



Surrey Heath Youth Council Manifesto

Introduction

Welcome to our 2018/19 manifesto. Over these two years we hope to tackle the 5 main issues we collected during the Autumn of 2017. We did this by consulting young people in Surrey Heath schools to find out what issues they felt were most important to them. We had over 1000 responses and the top 5 issues have now become our manifesto for the next 2 years.

The top five issues were:

1. Curriculum to prepare us for life- Young people should be taught about real life issues and how to deal with them. It should be compulsory for school's curriculum to cover topics such as finance, sex and relationship education and politics.
2. Bullying- Bullying is an extremely pressing issue in many young people's lives often leading to mental illnesses and leaves behind horrible emotional scars that no one should have to live with. More should be done to prevent bullying in schools and in general everyday life for young people, and there should be easy access for young people to get help with bullying quickly if need be.
3. Cost of living- The cost of living for young people in Surrey Heath is extremely high, with everything from cinema tickets to bus fares and gym memberships costing more. These costs should be dropped so that young people can enjoy an active and fun life on a minimum budget.
4. Safety at night- Young people often feel unsafe when walking outside at night time due to the poor quality or lack of lighting, or poor drivers who do not use headlights. More should be done to ensure young people feel comfortable during the night in Surrey Heath.
5. Discrimination- Discrimination is simply unfairly treating an individual or group of people because of who they are. This can include things like sexuality, race, religion, disabilities. Surrey Heath should promote equality between everyone and more should be done to stop stigma towards specific groups of young people.

Follow our progress on social media as well as visit the brand new SHYC website at:

Twitter- @surreyheathyc
Facebook- SurreyHeathYouthCouncil
Website- surreyheathyc.org.uk

To contact us directly, you can email comms@surreyheathyc.org.uk or call 07969 195371.

We are always looking to recruit members from underrepresented groups, to join, find the application form on our website.



About Us

We believe that all young people have the right to be represented and have their voices heard through a local youth council. We believe that the best way for this to happen is by engaging the youth of our borough, enabling them to act as a hub for themselves and the rest of the youth in their communities. The Surrey Heath Youth Council strives to:

- To improve the Surrey Heath area for all young people
- To find out and make people aware of the needs of young people in Surrey Heath and how these can be met
- To be a voice of the young people of Surrey Heath and increase young people's awareness and influence over issues which concern their lives
- To promote a positive image of young people and to celebrate young people's success
- To help the community in whichever way we can, by incorporating our skills and utilising something we're passionate about
- To allow the voices of young people in Surrey Heath to be heard.

By implementing these basic ideals, we believe that we are making a significant difference in our community. We think that the Surrey Heath Youth Council should receive support to ensure that we have the resources to promote diversity in our councils community, develop links with other youth councils in our region, and run youth-led events in line with young people's agendas.

What we aim to achieve

The top issue we identified from our recent survey was that young people want a curriculum to prepare them for life. We are planning to take action on this through our next project titled 'Preparing for Working Life'. Our first project for 2018 is all about helping young people prepare for the future through a number of different mediums. We want to help young people get skills for the future and the world of work, give them the resilience and personal wellbeing to help them be successful and also give them insight into further education.

We plan to tackle the issue in three different sections: skills for life, education and personal wellbeing.

We plan to provide young people with skills for the future through a series of videos, workshops and informative posts on social media, on subjects varying from cooking classes to doing washing up. To provide young people insight into further education, we are planning to bring in former youth councillors who continued into higher education to speak about their experiences in schools. Something we are keen on including is how to budget properly at university. Finally, we plan to help young people improve their personal wellbeing by creating informational posters and giving young people links with wellbeing groups, as well as utilising wellbeing ambassadors already in place at schools.

After this project, we will start to tackle the other four issues from our consultation through a variety of methods including social media campaigns and workshops similar to our Anti-Bullying Training Day, and highly well received Anti-Stigma Conference.