



Kent Youth County Council

Annual Report 2018/19



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Contents

Page 4: Introduction from the Chair and Introduction to KYCC

Page 5: Breakdown of the 2018 KYCC election

Page 6: Mental Health Campaign

Page 7: Curriculum for Life Campaign

Page 8: Anti-Bullying Campaign

Page 9: KYCC Manifesto Points

Page 10: UK Youth Parliament in Kent

Page 11: Key moments over the last year

Welcome from the Chair:

Welcome to the first Annual Report of the Kent Youth County Council (KYCC). We have created this report with the intent of demonstrating the hard work and dedication which our members put into campaigning on the issues selected by the young people of Kent in our most recent election in November 2018. Additionally, we hope this report gives you a better understanding of the work we do as a youth council and how you can assist us in making a difference to the lives of over 150,000 young people within our county.



Eleanor Burnaby-Rouse Chair, Kent Youth County Council

Introduction:

The Kent Youth County Council (KYCC) is a group of young people aged between 11 and 18 who are elected to represent either their district or community on campaigns which are voted on by the young people in Kent. The main goal of KYCC is to voice the views and opinions of Kent's young people and in turn creating change within the county which can benefit all young people. Furthermore, KYCC helps young people to understand the importance of engaging in the democratic process and learn how their vote can make a difference.

Annually in November, KYCC hold elections for new members and to determine which 3 campaigns they will be working on for the year. Four young people are elected to represent each district in Kent- these young people are known as "members" and hold a position on the youth council for 2 years. Four deputy members for each area are also elected- these young people hold a position on the youth council for 1 year. Along with the election of district seats, twelve young people are also elected to community seats which represent specific groups within Kent, including: young carers, home schooled young people, LGBTQ+ groups and young people with disabilities.

Each year the new members campaign on the top 3 issues which were voted on during the elections. In 2018, over 20,000 young people voted on what campaigns they wanted to see the youth council work on. The top 3 issues which we have been campaigning on in 2019 are **Mental Health, Curriculum for Life and Anti-Bullying** as these were the issues with received the highest number of votes by young people.



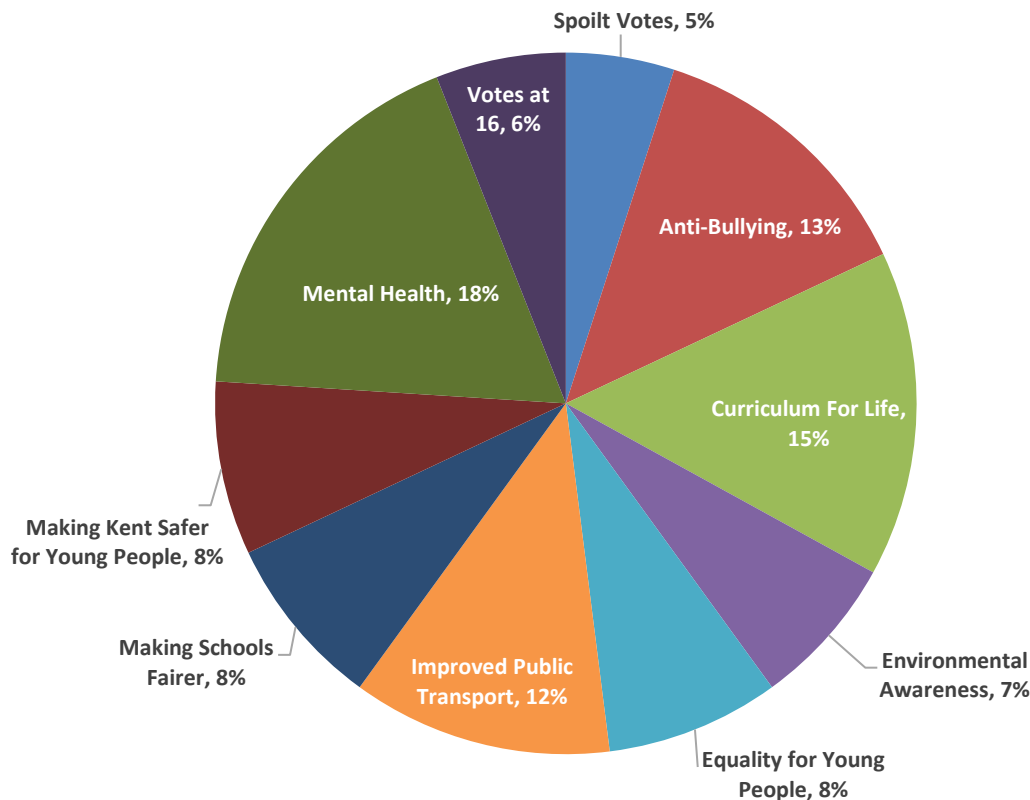
KYCC Elections Overview November 2018

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.

Key Stats:

- 72 young people were elected as KYCC Members or Deputy Members to represent young people across Kent
- 75 secondary schools, youth hubs & community organisations took part in the youth elections
- 20,976 young people voted in the elections either online or by paper ballot
- 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.

Breakdown of Campaign Votes:



Mental Health Campaign

Key Stats:

- Mental Health received 18% of the votes in the 2018 election, making it the biggest issue amongst young people in Kent.
- Mental Health also received 181,691 votes in the UK Youth Parliament's Make Your Mark ballot, making it the 2nd most important issue to young people nationally.

This Year's Actions:

We have had a highly productive year in the mental health campaign group. We have been working on a 'z-card' detailing mental health conditions and the many misconceptions surrounding mental health.

We have also helped raise awareness about key mental health days in the year, including Mental Health Week from the 13th – 19th May and World Mental Health Day.

We have also been working on sharing resources and promoting useful links and websites and have been feeding into the local transformation plan for mental health schools team trailblazer to ensure sustainability of our work.

Recommendations:

We recommend that KCC assists us in raising awareness for mental health issues and help us show that much of the stigma surrounding mental health is false, and anyone can be suffering even if symptoms may be hidden.

We also want help with creating a calendar of mental health awareness/ support days. We would also very much appreciate your support in making a Mental Health Directory of what help is available to specific illnesses and general issue helplines.

Chair: Charlotte Swaine

Vice – Chair: Josh Moemken



Curriculum for Life Campaign

We believe schools should cover topics including finance, first aid, sex and relationships and politics.

Curriculum for life is a national campaign to implement and improve the standard and delivery of Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE). This was elected as a priority in both the KYCC and UK Youth Parliament elections with support from the UK Government. KYCC would like all head teachers to sign our pledge to implement a curriculum for life in their schools based on both national and local issues relating the young peoples learning needs.

Key Stats:

- Curriculum for Life received 15% of young people's vote in the 2018 election, making it the second highest concern for young people in Kent.
- In 2018, over 130,000 young people prioritised Curriculum for Life as the most important issue for them across the whole of the UK in the Make Your Mark Ballot.
- When surveying 321 young people within schools only 5% said their PSHE lessons were extremely useful.
- 72% of young people surveyed would like to learn more on budgeting & finance and investments & first aid.

This Year's Actions:

We are using the results from previous surveys completed by over 300 young people within schools to determine what young people want from PSHE lessons.

We are in the process of creating a toolkit for an outline survey for schools to determine what their students want from PSHE lessons. We then aim to provide tailored content for schools.

Recommendations:

We recommend that KCC set up a select committee aimed at improving curriculum for life in Kent schools, which would consult young people and schools to determine how PSHE lessons should be taught in schools.

Chair: Kyle Siwek MYP

Vice – Chair: Poppy Mansfield Jones MYP

#thisneedstostop

Anti – Bullying Campaign

Key Stats:

- Anti-Bullying received 13 % of the votes in the 2018 election, making Anti-Bullying the third area of interest for young people in Kent.
- Bullying is behaviour that hurts someone else. It includes name calling, hitting, pushing, spreading rumours, threatening or undermining someone.
- It can happen anywhere – at school, at home or online. It's usually repeated over a long period of time and can hurt a child both physically and emotionally.

This Year's Actions:

The antibullying campaign group have outlined their plans for the rest of this year. This included a blog with 6 sections looking at definitions of bullying and what we can do to help prevent bullying, reviews on books and websites that address bullying, cyber bullying, mental and physical bullying. The group are also creating 3 videos to go hand in hand with the creation of a hashtag #thisneedstostop. The group also got some feedback on the Anti-bullying Detox booklet that was recently produced and sent out to schools. Judd school in Tonbridge feedback that it is a great resource and the Assistant head teacher is looking forward to sharing it with her students.

Recommendations:

We want more support to be provided to tackle bullying behaviour online and offline and to improve education for young people on internet safety.

We'd like our blogs and videos to be shared on the school newsletter and for us to possibly present our blogs and videos at the Headteachers conference ourselves. We would like Roger Gough to take a bigger stand and voice on anti-bullying.

Chair: Finley Boustead

Vice – Chair: Shannon Birch

KYCC Manifesto 2019

Introduction:

Kent County Council's Manifesto tackles a wide range of topics affecting young people, from public transport to equality for all. It was created by young people, locally elected to represent the views of their peers.

Period Poverty:

KYCC supports the cancellation of the tampon tax and wants to support the ideal of red boxes to be made available in schools / organisations & public places.

Transport:

KYCC supports the proposed idea that bus fares should rise gradually for young people between child and adult rates so there is not a big jump in rates between child and adult fare at 16.

Equality:

KYCC would like to see no minority to be treated as such by working with organisations to help youths know why there shouldn't be any discrimination. More Education is needed for people on discrimination.

UKYP:

KYCC would like to support more work to combat Knife crime / gangs in Kent. KYCC would like to support the motion of votes at 16 with Kent.



Each year 7 KYCC members are elected from within KYCC to represent Kent nationally at UK Youth Parliament events.

This year's members are:

- Lawrence Coomber – Canterbury
- Holly Leggett – Dover
- Poppy Mansfield Jones – Canterbury
- Alex McGovern – Ashford
- Kyle Siwek – Maidstone
- Alice Breiner – Swale
- Lydia Nottingham – Thanet



Activities with UKYP include:

- Attending three London based conventions
- One annual training weekend
- One weekend annual conference
- One House of Commons Sitting

Key moments over the last year

Debating in the House of Commons



On 9th November 2018, Kent's 7 MYPs travelled up to London to take part in the annual Youth Parliament Sitting in the House of Commons to debate the top 5 issues from the Make Your Mark Ballot.

Kent MYP Eleanor Burnaby-Rouse was extremely lucky to be voted to represent the South East of England as Debate Lead. In this role, she 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.

When asked about the experience, Eleanor said:

"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."



Parliament Week 2019 - Votes at 16 Debate

KYCC and UKYP Member Elena Ewence coordinated and chaired a debate on Votes at 16 as part of activities for Parliament Week 2018, with support from Shellina Prendergast, KCC Deputy Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education.

Helen Grant MP joined us for the debate at Maidstone Town Hall and over 30 young people attended to debate whether Votes at 16 should be implemented for future elections.



National Award Winner- Jess Griffiths

KYCC Member Jess Griffiths won the National British Youth Council Youth Star Award recognising her personal development through her involvement in youth voice activities- including KYCC.

When asked about how she felt winning, Jess said:

"I never thought I was going to get shortlisted let alone win overall. I just want to say a MASSIVE Thank You to the whole Participation Team in Kent without you guys I would of gave up a long time ago, you all gave the time, resources and the safe space to get to the place I am now. Also, a massive thank you to all the amazing young people I have worked with that are so dedicated and inspirational. You all deserve gold for the work you do! I can't wait to meet many more in my new job role."

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.

The 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.

KYCC Elections 2019

Whilst our current elected members are working hard on their campaigns for the year, we will also start preparation for this year's elections that will run from 11 - 24th November in schools and youth clubs across the county.

Developing resilience in young people campaign

This is a new campaign group this year supporting mental health of young people. The group have been looking at different aspects of resilience and the impacts it could have on young people. A list of topics have been delegated to members of the group to research further. A PowerPoint presentation is being planned by the members of the group along with resources for schools to use in assemblies to raise awareness and support for developing resilience.

Chair: Nikita Williams

Vice – Chair: Pippa Stickells

For more information on Kent Youth County Council:

contact us at:

Web: www.kent.gov.uk/kycc

Email: kycc@kent.gov.uk

Or follow us on Facebook [@kentyouthcountycouncil](https://www.facebook.com/kentyouthcountycouncil) or Twitter [@kycc](https://twitter.com/kycc)