

# Kent Youth Voice Virtual Meetings Summary – April 2021

During April 2021, we held our Kent Youth Voice Saturday as a virtual meeting. Due to current COVID-19 restrictions the monthly meetings will be continuing to be virtual for the foreseeable future.

We started the day split into 2 groups, 1 specifically for Kent Youth County Council members and one for Headstart members.

The KYCC members group started by completing an icebreaker and then went on to discuss the KYCC budget application and process for campaign and project groups to access. The members also discussed how they could improve communication between meetings, the content of the KYCC constitution and then ideas of what they would like to see in a summer programme of activities.

The Headstart members central Speakout group started by catching up with each other about what they had done during the Easter break and discussed their feelings about the easing of lockdown restrictions. The group also discussed what should be included in a video for young people and parents to explain the Kent Award for resilience and emotional wellbeing.

## Campaign updates:

**Developing resilience in young people** – The group tested out the board game they have developed and discussed any changes that were needed – actions were given out to the group to complete this project.

**Curriculum for life** – The group identified some members of KCC Cabinet that they would like to interview, went over the minutes from the last meeting and discussed most popular topics needed in schools. The question of whether PSHE was covered during lockdown was asked. The group would like to survey teachers to ask about content of PSHE lessons & resources they have. Finally, the group discussed the campaign groups update for the April newsletter.

**Environmental Awareness** – Group discussed what individuals did for Earth hour on 27<sup>th</sup> March and wrote a social media post and selected an image to promote Earth day on 22<sup>nd</sup> April. The group then discussed lobbying MPs re single use plastics and shared UK Youth Parliament guidelines. Discussed recyclable face masks and promotion of making these from old clothes – group thought they could run a workshop on this in May half term.

**Mental Health** – Group started with sharing their news on activities they have been doing during recent weeks. The group went on to discuss how they could promote and support Mental Health Awareness Week in May and members were tasked to create social media posts and ideas for the next meeting.

## Joint afternoon session

The first session of the afternoon brought together all the Kent Youth Voice members to promote the forthcoming social and training events as well as complete an Autism Kahoot quiz to raise awareness. Finally, the group had a visit from Hedwig de Jong from KCC Innovation team to introduce the young people to the Reconnect programme and get the members views and ideas.

## **Project Groups:**

**Equality:** Group discussed the future of this project group due to low attendance. Group working on raising awareness of importance of pronouns and why it is important as well as discussing the latest developments in the Black Lives Matter campaign and the work of the BeYou project.

**Keeping Kent safe:** Group focused on writing freedom of information requests to find out about streetlights and speed signs.

**Opportunities for young people:** Group had a visit from Hedwig de Jong from KCC Innovation team and discussed the first steps young people could take to get into volunteering and the benefits to doing this. Group discussed how to move forward on this to promote it and what KYCC budget could be accessed to help promote to further young people in the county.

**Social media:** Group discussed re-launch of Kent Youth Voice regular communication and decided to change the 'Monday Motivator' to 'Wake up Wednesday' and 'Shout out Friday'. Group all working on different aspects of the new communication tool and the group plan to do a short video to launch.

**UKYP:** Group discussed communication from BYC to members and the recent request from BYC to lobby local MP's about taking action on single use plastics. Ella reported she has contacted her local MP and Drishya and possibility Poppy could arrange a meeting together as all in the same area of Kent. The group discussed how they could possibly target schools with plastic waste use in canteens and by encouraging washable reusable masks not single use ones. Group also discussed UK plan to add a deposit to packaging which the customer gets a proportion back when they return the packaging. Finally, the group discussed plans to meet on a different day to the rest of youth voice so members could join another project group.