

Kent Youth Voice Virtual Meetings Summary – September 2021

During September 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 in with 17 members and conducted a question and answer session as organised by Keeping Kent Safe project group with various guest speakers. Following this opening session, we broke into campaign groups for the next sessions as follows:

Campaign updates:

Developing resilience in young people – The group had a visit from Ellie Ransley-Hoare to talk about the Big Conversation event due to be held in March 2022. The group helped make decisions on the event and why they could get involved including being presenters on the day. The group then wrote their campaign update for the September Kent Youth voice newsletter.

Curriculum for life – Group discussed the content, costing and promotion of a politics and empowerment workshop which they are considering booking as an interactive workshop for young people with a view to build to a series of 3 events. Group then continued to review the survey that they have sent to schools to get teachers feedback on PSHE content. Finally, the group discussed the campaign update for the Youth Voice September newsletter.

Environmental Awareness – Group discussed the campaign progress so far in preparation for writing update for September youth voice newsletter. Then discussed the social media posts and Canva images that need to be developed for social media channels to promote their sustainable lifestyle messages.

Mental Health – Group agreed the October meeting agenda and plan to do a Q&A session with a panel of mental health experts for 'Hello Yellow' mental health day. Group also decided on some questions to ask the panel and finalise the invite to guests.

Project Groups:

Keeping Kent safe: Group evaluated the Q&A session from the start of the day and agreed to send on any unanswered questions to the panel to be answered and then started to consider their next steps in communicating these answers and messages to the young people of Kent.

Equality: Group discussed developments on pronouns project and started to plan social media posts to help communicate this message. Group discussed appropriate signage on accessible toilets and difficulties in language from strangers and in completing forms for school / college where gender issues are not accommodated for.

Opportunities for young people: Group reviewed some posters that had been created to promote volunteering and they decided on 1 design and a few modifications, then discussed the possibility of having a guest speaker at the next meeting relating to volunteering. The groups survey was discussed, and the members were asked to promote it to get more feedback link to survey is <https://forms.office.com/r/zWmMNVkcsp>

Social media: Group started the meeting discussing the promotion of the 'Hello Yellow' mental health day event in October and all members were asked to share & promote on social media. Group discussed social media posts going out to promote KYCC election and agreed to try and get more members to give them quotes on why they joined KYCC. Group decided that 'Wake up Wednesday' and 'Feel good Friday' updates should go out monthly so they could contribute to each one at monthly meetings. Finally, the group elected 2 joint Vice Chairs to fill the vacancy.

UKYP: Group discussed recent British Youth Council events as well as their meetings with local MP's. Ella has been asked to join Canterbury Climate Action Group. Group reviewed a poster that had been created by a member to highlight the myths surrounding tap and bottled water and it was agreed that they will look to get this shared with contacts. Group ended looking ahead to the BYC conference that is happening on 30th October.

Joint afternoon session

The final session of the day brought together all the Kent Youth Voice members to discuss the feedback and actions from all the sessions of the day. In this session we also discussed the forthcoming Try angle awards which are open for nominations till 5th November and the KYCC elections which are open for young people and schools / youth organisations to sign up for elections till 19th October. The day ended with the young people being invited to complete an evaluation on the day.