



Cheshire East Youth Council

Children and Families Committee Update

November 2024





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, physical health, children's rights, access to early help, support for LGBTQ+ community, period poverty, sexual harassment and sexual violence, hate crime. 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 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.

What is ?

- Make Your Mark is the largest consultation of 11-18 year olds in Europe. It gives young people the chance to have a say on what matters to them.
- Topics are presented to young people (on a ballot paper, online or on a presentation). Voting happened in schools, colleges and youth groups throughout February and the topic with the most votes becomes the newly elected MYP campaign theme for their 2 year term.
- Cheshire East Youth Council will get involved in the national Make Your Mark campaign, but they may also wish to create their own campaign based on what young people voted for locally.

Time for the results

Cheshire East Results:

7479 young people voted in total

1 – 1294 voted for “Crime and Safety”

2 – 1112 voted for “Health and Wellbeing”

3 – 1077 voted for “Jobs, the Economy and Benefits”

North West Votes:

Crime and Safety

National Votes:

Health and Wellbeing

What has happened since Make Your Mark?

- Survey on Hate Crime and Discrimination, **116 young people took part**, the group is using the information gathered to influence a Hate Crime and Discrimination Campaign aimed at:
 - Equipping professionals with how to deal with hate crime
 - Educate young people on what a hate crime is
 - Raise awareness and understanding
 - Share how to report and where to turn for support

What should young people do to address bullying, hate crime and discrimination?

- Report the incident to a trusted person / tell someone who can do something about it
- More discussion in schools regularly about it / raise awareness and how to recognise it
- Learn to stand up for yourself
- Call people out on it
- Don't bully / more care for others
- Give accounts from people who have experienced it to show the impact
- Videos or posters around the experience and advice / post things on social media for awareness
- Educate others around what it would be like to be on the receiving end
- Create a better sense of community / space built on respect
- Punishment in a way that deals with the problem
- More anti-bullying rules
- Therapy for those who bully to help them stop

As someone who has experienced bullying and discrimination directly, I feel that young people who are victims of hate crimes, discrimination, bullying need to speak out and share their past experiences of abuse towards them. By doing this, we can educate everyone regarding the severity of bullying and discrimination, and the impact it has on young people.

What should leaders do to address bullying, hate crime and discrimination?

- Harsher punishment / consequences for those given warnings who continue / to deter in the future
- Teach more about it / more awareness
- Provide a safe environment for people to talk in / get help
- Explain about the impact of bullying / hate crimes more such as poor mental wellbeing and trauma
- Report it to someone that will help / do something about it
- Take into consideration what the individual wants to do with the situation
- Teach children how to speak out / stand up for themselves
- Make laws/rules to prevent bullying / discriminative websites and social media content
- Stop bullying
- Address the drivers of bullying and get it sorted with an adult
- Telling an adult can often increase the bullying which makes people afraid to speak out / discretion is needed

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



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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.

Resources:

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

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'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"

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

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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.

Optional Slide – Cheshire East Youth Council and Make Your Mark



What does the law say?



What does the law say?

In the UK, hate crimes can lead to enhanced sentences if the crime is motivated by race, religion, sexual orientation, or transgender identity. For example, if a conviction of a hate crime then carrying a sentence of 3 years, the sentence compared to a similar crime without the hate element, it can be increased to 4 years. For example, if a person is convicted of a hate crime, the sentence will be increased by 25% to 50% depending on the circumstances and a maximum of 10 years. The Sentencing Council provides guidelines to ensure that hate crimes are appropriately punished, using the relevant sentencing factors.



Discuss the consequences of Hate Crime



Discussion - Consequences

<p>Individual Consequences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isolation No sense of belonging Affects person of self-worth and self-esteem Physical mental health - stress, panic anxiety Feeling less than others Unemployment 	<p>Family Consequences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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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Next Steps for Campaign:

- Fundraising for resources.
- Toilet door campaign.
- Youth Council to deliver workshops to other groups.

Conclusion and Recommendations

- We have appreciated opportunities such as Children's Trust Board, Health and Wellbeing Board 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.
- Access to education settings and other spaces across Cheshire East to ensure the Hate Stops Here Campaign achieves its aims and objectives.

Any questions? How can you help?

