to-none, and our guide (also called Chris, to much confusion over the two days) was completely accommodating and everything we wanted him to be! So, our induction residential was better than I could have ever hoped for. It was great, great fun and I have a lot of great memories from our time away together. And, arguably most importantly, following our not-weekend-weekend I felt fully prepared to start campaigning, and to start making a difference in my community.

Lancashire

Hal Meakin, 18, Member of BYC Membership Organisations.

On the 9th July we arranged for a variety of decision makers (including the children's commissioner, Anne Longfield) to meet at the University of Huddersfield in order to hold workshops with youth reps from all over the North. This was to provide them with our perspective regarding what we feel that an ideal Northern Powerhouse should produce for young people. My group focused on Mental Health services in a devolved setting - it was really successful.

Will Burrell, 18, Member of Youth Parliament

On the 2nd September, I met with my local MP (Ben Wallace) and we had in depth discussions about mental health services for young people, the importance of the curriculum for life campaign and of course make your mark. After the meeting, he offered me a position of work

experience at his office in London. On the 8th September, I also spoke in front of my borough council about 'Make Your Mark'.

Manchester

Joanne Aungier, Member of BYC Membership Organisations.

The European Youth Capital, Manchester Young Careers (MYC) presented at the Manchester European Youth Capital Launch and are working hard to promote the EYC bid. They have the backing of 20 venues that are keen to host EYC events. They have also started a programme of work to further youth engagement with the city's arts facilities. The Group Manchester CICC, hosted 3 fun events to recruit young people to The Group in addition to workshops and activities that were delivered by young people. Feedback included: Members of the Change group presented at the Voice and Influence Group to deliver the Promise from MCC to LAC young people. The promise was signed by Sir Richard Leese, Sir Howard, Cllr Sheila Newman, Paul Marshall Director of Children's Services, young people and staff who support young people in care.

Children's Commissioner Visit

Members of MYC, The Group and Change Group ran workshops for the commissioner, staff and young people. Some participants said the following: "They were friendly. I felt comfortable. We could talk about our feelings, it was young person friendly, I felt listened to and the commissioner was friendly".

At the event the MYC, have been busy working with MMU student press office to have an article published in the Humanity Hallows magazine. Checkout our article on the website, www.humanityhallows.co.uk

For more information on the EYC bid click on the link at the MYC website, or Follow us on twitter @mcreyc2019 and Facebook: MCR European Youth Capital

Manchester Strategy

Finally Members of the Hive attended the launch of The Manchester Strategy and our MYP's will be working with the Leaders Group to ensure the voice of young people were represented at the highest level. Information collected by the youth council has been used as part of the Manchester Strategy Presentation. Members of the Hive have also been filmed as part of the budget consultation and had more than 2000 views! Go to our website for more information www.manchesteryouthcouncil.co.uk

Salford

Martyn Shaw, Member of Youth Parliament & Youth Councilor

After the EU referendum we feared that our rights as young Europeans would in any way shape or form, not be protected. We realised we might not be alone as there are many Europeans just like us who have lived in Britain for the majority of their lives or who have accustomed to the British culture and way of living. In Salford, there is a big European community and we suddenly felt like we didn't belong. We decided to take action, and we came up with a motion to be presented at the BYC meeting. At the meeting in September the motion passed, which means "rights for young Europeans" will now be in the BYC manifesto.

Sefton

Laura Curran, 17, Deputy Member of Youth Parliament (DMYP)

In August, Owen Johnson MYP and I prepared questions to ask potential providers for Sefton's new 0-19 integrated health service. We asked the two providers these questions in order to not only see how they'd answer them, but also to observe how they communicated with young people. It was really refreshing to see how eager they were to have young people involved in the work they want to do. This was a worthwhile experience, as we were both able to be involved in a decision that would have long term impacts in Sefton and it's young people.

In the same month, people from our Youth Cabinet (which I will talk more about later), Sefton CVS and some councillors met to discuss and plan our next 'meet the cabinet' meeting (the name is likely to change) in late September. There have been two of these meetings already, where groups of young people and decision makers come to share ideas and inform each other with regards to what we've been doing. In this planning meeting, we wanted to focus more on working together and coming up with actions that can be done to make sure this collaboration does take place between the meetings. The plan has been finalised, and the meeting will be on 26th September. We'll be discussing topics such as our Youth Cabinet, MYM, Take Over Challenge and much more.

Also, just before the summer holidays our new Youth Cabinet for Sefton (again, the name may change) had started. We're still in the process of getting new members and finalising who we are and what we want to do, yet we've already got plans to meet with those involved with social care and have discussed meetings about child poverty. We'll be doing a whole lot more once we're fully up and running!

Finally, in early August a few of us from our Youth Cabinet took part in the MYM week with Collective Encounters in Liverpool, and we all came up with a performance for October 8th! We can't wait to show it to those watching it on the day.

South East

East Sussex

Tom Goulden, Member of Youth Parliament & Youth Councillor

Libby's Story

East Sussex Youth Cabinet has allowed me to do things previously unimaginable. Not only have I made 19 new friends (something I find very difficult), I've also attended various conferences and conventions I wouldn't have been able to be involved with otherwise. Additionally, the power I've gained with the Youth Cabinet is also applicable in my school, where I am finally being listened to, and where I am able to change what isn't good enough.

Emma's Story

In the summer, I went to the Youth Cabinet two-day campaign away days. During these two days, we split into our campaign groups – anti-bullying and mental health. I worked in the mental health team and we were joined by the CAMHS download group for some campaign work. I loved the download group because they were very friendly, cooperative, and I felt very comfortable around them. After our session, the Youth Cabinet and I took a trip to Buzz Active, where we did windsurfing and raft building. This was so fun and I felt it was very important for us; it was a chance to bond with the people we work with, and afterwards I felt very comfortable and enjoyed being around my new friends.

Steph's Story

I have been to many meetings and events whilst being a Youth Cabinet member. I believe that all of them have given me a great deal of confidence to advocate for the voices of young people and fight for their best interests. However, my favourite event was the Democracy Awards ceremony which I had the privilege of hosting, alongside another Cabinet member. The reason I enjoyed this event was because it was a great way of demonstrating to senior politicians the type of work we do in the Youth Cabinet and the impact we have been able to make for young people. It was also an opportunity to question our local MPs on issues that concern young people and understand what the reasoning is behind the decisions they make. It was amazing to be able to see such a high attendance from local schools and celebrate their incredible participation in the Big Vote, which allowed young people to choose the issues that most concerned them.

Jazir's Story

I really liked the time I went with Natasha (Participation Worker) to St. Mark's House in Eastbourne. We met with two people from the ESBAS team (Education Support, Behaviour and Attendance Service) and talked about the ways we could improve our anti-bullying campaign,

including how to organize and deliver a survey to students. After that, we created our anti-bullying survey and distributed it to several schools. Overall, the process went really well.

Tom's Story

I have particularly enjoyed my work on the East Sussex Youth Cabinet as I feel I am able to make a difference on a countywide scale. At the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee Away Day, I and two other Cabinet members presented the results from a survey of over one thousand young people in East Sussex to our local councilors. This helped to create our campaign on anti-bullying.

Chloe's Story

I enjoyed the two day mental health campaign session. It was fun because we got a lot of good work done and I got to know more of the Youth Cabinet and CAMHS download group. We also started to make a mental health toolkit for young people and schools to use.

Harvey's Story

I arrived on Monday, eager to start my work experience with the Children's Services Equality and Participation Team alongside my friend and classmate Laura. After being introduced to the friendly team (I had already met Tash in my role as a Youth Cabinet member), Laura and I started counting the Youth Cabinet anti-bullying team's school surveys and we collated the results in the afternoon. The next day, we compiled the data into graphs and charts using our (very amateur!) Microsoft Excel skills. Having compared trends in the data, Laura and I set off, completing our penultimate day of work experience. On Wednesday morning, I came in bright and early and was immediately hard at work contacting schools regarding 'Make Your Mark' registration, reminding them that there were only 2 days left to apply. After a delicious lunch in the canteen, Laura and I called up all secondary schools in East Sussex, checking that they had received our emails and had registered for 'Make Your Mark'. By the end of the day, we had an extra five schools signed up and another four who had promised they would sign up the next day. Overall, I really enjoyed my work experience and felt that my time working with East Sussex County Council helped me become a better DMYP. I was able to improve my email and telephone skills, giving me the confidence to work on my Youth Parliament and Youth Cabinet campaigns at home. I would like to thank Tash and the team for this great opportunity.

Kent

KYCC Transport Campaign Members

Before the summer holiday, we decided as a campaign group to make and send out a presentation on the importance of safety when travelling on public transport. The overall response was pleasant: 100% of the schools thought the presentation was useful and 83% of the schools had positive student interaction and participation from delivering it. Furthermore, we were able to get the funding for the z-card which promotes safety when cycling. It is currently in the design and printing stage and we hope to distribute them to all secondary schools in Kent soon. The bus transport select committee have asked us, the KYCC transport campaign group to give input on public transports in Kent and how it affects us as young people. In relation to the

Young Persons travel pass (YTP) and other issues we will include the views and opinions of young people across the county to make a difference. What has changed as a result of what you have done this quarter? Due to the primary school presentation we have been able to raise awareness within year 6 pupils preparing to go to secondary schools in year 7. This new found knowledge within the pupils will hopefully lead to better safety awareness with active and public transport.

Jess Griffiths, Freddie Todd & Fred Wright , Members of Kent County Council.

KYCC members attended the Kent & Medway Road Safety Experience on 23rd August in Rochester. We learnt valuable information about stopping distances, what can cause additional injuries in a crash and importance to speak up as a passenger if you don't feel safe or to get out of the vehicle. There were lots of games and activities to do which were interesting. One very useful first aid tool we learnt was that if someone is having an asthma attack and doesn't have an inhaler, you should give them a lukewarm black coffee with three teaspoons of sugar, which helps relax their throat for breathing and also ring for an ambulance! This information will now be added to our first aid booklet and advice we are producing as part of our Curriculum for life campaign.

What has changed as a result of what you have done this quarter? We promoted the Road Safety Experience to local schools and young people and encouraged them to visit. Our visit also helped our knowledge that we can use in our curriculum for life campaign group.

Anna Brain, 16, Deputy Member of Kent County Council

Following up on a complaint made by a friend earlier in the year regarding the problems school pupils have been experiencing relating to sexual harassment and the lack of help they have had when reporting it, I joined the PCC interest group to do something about it. When I raised the issue many agreed that there was a lack of understanding surrounding the issue and that we should gather more information using a survey. After many meetings discussing the details of the survey (such as wording of the questions, the age groups that should be targeted etc.) I am pleased to report that in August, a pilot for the survey has been created. The information gathered by the pilot will be used to develop a final survey to be sent out to schools across Kent to raise awareness and help schools to develop a clear policy regarding sexual harassment.

What has changed as a result of what you have done this quarter? Although the interest group has yet to extend its influence, I was pleased to see a news story that reported that MP's were pushing for schools to have clear positions on sexual harassment and do more to prevent it. Therefore, it became apparent that the work we were doing was relevant on a National scale and linked to a government initiative.

Fred Wright, Josh Attwell, Jess Griffiths & Freddie Todd, Members of the Kent County Council

On the 30th August we attended a first aid training course at Quarterdeck Youth Centre in Margate. It was run by the Red Cross and focused on everyday first aid, for use when a first aid kit is not available. We were taught how to prioritise patients and how to give first aid quickly without having to remember lots of information. For example, the recovery position which has many steps to remember has been replaced by the safety position which is simple to remember and perform. This new training is really useful and the Red Cross instructors were brilliant. They were able to explain every concept really well and we all found the training really helpful. We have also managed to include this information on our KYCC curriculum for life campaign in our First Aid booklet. We were able to simplify our recovery position page to make it easier to understand for young people. The group have also managed to include a key on each of the scenarios in our booklet to show how to prioritise patients with different conditions so everyone who reads our work can benefit from the new training the Red Cross gave. What has changed as a result of what you have done this quarter? A number of young people now have updated first aid training which they can use. This information will be used in our KYCC campaign so many others will benefit once it is completed and the first aid material published.

Elena Ewence & Hattie Oliver, 15, Member of Kent Youth County Council.

In July, the environmental issues campaign group of KYCC organised a litter pick in Ashford for members of KYCC. This was done to raise awareness of the amount of litter around the area. It also helped to raise awareness amongst our members what can actually be recycled and what goes into general waste.

In total the 20 members who participated managed to collect 6 bags of rubbish and 6 bags of recycling. This demonstrated just how much litter is actually in and around our local areas. We hope that this will spread the message and encourage people to think before they drop litter. The KYCC young people that took part hoped that this litter pick also demonstrated to other young people around the area that it is not cool to drop your rubbish and that it is easy to dispose of it in bins around the area or take it home; as well as the fact that much of their rubbish can indeed be recycled into things for the future reducing landfill waste. We believe that we have also inspired younger children about taking considerate care about their rubbish. This was because our litter pick route in Ashford took us through a children's play area, where there was in fact quite a lot of rubbish. Perhaps an even further impact was on the parents at the playground with their children seeing us gathering this rather large amount of litter. Not only inspiring others, but we hoped this litter pick also gives young people a better image and showing that we do care about our environment and its future, and that we want to protect it. What has changed as a result of what you have done this quarter? As a result of our Environmental issues campaign litter pick we hope we have proven KYCC's stance against litter as well as showing how passionately we care for the environment. We also hope that we have disregarded and overcome the stigma that young people have no respect or care for their local areas and communities and that it isn't 'uncool' to hold onto your litter until you come across a bin. Finally, the main result was that we did actually remove and clean the area of as much litter as possible and made the surroundings much more attractive.

Fred Wright, 18, Independent Critical Incident Advisor for Kent Police

I attended the Independent Police Advisory Group (IPAG) 'Stop and Search' scrutinising panel for Kent Police on 20th September to represent the interests of young people when looking at Kent police's use of stop and search. When looking at complaints made to Kent Police regarding use of stop and search, I was able to give my point of view as a young person and how certain conduct/s may be viewed by certain individuals or how it may affect their confidence in the police. This information was really useful to Kent Police and is valued to the point that individual officers are given both positive and constructive feedback regarding their use of the powers. We also view videos filmed from cameras that were worn on Police Officers uniforms for the same purpose. It is really encouraging to know that Kent Police use the opinions given to them in a constructive way to improve stop and search, and that they facilitate and actively accommodate young people such as myself to attend such meetings. What has changed as a result of what you have done this quarter? Individual officers have been given feedback regarding stop and search. Training for officers has been improved with many independent advisors being involved in this. Further training has been provided based on recommendations. An opportunity has been presented to me to go out with Kent police as an independent police observer to see stop and search in use so I can give further advice to improve the powers.

Oliver Oakley, 18, KCC Member & Cabinet Member for Health

KYCC's mental health campaign has focused on providing young people in Kent with a greater knowledge of Mental Health conditions. This has materialised in the development of a booklet and educational programme to help engage young people in these issues. The group have planned to develop videos to further promote this very important topic, having come up with a variety of ways to explain mental health issues. We plan to roll out the educational programme and resources in October 2016. The programme covers a variety of mental health issues, including stigma, a variety of conditions and support networks. Booklets, Power Points and lesson plans are also being rolled out online to help schools teach these very sensitive issues. These resources have increased awareness and helped secondary schools to teach their students about mental health issues. We believe we can change the attitudes of people around race and religion through this great toolkit!

Medway

George Peck, 15, Youth Councillor.

In my school I ran the make your mark ballot, we did this by handing out the ballot papers in form groups. This was successful as each ballot could be counted more effectively.

Milton Keynes

Amber Saunders, 17, Member Of Youth Parliament (MYP)

In Milton Keynes we recently had a rise in bus fares which affected young people, as it was increased from 50p to half an adult fare (ranging from £1.20 to £1.60). And this was with the All in One card being used, which the Youth Cabinet had produced, so it meant our hard work for cheaper fares had been reverted! After a series of meetings with the Council and Arriva, bus fares are now down to a capped rate of £1 (this is for a trial period). And Arriva will be holding a prize draw for people who sign up for an All in One card (prizes including an iPad mini, vouchers, etc) which the Youth Cabinet is helping promote. This should encourage young people to make use of public transport, increasing independence and positively impacting the environment. As I have been involved in bus campaigns for the past 5 years this was a great achievement for Milton Keynes!

West Sussex

Dominic Marks, 16, Deputy Member of Youth Parliament (DMYP)

Over the summer months, in July and August, members of the UK Youth Parliament; West Sussex Youth Cabinet and the Free Your Mind (mental health campaign group), met up in our own time to help organise and deliver a training workshop. The idea was to use our experience of social action projects to help train other young people on their National Citizenship Service (NCS) program so that they could deliver their own social action project. The workshop was delivered at Chichester University and supported the local cohorts for NCS. We gave advice on how to plan and carry out a social action project throughout our time with NCS participants. We used various types of media such as printout templates which helped steer the workshop. We asked participants to plan a mock social action project, while they did this we were able to give them tips and pointers as to what they should do. All the groups were very interested in how they could improve their planning in order to create an effective campaign. This meant that these young people had a chance to have their voice heard within their community through their social action project and it was also a great opportunity for three separate groups of young people to come together to help their peers. We found that this was an effective way of sharing knowledge as it was delivered by us as young people, the NCS participants found it really useful in relation to getting things done as they were inspired. It was a great way for us to share the work that we had done, and also get more young people involved in our future work as we promoted our individual groups while we were with the NCS participants. This should also help get our message out more as the young people will share their experiences with their friends and family. We look forward to engaging in the NCS and similar projects next year, as these opportunities allow us to grow personally and develop our skills collectively through planning and delivering group work sessions.

South West

Bristol

Allistair Wall, 15, Deputy Member of Youth Parliament (DMYP)

In July, I, along with the chair of the Bristol City Youth Council, Sophie, went to a conference run by Learning Everywhere. Learning Everywhere is a group of organisations dedicated to improving education. It was a day that introduced me to some people who are massively enthusiastic about improving our education system. One point that was made was that even though young people are the ones receiving the education system, we are not asked to give our opinion on the matter. Many people who were there wanted to change this. Later on in July, I, along with other South West (D)MYPs went to the Tolpuddle Festival. While I was there, I supported and attended debates run by Youth Parliament which ranged from Brexit to mental health. It was a day that really supported my work within Youth Parliament.

Jack Payne, 15, Member of Youth Parliament & Youth Councillor

In July I went to the annual sitting, and my motion on making politics more inclusive was passed. I also spoke with 2 MP's who agreed to contact schools in their constituency about getting local schools involved in Make your Mark. I also launched my own parliament petition to try to get politics to be more inclusive of people with disabilities. In August I travelled to London to take part in the NHS app design training day as part of the NHS youth forum, where we were able to get involved in the making of a new app for the NHS which is designed to help young people. In September I travelled to the annual Council meeting, and in addition to this I wrote to schools in North Bristol asking them to support make your mark and ran a vote at my own school. I was elected to represent South West give the speech on the 11th November on the subject 'A Better Kinder Democracy'.

Neha Martin, 17, Deputy Member of Youth Parliament (DMYP)

In September we met with members of the council to discuss ways in which to increase the turnout for make your mark and how they can help to do this. I also attended an equalities forum at cathedral school where we spoke about the youth council, up coming elections and of course make your mark with regards to how that particular school was unable to be signed up. We are still in communication with them as we are encouraging them to sign up. At the forum, we also heard about the plan to raise awareness of various important issues. The workshop consisted of people talking about their different organisations and explaining what was going to happen in the upcoming weeks. Organisations included LGBTQ+, ethnic minorities, and children in care and disability forum. I am looking forward to running a workshop at the freedom of mind festival in the next few weeks all about mental health. Also I am going to be at the launch of the

engagement hub project, something I've been helping with. I will be on the stage interviewing companies asking them about how they will get involved and also how this will help them.

Cornwall

Owen Winter, 17, Member of Youth Parliament (MYP)

This month I recorded a video for Make Your Mark to take to schools. Other than that, I have been focussed on applying to university, so have not been able to devote much time to UK Youth Parliament work.

Devon

Tom Burrows, 16, Member of Youth Parliament (MYP)

In July I managed to sign up several schools for this year's Make Your Mark campaign, as well as building on the data given to us at our consultation at the Exeter Respect Festival in June. In August, I received the support from my MP with the YSC Mental Health findings, as well as intensifying the preparations for Make Your Mark, and carrying out a survey in central Exeter with another team member, determining what young people think should be done to improve the city for young people.

Ben Cain, 16, Deputy Member of Youth Parliament (DMYP)

In September we have been working on the 'Make Your Mark' Campaign, this involves getting ballots out to the schools and Youth Centres in our Constituencies, in order for young people to voice their opinion. So far, we have distributed ballots to a number of schools in the area. We also will run the voting in our own schools, which has involved talking to the relevant teachers who can oversee this. Our campaigns have been on going since the beginning of the year and we have made a 'Fixers' video on one of our campaigns as well as consulting young people in our area.

Haseebah Asharaf, 17, Deputy Member of Youth Parliament (DMYP)

I have been working hard to talk to people about what UK Youth Parliament is e.g. I delivered a presentation to members of the Children's Alliance about UKYP, about its importance etc. I have also been recruiting schools to participate in 'Make Your Mark'.

Megan Chapple, 17, Deputy Member of Youth Parliament & Youth Councillor

I have been encouraging other young people to involve themselves in 'Make Your Mark'. It just so happens that my two youth centres will be casting their vote within the next two weeks, which is positive, and, we are also hoping to attract more young people to participate in this.

Bethany Lee, 16, Deputy Member of Youth Parliament (DMYP)

In August, I spent a day in Exeter city centre with another Devon MYP, Tom. We were consulting young people from in/around Exeter about what it is like to live in the city, asking questions like what would they improve about the city to make it easier for young people to socialise/attend activities. Answers ranged vastly from things such as a new sports centre in town, to having more bins/recycling in the city centre. This day was just part of the Exeter Youth Strategy consultation that Devon Youth Parliament is currently helping with. In September so far, I have been bust emailing schools about Make Your Mark, checking in for updates and preparing to receive results as soon as they're in!

Dorset

Jake Perkins, 17, Deputy Member of Youth Parliament (DMYP)

A huge event held in early July was the Tolpuddle Martyrs Festival, members from of Youth Parliament, past and present from the South West Region, gathered in a field in rural Dorset for one of the biggest political events outside of the capital. Dorset Youth Council has strong ties to the festival and returned for our third year. This year we lead one of the first discussion in the fringe tent on mental health. I took part on a panel talking about Brexit and what it holds for Britain. The fabulous Frances Scott of 50:50 Parliament, helping to raise support for a great cause, joined us all, a gender balanced parliament. After that, many others and myself descended on York for the Youth Parliament Annual Sitting. It was amazing to meet, discuss and work with so many passionate like minded young people. I was extremely proud to contribute to the discussion on the big vote. John Bercow MP speech as defiant favourite of the weekend. Along with this I have had meetings with the County Councillor responsible for education on forwarding my manifesto of work experience. Dorset Youth Council has also contributed the consultation of bringing Dorset into two unitary authorities.

Grace van Zyl, 15, Member of Youth Parliament & Youth Councillor

Over the past three months I have been working closely with the other (D)MYPs from Dorset as we are going to be launching a really exciting project. We have been, and are designing special hand-held wheels that when spun give advice and help about their specific subject (there will be 7 topics: bullying, anxiety, exam stress, eating disorders/ body image, feeling low, self harm, and generally how to keep yourself happy and having a positive mental health).

We are going to be having a collaboration meeting with CAMHS and CCG to perfect designs and content. Hopefully we will be publishing/ printing/ producing in January and will do a lot of media promoting and campaigning- i.e, newspapers, radio, social media etc. We have also been working on the UK Youth Parliament nation manifesto, 'Don't Hate, Educate'. At the moment, we are having a running working group working on a promise poster project to go up around schools! We've been working with the 'Anti-racial discrimination' group in Dorset's Adnan Chaldrey and have had really productive meetings! An exciting event that I participated in was the Tolpuddle Martyr's festival in July. UK Youth Parliament led some impressive debates including mental health, 'brexit' and 50:50 parliament. I had the honour of co-leading an interview with actress Maxine Peak! She's a very interesting and strong lady who complimented Youth Parliament and was quite interested in our work. I have also attended my local Dorset Youth Council meetings; it's very refreshing to meet young people interested in the world around them and trying to change it for the better.

I'm really looking forward to UKYP's annual visit to the House of Commons in November where we will debate and decide upon the next year's nation manifestos! We will decide from 5 manifestos that have been voted the top 5 issues by young people across the UK in the nationwide campaign called Make Your Mark. We've been doing as much balloting for MYM as possible and hopefully this year we will reach our goal of 1'000'000+ voices heard!

Alysha Bodman, 17, Member of Youth Parliament (MYP)

In March 2016 I was selected to represent the UK at the United Nations as part of the UK Youth delegation. It was an honour to attend the Commission of the status of Women 60 at the United Nations; two weeks of decision-making, talks and action planning regarding equality and women's rights in New York. I had the enriching opportunity to meet key decision makers and discuss global issues around gender equality.

I delivered two talks here in New York. One was on the topic of encouraging women into the security sector (e.g. UN Peacekeeping) and the other was on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the Middle East and North Africa region. In addition to this, I read the NAWO youth statement to UK parliamentarians including MPs and Baronesses, outlining our vision for the future and especially our hope for intersectionality in the feminist movement. This was an enlightening experience and I hope to continue my activism in this area.

At the end of July, hundreds of Members of the United Kingdom's Youth Parliament from across England and the devolved nations descended upon the University of York during the weekend of the 22nd July for our 16th Annual Sitting. Keynote speakers included Rt. Hon. John Bercow

MP, Speaker of the House of Commons and Gulwali Passarlay, the author of the highly successful book 'The Lightless Sky', which reflects on his journey from war torn Afghanistan as a Refugee and creating a good life in the United Kingdom. Stonewall, Anthony Nolan UK and a number of other charities also visited us. I was lucky enough to be selected to ask John Bercow a question. I used this opportunity to pick up on the fact that he mentioned in his speech that female representation in parliament had increased from 22% to 29%. I highlighted that I believed that this was still not good enough. I drew attention to the obstacles which prevent women from standing for election such as the ban on breastfeeding and the rampant online abuse female MPs face (of which Jess Phillips has recently spoken up about). I questioned him on what he believed should be done to tackle these obstacles and to achieve a 50:50 parliament. Members debated motions to add to their national manifesto. Motions passed included 'first aid for all young people', 'encouraging schools to use reusable water bottles' and 'promoting positive body image'. I also spoke in the debate about 'gender equality in professions' - highlighting that I was in favour of this being on the UKYP manifesto in order to combat stereotypes and promote a positive message. We also voted to extend our sitting in the House of Commons (which is to take place on November 11th) to state Members' feelings on "a better, kinder democracy." This is in the aftermath of the country's differences that came to light following the EU Referendum. The Youth Parliament's 'Make Your Mark' vote is set to begin on 12th August and we hope to allow over one million young people to have their voices heard through the ballot this year - following after last year's incredible total of 969,000! Most recently, I have been contacting schools within Gloucestershire regarding the Make Your Mark Consultation to help coordinate the vote. It is important to me that in Make Your Mark the voices of young people in Gloucestershire are heard.

Isles of Scilly

Loveday Lewin,14, Deputy Member of Youth Parliament (DMYP)

I have really been working on making connections with services on the islands that affect young people. In August we had a meeting with the local Health Watch to try and set up meetings regarding mental health services and information available for 11-18 year olds in Scilly. We also met our local MP Derek Thomas to talk with the local student council about issues and 'Make Your Mark'. Regarding 'Make Your Mark', we had a 73% turnout which is brilliant!! The most popular topic for young people on the Isles of Scilly turned out to be Votes at 16! We hope to get to work without other local campaigns this term!!

Zachary Hick,13, Member of Youth Parliament (MYP)

This month I have been working on my make your mark campaign and telling all students in the Scillies about it and giving them ballot papers to vote. I also met up with people from health watch and spoke to them about health issues on Scilly and sorting them out. And finally I met with Derik Thomas my local MP and spoke to him about my local manifesto and about make your mark and getting young people's views.

Plymouth

Daniel Michaels,16, Deputy Member of Youth Parliament (DMYP)

In August I developed a personal manifesto, that was endorsed by MP Gary Streeter, which has been sent on to relevant people such as CAMHS managers and councillors. In early September I attended the launch for the £1.2 million emotional health and wellbeing support system to be put in place across 26 schools in Plymouth, and for an online support system to be in place also - all of which I and a group of other young people helped to bring into action through weekly meetings. Recently in September I have met with a local councillor and council manager to discuss what I have done with my campaign this year, to identify which parts of my manifesto I have achieved and which I can focus on achieving in these final few months of my year in office, and we are now looking to focus on raising awareness with mental health, and perhaps utilising the company which produce all media for the Council to develop a poster to get people talking about mental health.

Salisbury

Cecilia George, 16, Deputy Member of Youth Parliament (DMYP)

In July, following on from the 3 days I spent at York University annual sitting, I worked hard emailing and getting schools to sign up for MYM and managed to get several schools to sign up. Later, during the holidays, as a director of Kirstie Stage's mental health campaign - Heath Starts with Help, I helped create ideas, organise and finalise plans. Unfortunately, while at boarding school, I was unable to attend the monthly Wiltshire Assembly of youth meetings. However, although I was not present, I was able to keep up, by reading notes from the meetings that were sent via email. Our next meeting will be online; so I am looking forward to being able to contribute in new areas and I am also keen to voice an opinion on previously discussed topics.

Sefton

Laura Curran, 17, Deputy Member of Youth Parliament (DMYP)

In August, Owen Johnson MYP and I prepared questions to ask potential providers for Sefton's new 0-19 integrated health service. We asked the two providers these questions in order to not only see how they'd answer them, but also how they communicated with young people. It was really refreshing to see how eager they were to have young people involved in the work they want to do. This was a worthwhile experience, as we were both able to be involved in a decision that would have long term impacts in Sefton and its young people.

In the same month, people from our Youth Cabinet (which I will talk more about later), Sefton CVS and some councillors met to discuss and plan our next 'meet the cabinet' meeting (the name is likely to change) in late September. There have been two of these meetings already, where groups of young people and decision makers come to share ideas and inform each other of what we've been doing. In this planning meeting, we wanted to focus more on working together and coming up with actions that can be done to make sure this collaboration does take place between the meetings. The plan has been finalised and the meeting will be on 26th September. We'll be discussing things such as our Youth Cabinet, MYM, Take Over Challenge and much more.

Also, just before the summer holidays our new Youth Cabinet for Sefton (again, the name may change) had started. We're still in the process of getting new members and finalising who we are and what we want to do, yet we've already got plans to meet with those involved with social care and have discussed meetings about child poverty. We'll be doing a whole lot more once we're fully up and running! Finally, in early August a few of us from our Youth Cabinet took part in the MYM week with Collective Encounters in Liverpool, and we all came up with a performance for October 8th! We can't wait to show it to those watching it on the day.

Torbay

Otis Skitch, 17, Member of Youth Parliament (MYP)

In July I represented young people on 2016s youth select committee. We heard evidence over two days in Portcullis house and have started writing our report. Also in July we started the Torbay Youth Council to give a larger amount of young people in Torbay a platform to speak on. With the council we have since met a local councillor and the head of children services in our area. We also have planned meetings with the NHS coming up. In August we have been preparing for make your mark the UKYPs annual youth consultation. We managed to get a total of 11 schools signed up from a total of 0 last year. We also hope to smash our record of votes. So far in September we have started planning for U.K. Parliament week by setting up a question time like debate for young people to participate in. We also have started trying to raise funds for both the youth council's and the youth parliaments projects.

Somerset

Susie Williams, 16, NHS Youth Forum Member

On the 7th and 8th of September I attended my very first NHS Expo in Manchester as part of and representing the NHS Youth Forum with 5 other members, and it was both an incredible and hugely inspiring two days. Soon after we arrived at the event myself and Aisha (another youth forum member) found ourselves sitting in on Jeremy Hunt's keynote speech and gained a great insight into what the NHS' current priorities are and what new initiatives were to be set up in the coming years, including the development of an 'Ivy league' of hospitals around England and investments into better IT systems. As someone wanting to study medicine and thus eventually work within the NHS it was amazing to get the 'scoop' on where the NHS is going in terms of digital healthcare, and equally amazing to have the opportunity to ask the Health secretary a question on what his aims were (if any) in regards to involving young people in the NHS and inspiring the next generation of healthcare professionals, which I felt was important based on all the current negative media surrounding the NHS.

At the Expo there were hundreds of stalls and booths showcasing the work of a range of different projects, charities, groups, professionals and organisations, and all of our forum members had the opportunity to speak to those running the booths about what they did, if they were working with young people at all and promote the benefits (and importance) of doing this. We heard from numerous people that it was 'great to see young people at this kind of event' and for some it was the first time they'd met someone under 18 (pre-university) at an Expo. On the second day of the Expo I was involved in a presentation about the New NHS Models of Care by Samantha Jones and 4 vanguard representatives, and had the opportunity to ask them questions alongside Kara from Future Pulse (a Nottingham Youth Organisation) about how they were involving the community and young people in the design, review and delivery of the care models. It was great to talk afterwards with a few of the presenters, particularly Anne Crawford who was presenting on behalf of the MERIT vanguard focusing in on mental health. Finally on

Thursday Jake and I ran a workshop all about how to involve young people and set up a youth forum within any healthcare setting, and the attendees (around 30 people) split into groups and discussed 'what good looks like' in terms of their ideal youth forum, what they'd like to achieve through the forum and the aims of it. We presented the steps you'd take to first set up the youth forum, beginning with the formation of a steering group and the last step being to consistently review and build the forum. We opened the floor up to the various youth organisations in the room, including Future Pulse and the Royal Society of Paediatrics and Public Health to talk about their work, and we ended on a great note of appreciation for all of the current ways those in the room were engaging the younger community.

Torbay

Nathan Moore, 17, Member of Youth Parliament (MYP)

In July I represented young people on 2016s youth select committee. We heard evidence over two days in Portcullis house and have started writing our report. Also in July we started the Torbay Youth Council to give a larger amount of young people in Torbay a platform to speak on. With the council we have since met a local councillor and the head of children services in our area. We also have planned meetings with the NHS coming up. In August we have been preparing for make your mark the UKYPs annual youth consultation. We managed to get a total of 11 schools signed up from a total of 0 last year. We also hope to smash our record of votes. So far in September we have started planning for U.K. Parliament week by setting up a question time like debate for young people to participate in. We also have started trying to raise funds for both the youth council's and the youth parliaments projects.

Wiltshire

Torbay Dani Torbayel Britton, 13, Member of Youth Parliament (MYP)

1. Wakefield has produced a safeguarding charter for young people this was launched by UKYP in Wakefield. Lots of organisations have signed up to this. The charter was produced after consulting with lot of different groups of young people.
2. We created a PowerPoint to go into schools which explained what the EU referendum was and how it affected young people. We did this so young people could tell their parents and have an understanding of the important decision and how it would affect them in the future.
3. Abi attended the northern powerhouse events and was able to understand what was happening in the different areas and the importance of this work.
4. We attended the annual sitting and enjoyed meeting new people we also enjoyed participating in the big vote on make your mark ballot topics and the different workshops.
5. We have started the make your mark ballot in Wakefield and have been promoting it in schools and to our friends. We are hoping to increase the number of young people taking part this year.

6. We have three new Youth Council members: Matthew, Ibrahim and Umar, who will support us and help us spread the word about UKYP.

Chloe Lintern,18, Procedures Group representative

During June and July, I worked with several MYPs and deputies to get schools signed up to Make Your Mark. I worked with BANES and Wiltshire as a member of their youth council to get schools signed up to take part in September however also worked with other local authorities which aren't part of UKYP such as North Somerset and Bournemouth to ensure that young people can still have their say despite not having a representative in UKYP. Overall in the South West we got 208 schools, colleges and youth groups signed up which was an increase compared to the year before and so a massive congratulations goes out to everyone who got involved!

In July, after hours of preparation, the PGs arrived in York on Thursday 21st to prepare for an action packed weekend at the UK Youth Parliaments annual sitting. During the weekend I led several sessions with my region on the year so far, the whole reason we gather at annual sitting and what happens next. We shared best practice, local campaigns and looked at our regional manifesto which I have worked on which can be sent out to anyone in the South West to explain our top three priorities and local priorities for each LA. We also passed a proposal for MYPs to extend the House Of Commons sitting by half an hour to allow for 13 extra speeches with the title of 'my vision for a better, kinder democracy' in which one speaker from the South West will be chosen. I also worked with the other PGs to ensure that the weekend was enjoyable from the PG dance, (best thing yet?!) to the introduction of speakers, evening entertainment and ensuring people were happy and knew what they were doing. It was a really inspiring weekend in which we had Guwali, a refugee who came to Britain aged 13, to talk about his story which related to our #DontHateEducate campaign, John Bercow, who is a continuous supporter of Make Your Mark and Grace from Young Minds who spoke about her activism and campaigning around mental health- which is a priority for us in the South West. Thank you to everyone for making it such a good weekend!!

Since annual sitting, we've had a lot going on. I worked to ensure that every MYP had the chance to vote on the top 10 issues which should be on the Make Your Mark Ballot. Nationally we got 93% turnout which was an increase from 50% the year before. The top 10 issues on the ballot are: - Votes at 16 - Curriculum for life - Body image - Transport - First Aid Education for all young people - Mental health - Fund our youth services don't cut them - Stop cuts that effect the NHS - Tackling racism and religious discrimination - Raising awareness of sexual harassment in schools

I will now work hard with MYPs to ensure that they maintain enthusiasm and motivation to ensure we achieve a large turnout for the South West. I will also start to plan the Convention 2 for MYPs, deputies and youth councilors along with Sharon. I have also written to my MP with concern for the new 'higher education bill' and how this will effect students, the right of MPs to listen to young people and encouraging them to vote as well as what the Government is doing around the increase in hate crimes since Brexit. I am still awaiting a reply from my MP but hope that the response is positive.

Yorkshire and the Humber

Wakefield

Sughra Ashraf,13, Member of Youth Parliament

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3. Abi attended the northern powerhouse events and was able to understand what was happening in the different areas and the importance of this work.

4. We attended the annual sitting and enjoyed meeting new people we also enjoyed participating in the big vote on make your mark ballot topics and the different workshops.

5. We have started the make your mark ballot in Wakefield and have been promoting it in schools and to our friends. We are hoping to increase the number of young people taking part this year.

6. We have three new Youth Council members: Matthew, Ibrahim and Umar, who will support us and help us spread the word about UKYP.

Rotherham

Thomas Jackson, Deputy Member of Youth Parliament (DMYP)

I am extremely proud to have been awarded a Diana Active Campaigner award alongside my fellow members of Rotherham Youth Cabinet. I feel like we work really hard on our campaigns and the recognition is perfect proof of this. I also had the fantastic opportunity to attend the UKYP Annual Sitting in York, it was such a fantastic weekend spent with likeminded, driven young people, some of which spoke so eloquently about topics important to them. An Eye-opening – empowering and informative journey in 3 days.

Toni Paxford, Member of Youth Cabinet

We've had so much success since August, due to productive meetings during the summer holidays which saw us finalise the manifesto topics, and start work on the launch. Then in September we had Rotherham show which allowed us to interact with young people through make your mark and water safety quizzes due to this being on our manifesto. We are well on the way to achieving our local target for 'MYM' and we have began our research for our campaigns so we can make a real difference.

Youth On Board Awards

Project Award

North East Regional Children in Care Council

On the 19th February 2015, a 'Regional Children in Care Council Day' was held at the Rising Sun Country Park for all Children in Care Councils in the North East by the Participation and Advocacy Team in North Tyneside Council.

The regional event was the idea of one of a young person from North Tyneside's Children in Care Council who was curious as to how other CICC's operated and to find out if there were issues that all the local CICC's wanted to discuss and challenge together.

Invites were sent to 12 local Directors of Children's Services in the North-East of England inviting them to send members of their Children in Care Council and participation workers to our event at The Rising Sun Country Park in North Tyneside. Invites were sent from Northumberland in the north of the region down to Cleveland in the south.

We now have an established Regional Children in Care Council, with regular staff and Young Peoples meetings.

Innovation Award

Dudley Youth Health Researchers

Historically the views of young people in health services have been difficult to gather. In April 2015 Dudley Youth Service joined Healthwatch Dudley to inspire a diverse group of young people to become peer health researchers. We contacted local groups and charities who support vulnerable young people and recruited a diverse group. We promised that there would be lots of opportunities to gain confidence, have fun, learn new skills and to have an influential say on health and wellbeing issues that the group found to be important.

The project started with a residential for the group to get to know each other, take part in confidence building activities and to talk about their own health and wellbeing experiences. It was incredibly important that the group were able to set their own direction and priorities, but with support. Workshops were facilitated around research and questionnaire design, before creating a survey. Following testing, the survey was completed through schools, focus groups and events across the Borough – with over 1100 surveys completed in total.

In March 2016 we were invited to present our learning from the project at a NHS Youth Forum conference in London. Following this event we were approached by a young person from Dudley borough requesting help to set up a youth health forum who we have since met. Dudley Public Health, Dudley CCG and Dudley CVS are in the process of developing a Young Health Champion programme and learning from our project is being used to develop this work.

The Make a Difference Award

Nicola Mattocks, Peer Support Group Leader - New Addington Baptist church

Nikki is the voice for young people's mental health in her community and at her church she always makes sure that the community work they do includes mental health work.

She regularly creates ways to include young people, she organises and runs events, she brings in people from external agencies, and she is still a young person herself.

She independently creates every single resource for the sessions she runs, and although she has 2 people that help her with safeguarding, she runs this herself.

She has obtained funding from the local council in order to run the group, and has gained a lot of awareness of mental health, and made a positive impact to young people in her community. She started this when she was only 17, by pitching her ideas to the minister, and starting everything from scratch, even though it was challenging, she has ensured that it became successful.

The church she helps at, has a community family project, but they had nothing that supported young people's mental health, and she was the one to make that change

Support Worker's Stories

Leicestershire

Jane McCormick

On July 13th 2016 the Leicester and Leicestershire #Don't Hate Educate Committee received a special invite to a showing of the profound film 'Black Roses' – The killing of Sophie Lancaster, held at Groby College. The group met Sylvia Lancaster OBE and talked about the work and the aims of the foundation, which are:

- To create a lasting legacy to Sophie;
- To provide educational group – works that will challenge the prejudice and intolerance towards people of alternative subcultures;
- To campaign to have UK Hate Crime legislation extended to include people from alternative subcultures or lifestyle or dress.

The 'Sophie Game', a resource given by the Foundation to the all schools in Leicester and Leicestershire to raise awareness of stereotyping and prejudice, it is being used by the #Don't Hate Educate Committee as part of a planned session at events, and as part of a resource pack to tackle stereotyping that can lead to hate. The committee have future events planned to link into Hate Crime Awareness week in October and Anti Bullying Week in November.

Barnet

Christopher Parillon

Barnet UK Youth Parliament success story

Tosin became a UK Youth Parliament member in 2015 and was given various opportunities which she utilized to build a successful framework for her Project Gain & Glow. The aim of Gain & Glow when established, was to offer young people from disadvantaged communities sporting opportunities. The project delivered a wide range of different activities, which aligned with the 'Start Active, Stay Active' a report to promote physical activity among young people. Through the project, Tosin was able to broaden young people's horizons and help them experience as many diverse avenues as possible before making career choices. She encouraged young people to pursue their talents while supporting them in extra curriculum activities.

Thursday 18th February 2016, the Community Sport and Health Activation Project in partnership with Tosin's Gain & Glo launched a Physical Activity Open Day at Burnt Oak Leisure Centre. The

day promoted physical activities within the borough by providing a number of sporting opportunities such as Football, Rugby, Basketball, Athletics, Boxing, Dance and Fitness testing. Young people were able to interact with each other, learn new skills and meet new people; which was also an aim to keep young people off the streets. The project was a massive success with over 100 young people attending from across the borough. On the success of this project, Tosin was able to gather the young people's feedback and use it to create a new project moving forward. Tosin was then able to gain funding to run a 4 week project over the summer.

On Friday 5th August 2016 Tosin's Gain & Glow launched two summer programs that ran throughout August. 'Pick up a ball, not a blade' was a Basketball project aimed at disadvantaged communities within the borough to deter young people from crime. Please see a short story about the project here; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OyT3IY84rpl>

Young people participated in an hour long coaching activity, and spent half an hour with motivational speakers after each session. Tosin was able to use motivational speakers to help young people realise their actions and how they can prevail from their situations. Tosin also had a project called #ICAN which was a dance project aimed at improving confidence and self-esteem amongst young people across the borough. Young people participated in an hour long dance class followed by a motivational speaker aiming to improve self-esteem amongst young people. Tosin's summer program was a great success and engaged up to 100 young people across the borough. Undoubtedly, Tosin has proven determination and drive to improve young people's situations and will continue to apply for funding to support young people across the borough.

Kent

Sadie Williams

Kent Youth County Council has been working really hard to ensure the #DontHateEducate Campaign has been rolled out in Kent. We feel that this campaign is extremely important in tackling racist and religious discrimination as its affecting so many young people at the moment. We have had a team of 20+ young people working on the actions in our monthly meetings and have managed to achieve quite a lot in a short time. So far we have achieved the following:

- Run a training session with Our MYP and KYCC members in our UKYP campaign group around using the #DontHateEducate kick it our resource to skill up 20+ young people to deliver the tool kit.

- KYCC and UKYP members have then have run sessions and assemblies in many of our Kent schools to share the #DontHateEducate message as wide as possible

- We have also been creating images for #DontHateEducate campaign and sharing them on our Facebook and twitter pages

- One of our DMYP'S has been tweeting celebrities to try and get them to support the #DontHateEducate campaign, she has had quite a few retweets and likes for this.

- We have shared the Kick it out resource on our Facebook page and twitter pages to engage a wider audience and encourage more young people to share it with schools

- We have posted the resource on our KYCC www.kent.gov.uk web page so that everyone can access it within Kent. It has also been emailed out to over 170 secondary schools in Kent so they can use it too. <http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/youth-participation/kent-youth-county-council/KYCC-minutes-and-newsletters>

- 6 of our MYP's also met with MP's back in January on the day of action to promote the campaign and gather support. Thousands of young people in Kent will have heard the message so far in which is amazing, we believe we can change the attitudes of people around race and religion through this great toolkit!

West Sussex

William Campbell

We, West Sussex Youth Cabinet, took part in a consultation on radicalisation and extremism, the aim was to identify which resources and tools would be most effective in raising awareness and educating young people. The primary objective was to first find out what we as young people already knew about these topics and how to distinguish between strong view and extremist views. We were also asked where we would go if we were worried about someone becoming radicalised and ways we thought radicalisation happened.

"It reminded me of the real dangers surrounding the issue and was an important way to keep the young people I represent safe"- Emma Hattersley, Communications Officer

The young people engaged in activities that would challenge them to widen their knowledge and confront prominent issues in the youth community. These activities included critical thinking, watching videos, identity activities that probed the question 'who are we?'. In just two short meetings we improved what was presented to the young people allowing us to learn as well as themselves. During the consultation we pushed the importance of education and how raising awareness was essential to reducing the risk of radicalisation. Thanks to the overall youth input on and before the consultation meant that it was a great success.

Gloucestershire

Molly Jones

The young people engaged in locality youth forums across the Stroud District (delivered by The Participation People) have been working towards identifying key issues related to young people in their local area, school and communities, as well as for young people more broadly. They have been out and about in schools and on the street, consulting other young people using a survey they co-designed with youth workers. A key focus of the consultation is on where young people feel safe, or what they like or dislike, in their local areas. As part of their sessions, the young people involved in the forums took their youth worker on a 'tour' of their local area, using an iPad to photograph key aspects of their physical environment. This was then turned into a fun cartoon that was emailed to relevant parish/town councils with an attached letter asking for a meeting with local Councillors.

The response so far has been overwhelmingly positive, with Youth Forum members added to meeting agendas, as well as having special meetings arranged for them. Youth Forum members have then worked alongside their youth worker to develop the particular communication and interpersonal skills required for such a meeting. Young people have been able to identify the necessary behaviours for engaging in a formal conversation and have been able to articulately discuss the areas they identified as important. One of the youth forums involved in this project, Cainscross Youth Forum, had a successful first meeting with the Cainscross Parish Council. 4 Parish Councillors attended, as well as a representative from the Barnwood Trust. The meeting took place from 7pm to 8:30pm. What was initially to be a short presentation from our Local Youth

Forum representatives, turned into 90 minute conversation between Councillors and young people about the key issues in their area that have a direct impact on their lives.

Issues that were discussed included feeling unsafe on the walk to and from school due to overgrown hedges and a lack of sufficient street lighting, excessive rubbish on the side of the roads, and damaged roads. Councillors were able to offer advice about what was currently being done on the topic, as well as what young people could do to improve certain things. Councillors spoke very positively about the initiative shown by the young people in the youth forum. They were also concerned that some issues had not been considered previously, particularly the issues around safety of young people. It brought to their awareness the importance of including the voices of young people when considering changes or improvement to the physical environment of a local area. This process has opened up previously closed channels between young people and local decision-makers in different localities in the Stroud District. It has empowered young people to bring their ideas into the adult realm and to understand that their opinions and ideas can have a real impact, and that they are listened to. It has meant that young people now have more guidance in terms of what campaigns will be feasible for them to run going forward, and what actions they can take in the short term to make improvements. In the words of one young person following a meeting, 'Well, that went better than I expected!'

Jenny Way

MYPs/DMYPs have been working towards completing their manifestos. Daniel has been very busy, with assisting the launch of the new health and wellbeing service with all secondary schools in Plymouth. He's been linking in with Councillor Terri Beer as you can see from the photo attached. The new service will make a massive difference to the lives of young people they will be able to access better mental health support in schools. There is also a new online support system young people can access and either talk to or message counsellor's and health professionals called Kooth.com all very exciting!

KC has met with Nicky Honey of Barnardos to discuss young career support and to gain more information to include in his manifesto. Nicky was very useful in providing information for KC to be able to include in his manifesto. He's also Liaising with Caroline Storer who runs Plymouths Young Careers group for additional assistance and recommendations.

Char has also been in the process of completing her manifesto. She has also been booking assemblies for the upcoming school year to give speeches and raise awareness of mental health. Zena has adjusted her previous manifesto to make this one more appropriate to the target audience. She has collected surveys and questionnaires which she wishes to use in her manifesto. Once this is completed Zena will accompany her manifesto to meetings with school governors in order to discuss with them the possibility of them employing their own students, some meetings have already been booked. The Youth Council has been busy assisting the four representatives with their manifestos and campaigns as well as rounding up the racism and religious discrimination work. Zena attended the youth select enquiry in July. Michelle has completed the young people's picture design using people's messages to stop racism and religious discrimination. The focus is now on the Make your mark campaign everyone is working hard to try and ensure we match last year's total.

Stroud

Steve Miles

NEW MENTAL HEALTH ADVICE WEBSITE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

A new mental health website for children and young people has gone live at onyourmindglos.nhs.uk. Commissioned by NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (GCCG), it was designed with the huge input of young people from across the county, including representatives from Stroud District Youth Council (SDYC). The website provides information, advice and guidance across a range of mental health topics to help young people who might be struggling with their emotions and difficult situations in their life. Oli King, SDYC Leader said; "I am thrilled that this website is now live. It looks amazing and to think that young people from across Gloucestershire had a massive input is impressive. On Your Mind, will help thousands of young people across the county which has been a tremendous thing to be part of." Issy Llewellyn, SDYC Principal Member for Health & Wellbeing, added; "The website is a great tool for young people to find an explanation for some of their emotions and behaviors, the way the information is presented helps to normalise a situation which makes it easier to ask for advice or support". Oli and Issy have been part of the team, working with the GCCG to create this website.

Somerset

Kate Darlington

This quarter the Somerset UK Youth Parliament Advisory Group (UKYPAG) have been working particularly hard. As well as our ongoing roles in school/ college as representatives, mentors, ambassadors & running projects (on LGBTQ, Global Youth issues, racism, feminism, cyber bullying, fundraising to name a few) our group has been extra busy out & about in the community supporting, representing & promoting.

By the end of September we will have volunteered an approximate (conservative estimate) of 900 hours. UKYPAG have had numerous visitors eager to consult with them on;

- Developments for Somerset's new Integrated Sexual Health Service with Public Health. This is ongoing work has included/ currently includes service interviews, website feedback & suggestions, service promotions, pharmacist training & plans for mystery shopping. <http://swishservices.co.uk/>
- Ongoing support of the local Young Mental Health Champions group & their 'Lifhacks' project development. (including creating booklets & posters, top tips, attending meetings & a launch at the County Council)

http://www.somersethealthinschools.co.uk/resources/Mental_Health/Mental_Health_Life_Hacks/Mental_Health_Life_Hacks_for_Self_Booklet.pdf

- Creating a 'youth proofing' aide memoire for county council workers to use to ensure documents, literature are young people & family accessible & friendly. Another ongoing piece of work
- A County Councillors ideas about youth voice representatives on their Children & Young People Scrutiny Panel
- The County Councils multi agency Children & Young People's Plan by providing a young people's translation of 7 proposed outcomes for success & participating in filmed

discussion of what some of those outcomes mean for young people. The film will be available soon.

- Taking part in a local Senior Citizens Forum Film project debating votes@16 & exploring similar issues for both generations. The film is almost ready

- Priorities & plans for Taunton Deane's town centre developments with Taunton Deane Borough Council

http://www.somersetcountygazette.co.uk/news/14637405.Youth_politicians_find_out_how_local_democracy_works/

In addition we have been working hard to represent youth voice, promote & support both the local group & the national UKYP with Make Your Mark around Somerset with record sign up to schools & youth groups. One of us walked the equivalent of 10 miles in 1 day to meet & promote MYM in local school! She also won 'MYP of the week!' She has also;

- Ø*Attended full Council meetings
- Ø*Shadowed the Chair of the Council
- Ø*Written to & met MPs
- Ø*Met the Mayor & attended a Civic Service Ceremony
- Ø*Attended a meeting with the Council's SEND (young people' Special Educational Needs & Disabilities) group called the 'Unstoppables'. Our MYP promoted UKYPAG & MYM, helped run a campaign session & supported members to identify 4 campaigns to vote on, with the aim of running a campaign related to SEND issues. The group are currently voting on their favorite campaign

UKYPAG Members are also committed to various other voluntary roles & activity such as;

- *Attending a youth club to speak to staff & young people about their club & how Youth & Community Service grants had helped the club
- *Police cadets - promoting community safety & better communication & relationships between the police & young people, as well as promoting the positive image & achievements of young people
- *Sentencing Council Consultation day in London, at the Royal Courts of Justice – considering guidelines for sentencing young people robbery & sexual offences
- *Producing leaflets, survey monkeys, power points, workshops & running assemblies & making presentations on various equality topics. These include supporting the local 2BU (LGBTQ) group & Stonewall, sex & relationship information, racism, feminism & the promotion of inspirational women & role models
- *Youth Parish Councillor duties – debating, planning, identifying areas of development & change for the local youth club & the community, running events, interviews & fundraising, lobbying support
- *Becoming a member of the BYC NHS Youth Forum & attending a residential to focus on this years aim to address preventative health & keeping well. <http://www.byc.org.uk/uk/nhs-youth-forum>
- *Completing NCS residential & social action projects on domestic violence, LGBTQ & mental health & delivering a presentation on UKYPAG & UKYP. One MYP helped raise £1000 in a week for the Domestic Violence Intervention Project
- *Supporting & participating in the annual Tolpuddle Martyrs Festival, chairing a panel & debating
- *Visiting Anne Frank's House in Amsterdam & making a presentation on learning, representation & UKYP. Also Spoke at the national Holocaust Museum in Nottingham about the importance of solidarity as an event linked to winning the Anne Frank Award earlier in the year
- *Attending the annual BYC, UKYP Annual Sitting in York, planning, developing skills & debating
- *Being a volunteer journalist for a Bolton based online magazine called Xplode- run by our northern friends for young people & writing about issues of interest & importance to young people but also aimed at combating negative stereotypes of young people (Getting two articles published so far) <https://xplodemag.co.uk/about-2/>
- *Being a member of non- for profit anti cyber bullying organisation called 'All Rise' <http://www.allrisesaynotocyberabuse.com/about-all-rise/> campaigning & presenting in schools across the county
- *Allocating grants to local disadvantaged young people for positive activities, through our Youth Bank awards
- *Consistently tweeting, Facebooking & providing interviews/articles for local media regarding young people's interests, activity & achievements
- *Met the writer & Poet Michael Morpugo & spoke about youth voice & UKYP
- *Volunteering for the British Red Cross

Over the next few months UKYPAG will also be busy planning, organising & promoting the local MYP elections in December

Thank you for your submissions this month, we look forward to reading more positive stories next month.

We will now include winners of the Youth on Board Awards which is an exclusively youth-led rolling award scheme that recognises innovative and exciting youth participation, both from young people and the projects and organisations that support them.

**Deadline for submissions is quarterly.
To apply see more on: www.byc.org.uk/youthonboard**