

# YEA Newsletter

Issue 1 2019

*"I have learnt that if I try I can do anything." Naomi, age 13*



## Announcements

### UKYP

#### Newly elected members

Davina - Brentwood

Emily - Braintree

Judah - Chelmsford

Prajwal - Chelmsford

Rachel - Basildon

Sophie - Basildon

Tyler - Maldon

*"The YEA has helped me to grow as a person and to be the best version of myself" Laura, age 15*

## First meeting: Essex County Council Chambers

During our first whole YEA meeting we had the opportunity to get to know each other and to discuss what we thought our focus should be for the year.

We took part in team building activities, had our photos taken for the YEA website and prepared for our first debate. We used the results from the Make Your Mark campaign as our focus for this debate. The topics were: Knife Crime, Mental Health, Curriculum for Life and Homelessness. Councillor John Jowers, Chairman of ECC, was kind enough to speak to the YEA about job roles and the history of ECC, he also chaired our debate. The animated discussion had some excellent points and was brilliant to see so many young people speak so seriously and passionately about these issues. Following the debate a vote was held to decide what the YEAs focus should be for the year. The result from this vote was a Curriculum for Life.

Overall, the day was really enjoyable - everyone started to communicate with each other and build relationships with one another - making this a brilliant start to the year.

## THIS IS ME



**Name :** Rachel

**Age :** 17

**Area :** Basildon

**District :** South

**Passion :** Putting an end to knife crime, debating and politics

*During my time in the YEA, I have helped plan projects including a collection for a hospice and running a mental health festival. I have thoroughly enjoyed being elected to the UK Youth Parliament and British Youth council. I have grown in confidence, presented the views of Essex nationally and delivered a speech in parliament on women's rights. I have made so many new friends and learnt new skills!*

### **Contact us**

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## **Residential: Overstrand Kingswood: 17th February**

### **Aim: Team building - Mixing with other people from other districts**

After a long and tiring coach ride to Norfolk, we finally arrived at Kingswood. We quickly put our suitcases away and dug right in to our activities. First we were put into groups mixed with people from all different areas. This helped us build friendships with people we don't usually talk to and helped with our teamwork skills.

Over the period of the 4 days we were there, we participated in a range of activities including: caving, high ropes, night-line, orienteering and laser tag. These activities taught us to overcome our fears and to support each other in times of need. We also had a session talking about mental health with the Senior Commissioner Hannah Kopel and Senior Analyst Matt Barnett. Towards the end of our trip, we wrote our personal statements to be displayed on the YEA website.

The residential helped us to get to know each other better and has shown us ways to get through our differences. In turn teaching us how to co-operate with each other and supporting us to voice our opinions in future YEA meetings.



The YEA are always interested in consulting with other agencies and partners.

If you would like to hear the opinions of young people, please get in touch.

**[yea@essex.gov.uk](mailto:yea@essex.gov.uk)**

## **Full Sitting : 16th March 2019**

During our most recent full sitting we started to put together a strategic overview of the YEA. We then went on to vote for our UKYP members. The UK Youth Parliament allows 11-18 year olds to use their voice to represent Essex young people nationally. 20 people stood for the UKYP elections. They all had to give a 1 minute speech on why they are suitable for the role and what they'll do to make a difference throughout Essex. All the candidates that participated presented themselves worthy of taking on the role. However, only 7 candidates were going to be given the chance to become a UKYP member.

During our local area break out time, we discussed our future plans for our area's campaigns and spent some time discussing sub groups and choosing people to sit on our local Youth strategy groups (YSG). Our current YEA sub groups include: Communications, Mental health, Curriculum for life and Police fire and crime commissioner.



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