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Kent Youth County Council Update

January 2019

Anti—Bullying Campaign

During Anti-bullying week, the group shared why they joined the campaign on KYCC's Facebook and Twitter pages. It was great to share why our members are so passionate about a topic such as bullying. We are also excited to announce that our anti-bullying detox booklet is now ready to be designed and printed. We hope you look forward to receiving and using this booklet in 2019. Following the elections we have now had new members join the campaign and start to look at new ideas for this year and cant wait to continue our journey of tackling bullying in Kent.



Curriculum for Life Campaign

We have had a successful 2018 in curriculum for life campaign and have finished and ordered postcards to lobby MP's to be issued in 2019. We have almost finished a number of educational PowerPoints with lesson plans and made a video about curriculum for life for use in schools. Additionally we have lobbied numerous politicians to support our campaign. We have also taken a leading role in the UKYP curriculum for life campaign on a national scale and directly lobbied schools with the curriculum for life pledge campaign. With new members joined the campaign since election we are very positive about the forthcoming year and our new plans.



Mental Health Campaign

We have had a highly productive year in the mental health campaign working on a z-card detailing mental health conditions and the many misconceptions surrounding mental health. We have also begun work on a friends and family pack to help those with someone near them who is struggling with their mental health. We have also begun the production of two videos using anonymous stories and poetry and literature to address mental health conditions. In collaboration with HeadStart the campaign has been instrumental in organising the 2018 and planning the 2019 Big conversation events at the Detling show-ground and conducting workshops on the day. With this years new focus we are hoping to continue to progress this work.



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Other KYCC news...

KYCC Elections 12th—25th November 2018

The annual KYCC elections were held in November 2018, 85 candidates stood for election across the 12 districts of Kent and we received 20,976 votes from the young people of Kent. Voting was held within schools and youth organisations across the county as a mix of both as online and paper ballots.



Nine youth related issues were also voted for as possible campaigns and the top three highest voted ones have become our campaign topics for 2019, these campaigns are Anti-bullying, Curriculum for life and Mental health.

The newly elected members met for the first time on 16th December at County Hall in Maidstone. This year we have combined the monthly meetings of HeadStart Speakout and Kent Youth County Council to form Youth Voice meetings and the members will work on the elected campaigns throughout the year, more information on these new campaigns will be available online and in future newsletters.

UK Youth Council — House of Commons event

On 9th November, 7 MYPs (Josh Matheson, Freddy Waters, Elena Ewence, Harmony Chapman, Evan Lewis Lydia Nottingham and myself) from Kent travelled up to London to take part in the annual Youth Parliament Sitting in the House of Commons. Although it was an early start, we were all eager to get debating on the top 5 issues from the Make Your Mark Ballot.



Through this debate the UKYP Campaigns for 2019 were decided with Votes at 16 as the National Campaign and tackling Knife Crime as the Devolved Campaign. I was extremely lucky to be selected to represent the South East of England as Debate Lead. In this role, I got to close the Mental Health Debate from the Dispatch Box in front of key figures in UK Politics including John Bercow, Jeremy Corbyn and Dianne Abbott.



This was an amazing experience and to receive a standing ovation in the House of Commons and get the voices of young people in Kent heard is truly an experience I will never forget.

Written by Eleanor Burnaby-Rouse

KYCC Annual Awards 2018

The annual KYCC awards took place in our December meeting and 9 awards were voted for by the members and given out including Member of the year that was awarded to Eleanor Burnaby-Rouse and Best Newcomer awarded to Josh Matheson. Big congratulations to all those who achieved awards and thanks also to Jenn Power and Kyle Siwek for their work as Chair and Vice Chair over the past year. December meeting was also the first introduction to new members and the outgoing members helped to introduce the new members to the role of KYCC and its work so far.

For more information on Kent Youth County Council contact us at:

Web: www.kent.gov.uk/kycc

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Or follow us on Facebook or Twitter

