

# YEA Newsletter

## March 2018

### New UKYP Members

This January, the YEA elected 6 members to represent Essex in the UK Youth Parliament.

There are:

- **Imogen White**
- **Caitlin Kemp**
- **Belle Botley**
- **Sophie Bush**
- **Naman Gupta**
- **Rachel Ojo**

Their term will start this March, lasting for the next year.

The UK Youth Parliament working to amplify youth voices, campaigning once again this year for 'Votes at 16' and 'Curriculum 4 Life'



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#### Important Dates

TBC	April Local Area Meetings
05/05	May Full Sitting
30/06	Music/Mental Health Festival
10/10	Youth Voice Conference
26/11	Police Conference

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## Make Your Mark 2017

Last year, the YEA supported the UK Youth Parliament in the campaign 'Make Your Mark'. Overall a total of 954,766 people voted on issues that matter to young people.

The 5 issues to be debated on in parliament are:

1. A Curriculum to prepare us for life
2. Transport
3. Work Experience hubs for 11-18 year olds
4. Votes at 16
5. Protect LGBT+

In Essex, a total of 15,442 people voted mental health coming out on top, with 2260 votes.

**Make  
Your Mark**

## Interview Training– January 2018

In January we met to discuss the upcoming interviews which were due to occur later in the month. This was to interview for a new team leader role. We discussed confidentiality, discrimination, what the ideal qualities are for this role and how to act in an interview environment. It was very interesting and helpful for all involved to ensure that the interviews run as smoothly as possible. We look forward to letting you know whether we were successful in appointing someone in due course.  
–Imogen White (Mid)

## Police Meeting— January 2018

We met in early January to discuss the upcoming events which the YEA are conducting in partnership with Essex Police. We discussed the venue, the catering arrangements and the shadowing day with the police that seven YEA members will take part in.

During the day the YEA members visited the Dog training unit, the Custody suite and the Firearms unit and a short video about the day was created. This video will be launched on Monday 26th November 2018. This event aimed to increase the influence that the young people have in the police service and making it a service which works for them as well as the general adult population.

Hopefully the event will be a useful one for all the secondary school students who will be invited to attend the day and will provide useful feedback on how the Police and Fire services can interact more effectively with the younger population. –Imogen White (Mid)



## British Youth Council Convention 3

On the 20th January, some members of the YEA, including some of the MYPs and other young people went to Pimlico, London to attend the BYC Convention 3. At the start of the day we received a talk from Sade Brown who runs the charity "2 Sour lemons UK", and we learnt all about her background from a young age to the work she does now where she is aiming for more diverse leaders in the creative industry. At this convention we discussed how to successfully run a campaign with the use of a BYC booklet, outlined to crucial steps to having an important campaign, detailing who to contact, what barriers we might face and how to overcome those barriers. As a background for the campaign we used the 2 issues that came out as the top two that UKYP were going to focus on from the debate at the House of Commons on the 10th November 2017. These two issues were Votes at 16 and Curriculum for life. Further in the day, the young people looked at the NHS Youth Forum and what they do and what Peer Support is. The MYPs looked at UKYP as a whole and reflected on their year and what they had achieved so far. At the end of the day, we looked at celebrating the achievements of individuals

and hearing from other members of the UKYP and that they had done in their areas and what issues they have been facing, such as budget cuts. Overall we found the day very beneficial and we met other members of UKYP and Youth Councillors. We are looking forward to going to the next convention and the upcoming residential where we hope to make new friends!

*-Caitlin Kemp (Mid)*



## Police and Fire Meeting– January 2018

On 3rd January Imogen and I went to the Essex County Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters to meet with Darren Horseman as well as representatives from Essex Fire and Police services. We discussed our event that will be happening later in the year, what workshops will be there and which will be the most useful for the young people. - Caitlin Kemp (Mid)



## December Sitting

On the 9th December, a full meeting was held in County Hall. To begin with, we had a talk from Cllr. John Aldridge about the County Council and how it works. He explained different features of the Council Chambers. It was a very interesting and insightful talk. Secondly, we went over the constitution and amended various aspects of it, which resulted in many debates on how we, as the YEA, worked and other aspects of the constitution. After this, there was a debate

about whether we were going to reelect new UK Youth Parliament members or not, and if so, how. The debate resulted in a decision to reelect new members; previous members would also be allowed to stand for election. At the end of the sitting, there were Christmas games such as pass the parcel and a lot of food. A good time was had by all.



*"Cllr. John Aldridge's talk was very interesting and informing. I never knew how the council worked before today"*

## Restructuring the YEA

Recently in the YEA, we have started to focus more on area work, Mid, North, South and West. We are now having monthly meetings in our area to discuss what we can do in our districts. This then means that we get more done and for more young people as the YEA. We can now address issues that affect our areas specifically as well as others in the country. This also means that we can be more efficient at tackling these. It also makes it easier to

conduct meetings because they are more local.

*-Tyler May (Mid)*

## House of Commons

On the 10th November the UK Youth Parliament sat in the House of Commons to decide their campaigns for the next year. Imogen White, Rachel Ojo, Bethany Howell and Naman Gupta, Essex's representatives, were delighted to visit Westminster to participate. Imogen gave an outstanding rally for Votes at 16 and Rachel made an insightful contribution to the Transport debate, talking about the

issues Essex young people face.

At the end of the day, the UK Youth Parliament voted to once again campaign for 'Votes at 16' and 'Curriculum for Life'.

*-Naman Gupta (Mid)*



## Youth Conference— November 2017



As the Young Essex Assembly, we came up with the idea of organising a Youth Voice Development Day, with the aim of encouraging young people to engage in politics and democracy. With the help of the YEA youth workers, Belle, Caitlin, Katy, Imogen and I organised and ran the event on the 15th November at Chelmsford Racecourse and we invited Year 8 and Year 9 students from over 20 schools. The day consisted of five workshops designed to help the students develop skills for their future. The first workshop was based around budgeting, where we had pupils engage in discussions about how they think the country's money should be spent and how it is actually spent. The second workshop

involved debating skills; a statement was given and students in the audience were asked to give their opinions on it. It was great to see how eager these students were to share their opinions and we were amazed by their well thought out points. In the third workshop we taught the students how to write a formal letter to their head teacher. We tried to make this experience as realistic as possible by giving them an envelope and a small post box. In the fourth workshop, we provided the groups with the "Make Your Mark" topics and asked them to create a campaign based on one of these topics. Again, we were impressed by the creativity shown, the depth of their action plans and how they

applied the skills they had learnt before to this task. Our final workshop was preparing questions to ask our guests: Councillor Ray Gooding, John Aldridge, the Chairman of Essex County Council, Lisa Wilson, Commissioning and Transformation Support Officer at Essex County Council. We gave all the students an opportunity to ask our panel excellent questions, which included our very own member, Caitlin Kemp. We then gave all the students socks and shirts to write what they liked about the day on shirts and what could be improved on the socks. We would like to thank all the schools that attended, all the YEA members that helped out, the Youth Workers and our guests for attending. *-Narmiha Kumaran (Mid)*

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## Working in Areas

Recently in the Young Essex Assembly, we have started to work a lot more in our areas, Mid, North, South and West. We are now having monthly meetings in our area to discuss what we can do to benefit our districts. This then means that we can get more done, and benefit more young people as the YEA.

### West

We are raising the awareness for the LGBTQ+ community and destroying negative views and stereotypes. We are currently doing this using statistics and we are running a questionnaire with young people on urban myths.



### South

South have recently had a team building trip to a bowling alley and have been recruiting new members. We are currently looks at ways to improve young people curriculum for life. Unfortunately our meeting this month has been postponed due to poor weather conditions.



### North

We are focusing on a curriculum for life. Our aim is for people from all different backgrounds to come to youth centres and talk about their jobs and how they got there. If this is successful, we would like to expand our project out to schools and other similar groups.

## Report from Mid

Everyone is extremely eager to work on our projects etc at the residential in half term.

We had a great time on our team building evening in February, where we went to Roller-world disco and competing in a laser quasar game.

With the Musical Festival around the corner, we will soon find out what aspects of the festival we, as Mid, will be working on. Everyone is very excited to start!

We are also going to participate in a first-aid course which we will enjoy immensely as well as learning new and life-saving skills

As another way of promoting the YEA we will be creating a video for display and use in assemblies about the YEA and our work.

Naman, Caitlin and Imogen are currently planning to meet Sarah, our district youth and community commissioner. They will be discussing PSHE subjects in schools, and how they can be changed and adapted to better suit the young people in Essex. Many students feel that their PSHE lesson can feel not as important as they should be, and feel their time would be better spent learning life skills, such as how to buy a house, first aid, how to manage money and other topics of



adulthood. They will be hoping to input ideas to Sarah's meeting, and hopefully making a change to some schools' PSHE lessons.

We have also reviewed our YEA website, and looked at the positives and the negatives of the site. We will hope to make minor changes to it to make it more accessible, welcoming and easily navigable. Some of the bigger issues we found were that there were dated photos that need to be updated, as many of the current members don't appear in them. Also, the two social media pages are not in valid use, so they either need to be deleted permanently, or changed to new accounts. During our residential in half term, we will be discussing the website and organizing times to improve it.

Finally, as a way of promoting the Young Essex Assembly we are going to be contacting our local schools and MPs. This will encourage young people to submit themselves for elections in the upcoming year. This will also inform our MPs about what we have been up to and what we are going to be doing in the forthcoming months.

*-Anna White, Emily Adcock, Tyler May*



## Team building Trips



We have been on a team building trip Bowling and went to a Chinese restaurant.

*-South*

2018

Mid have recently gone to Rollerworld and Quasar. It was really fun, and in Quasar we worked really well in a team.

*-Mid*



## Essex Police - February 2018

On Monday of half term, six members travelled around the county to look at the work that Essex Police does in keeping us safe. We watched dog demonstrations, looked around a custody suite, got locked in a cell, tried prison food, met a Superintendent and sat in a bullet proof van. We asked a lot of questions and learnt about the crucial work that the service does. We look forward to show the video of our day at the Police and Fire Service at the Young People's Conference in November.



## Residential February 2018

During February half term the YEA travelled to Bradwell Outdoor Centre to develop our teamwork skills and make some progress on establishing plans for our festival in the summer. We then took part in several activities such as the high ropes course and Operation Mosquito. These helped us to build our resilience because during Operation Mosquito we battled through 20 mph wind and torrential rain to ensure success even when we were offered a ride back on the minibus. We used teamwork during both of

our activities to encourage our fellow members to try their best. We spent the rest of the residential planning our festival in the summer which aims to raise awareness of mental wellbeing through music, fun and laughter! We contacted companies to provide activities and merchandise for the day. Overall, the residential was very productive and a lot of fun!



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If you have any questions about the YEA, or are interested in getting involved, please contact us:

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