



Cheshire East Youth Council

Children and Families Committee Update

November 2025





Cheshire East Youth Council is made up of a group of young people who campaign on and create positive change for others. They work with decision makers and help them to make services and the support that children and young people receive better. The group feeds into Children's Trust Board.

The group campaigns on issues that are important to young people e.g. mental health, children's rights, hate crime. They also are involved in service design, development and have delivered training to professionals. The group is driven by important issues not political parties.



Top Issues for Youth Council

- Raise awareness and educate young people on hate crime.
- Free, safe and accessible spaces and places for young people to go.
- Improved and accessible Mental Health Services and support when we need it, within the community and education settings.

Highlights from the last 12 months

- House of Commons and Annual Conference
- Hate Stops Here launch, assemblies and sessions
- Participation and Engagement Strategy and Travel Consultation
- UK Youth Parliament Member of Youth Parliament Selection Event
- Hosted a Q&A with the Leader and Deputy Leader
- Children's Trust Board Activity Day
- Youthforia and the Youthforia Residential
- Part of and sharing views with Votes at 16 regional group
- Enjoyed our sessions, developed our skills

The logo consists of the words "HATE STOPS HERE" in a bold, sans-serif font. "HATE" and "HERE" are in white with black outlines, while "STOPS" is solid black. The text is centered within a white square, which is itself enclosed in a thick red border.

**HATE
STOPS
HERE**

Campaign Aims:

- Make sure that professionals have the resources to teach young people and react / deal with hate crime and discrimination.
- For young people to have improved awareness and understanding of hate crime and discrimination.

HATE STOPS HERE



NOVEMBER
What will you do for
Children's Rights Month?



Resources:

- 4 Sessions plans with resources
- Social Media pack
- 'Hate Free Zone' checklist

HATESTOPHERE

'Hate Free Zone' checklist

Considerations/Questions	Y/N/Notes
Have staff completed Equality, Diversity and Inclusion training?	
Have you checked if Hate Crime is covered in policy? Anti-bullying? Safeguarding? Inside and outside of the provision/setting	
If a Hate Crime happens outside of your provision/setting between your children and young people, do you have a follow up and support procedure in place for those affected?	
Do children and young people in your provision/setting understand what a Hate Crime is?	
Is literature/flyers readily available for children and young people?	
Do young people know who to tell if they experience or see a Hate Crime?	
Are children and young people receiving regular education and awareness sessions about Hate Crime?	
Do staff know how to respond to Hate Crimes?	

"it is important to educate young people on what a hate crime actually is so that people don't accidentally hurt other people thinking it is banter"

**HATE
STOPS
HERE**

"Educate people on the meaning of words they use and promote equality."

**HATE
STOPS
HERE**

1

HATESTOPHERE

Session 4 – Consequences of Hate Crime

aims and objectives:

- Learn about the legal consequences of hate crime
- Discuss and learn about the consequences for individuals, families, communities and society if subject to a hate crime.



2

Optional Slide – Cheshire East Youth Council



3

What does the law say?



4

What does the law say?

- In the UK, hate crimes can lead to enhanced sentences if the crime is based on race, religion, sexual orientation, or transgender identity. For example, if someone is convicted of a hate crime they can receive a longer sentence compared to a similar crime without the hate element.
- If a person is convicted of a hate crime, they can receive a longer sentence compared to a similar crime without the hate element.
- The Government provides guidelines to ensure that hate crimes are appropriately punished, using the maximum sentencing powers.



5

Discuss the consequences of Hate Crime



- Draw a target with a bullseye in the middle of a piece of paper and divide it into four equal sections.
- Discuss in your small group what you think the consequences are for each of these and write down.
- Draw your answers with each other at the end of the session.



6

Discussion – Consequences

Individual Consequences: - Isolation - No sense of belonging - Affects sense of self-worth and self-esteem - Impacts mental health - Stress, anger, anxiety - Feeling less than others - Embarassment	Family Consequences: - Facing unable to venture out as a family - Isolation and fear - Loss of support in local community - Tension in the family - Less trust in the community
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SAFE SPACE REMINDERS

Inclusion



Everyone is different.
And that's something to celebrate!

Differences are respected.
No one is treated unfairly for being themselves.

Inclusive and non-judgemental.
We welcome everyone and accept you as you are.

A space to express yourself.
Your voice, style, and story matter here.

Environment



Comfortable and flexible.
We will do our best to make sure the lighting, sound, and temperature feel okay for everyone.

Changeable and adaptable.
We can adjust the space to meet different needs.

Safe and welcoming.
Everyone should feel relaxed and at ease here.

Respectful of personal space.
We look out for each other and make sure everyone feels secure.

Accessibility



Accessible and supportive of diverse needs.

We consider different physical, sensory, learning, and communication styles.

Sensory spaces & fidget toys.
These can help you feel calm, focused, or just take a break.

Breakout spaces.
There are quiet areas to use for having time to relax, recharge, or be on your own.

Listen and adapt:
We will listen to what you need and make changes to help spaces and activities work for everyone.

Support



Someone available to talk to when needed.
You're never alone here.

Someone there to listen.
Your thoughts and feelings matter.

Someone who can help and support you.
Whether it's a small worry or a big problem.

Hate Free Zone.
This is a space free from bullying, discrimination, or hate of any kind.

Let's make our places and spaces safe and fun for all!



People

Conclusion and Recommendations

- We have appreciated opportunities such as Children's Trust Board, Families First Partnership and Committee to provide a platform for our views, lived experience and campaigns.
- We would like further opportunities to be involved in the conversation and development of services connected to our top priorities.
- Children and Families Committee to have ongoing dialogue with young people across Cheshire East to have focussed discussions on our top priorities.
- We would like the support of local leaders across Cheshire East to help implement the Safe Space Reminders into settings.

Any questions? How can you help?

