

YOUTH SERVICE

The Young Essex Assembly is the elected Youth Council for Essex representing the voice of young people.

What can you bring to the Young Essex Assembly?

If you live or go to school in Essex and are aged between 11-19 or up to 25 if you have additional needs, take your first step to have your voice heard and start your journey to influence change by reading this information pack and contacting us today using the details below.

Closing date for YEA Elections Application is Monday 17 October 2022.



Contact: **Email:** yea@essex.gov.uk  [@youthessex](https://twitter.com/youthessex)
or visit our website www.young-essex-assembly.org.uk



What is the Young Essex Assembly?

The Young Essex Assembly (YEA) is the elected Youth Council for Essex.

Every 2 years 75 young people representing all districts across Essex are elected on to the YEA where they review priorities, consult, campaign, and engage with other young people as well as adults, organisations, and decision makers to ensure young people are a key part of discussions and decisions made at all levels.

The YEA encourages young people to become active members of their local and wider communities and enables them to implement change.

The YEA also enables its members to grow their confidence and support their personal and social development. It gives young people in Essex a variety of opportunities and experiences that broaden their horizons and enables them to have the knowledge, skills, and confidence to take their next steps in life, whatever that maybe.

The Young Essex Assembly is supported by Essex County Council Youth Service.

Requirements

This is the level of requirements for YEA members:

- The minimum age to join the YEA is 11 years and attending secondary school.
- The maximum age to join the YEA is 19 years, or up to 25 years if you have additional needs.
- You must either live, work or study in the district you wish to represent.
- You will be expected to attend a monthly meeting in Chelmsford, which we call a Sitting, plus a monthly Local Link meeting in your local area.

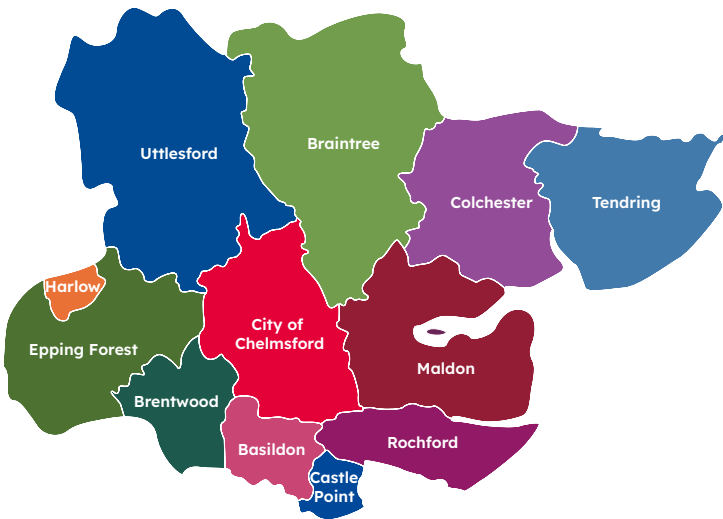
Expectations

Expectations of a YEA member:

- You have a duty to represent and be a voice for all young people in your district.
- You will be expected to feed back to local young people on the YEA's work.
- You will be expected to check your emails regularly and keep in contact with staff and your peers.
- If you are elected, your term in office will be 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2024.
- You will need to make your own way to meetings. Public transport can be reimbursed.
- You will be expected to attend monthly sittings (countywide YEA meetings) and a local meeting at least once a month during your 2 year term of office.

Seats available

This shows the number of YEA ‘seats’ available in each of the districts across Essex.



District	Seats
Basildon	9
Braintree	8
Brentwood	4
Castle Point	5
Chelmsford	9
Colchester	9
Epping Forest	7
Harlow	4
Maldon	3
Rochford	5
Tendring	8
Uttlesford	4
Total	75

The YEA in action



“Being on the YEA and a Member of UK Youth Parliament, I’ve had great opportunities to meet and work with important individuals I would never have dreamed of meeting or working with.”

Prajwal, Age 18

Chelmsford YEA and UKYP Member

What the YEA has been up to!

Youth Voice Development Days

The YEA has delivered numerous Youth Voice conferences, each time working with over 200 students across Essex. Through these events the YEA show the importance of youth voice and inspire other young people across the county to speak up by getting the attendees to take part in debate style sessions as well as looking at how the government spends public money. They also develop and deliver their own campaigns on various issues that young people are passionate about.

Working together with the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner

The YEA has a fantastic relationship with The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex (PFCC). Together they have planned and delivered several conferences and engagement events for professionals and/or young people which ensured young people had an input into the Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024.

The YEA has also created a number of short films with the PFCC showcasing the Essex Police and Fire Service as well as creating a film around County Lines which was used in a county wide campaign.

‘Unacceptable’ Stake Holder Event

The YEA designed, planned, and hosted the ‘Unacceptable’ stakeholder event. It brought together policymakers, educators, police officers, youth workers, school staff, and young people.

Its aim was to highlight the misogyny and unacceptable cultural issues girls and young women face within communities and educational settings by sharing their own personal experiences and those of their peers that they represent.

They committed to work with all partners at the stakeholder event to raise awareness and campaign for change as well as build momentum for the community to find solutions to address deep rooted cultural issues.

Climate Change and Environment

The Essex Climate Action Commission was set up to advise Essex County Council about tackling climate change.

The commission has over 30 members. They include local councillors, academics, business people and 2 members of the Young Essex Assembly, who are both Co-Chairs for the commission.

Local Nature Partnership Board (LNP)

A YEA member currently sits on the Local Nature Partnership Board and attends quarterly meetings and represents the young people of Essex.

The LNP was launched by Essex County Council (ECC) and will work to help manage the natural environment, have more access to green space and to produce a range of benefits for people, the economy and offering support for wildlife and an extra push towards net zero in Essex.

Consultations

The Young Essex Assembly members are regularly asked to take part in consultations to gain and give the views of young people in Essex.

These are just a few of the consultations the YEA have taken part in:

- Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024
- Violence & Vulnerability
- SEND
- Equality Framework
- Libraries
- Youth Service Strategic Plan

UK Youth Parliament



The UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) is an opportunity for young people to make a difference and represent other young people's views on a national level. You can be elected if you are aged 11 - 18 years and are already a Member of the YEA. In Essex we have 7 seats available on UKYP.

Overall the UKYP has 369 seats from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It empowers young people to take positive action within their local communities. Every year the UKYP hold the largest youth consultation in the UK. This is called 'Make Your Mark'. It gives a unique opportunity for the opinions of young people to be actively listened to and valued. This enables decision makers to see issues that are actually important to young people.

YEA links with other organisations





Hustings Day

This is an interactive day of activities and information run by current YEA members and staff. On the day you will have the opportunity to:

- Find out more about the YEA and what it's like to be a member
- Meet existing YEA members and ask them questions
- Find out what YEA members have done in previous years
- Meet the staff that work with the YEA
- Take part in fun activities
- Have support to write your candidate statement

Dates

Each district will have a Hustings Day in the week 24 October to 30 October 2022 (October half term). Once your application has been received you will be sent the date and time of your local Hustings Day.

To find out more contact: yea@essex.gov.uk

What happens next?

Interested in becoming a member?

- Scan the QR code below or email yea@essex.gov.uk for an application form
- Return application form by Monday 17 October 2022
- Attend a Hustings Day
- Voting takes place Monday 21 November – Friday 2 December 2022
- Declaration events Monday 12 December – Thursday 22 December 2022 (one in each district)
- First sitting 14 January 2023 – Publicity photos and official welcome by the Council
- Monthly sittings (countywide YEA meetings), local events and meetings as well as any training opportunities.

To find out more or to apply please visit our website by scanning the QR code





www.young-essex-assembly.org.uk

This information is issued by:
Essex County Council
Essex Youth Service

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and/or made available in alternative
formats, on request.

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