

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
CABINET MEMBER**

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE YOUTH COUNCIL AND YOUNG VOICE –
ANNUAL REPORT**

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To present to the Cabinet Member the North Lincolnshire Youth Council (NLYC) and Young Voice Annual Report for 2019/20, as attached, and to note the work, roles and impact of the NLYC and wider young voice in North Lincolnshire.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The NLYC is a constituted group of children and young people who come together voluntarily to be the vehicle for Young Voice in North Lincolnshire. Along with youth councils, regionally and nationally, the NLYC aims to:
- communicate and promote the views of young people
 - raise the profile of young people in a positive way
 - encourage young people to be good citizens, so they act with understanding and communicate between themselves and their communities
 - highlight issues affecting young people, with a democratic and representative role
 - shape and influence priority setting, service planning and delivery and ensure the views of young people are considered by North Lincolnshire Council and its partners.
- 2.2 Since the inception of the NLYC in 2011, it has evolved its membership and across its various representative groups of young people their young voice has influenced strategic priorities, service delivery and commissioning. The voice of young people is firmly at the centre of improving outcomes for young people in North Lincolnshire.

- 2.3 The Council is committed to engaging with children, young people, and their families at an individual, service, and strategic level. The Council continues to invest in and support the NLYC to ensure that the views and experiences of children and young people are integral to priority setting, strategic planning, service delivery and commissioning.
- 2.4 The NLYC and Young Voice Annual Report 2019/20 highlights work undertaken across the NLYC and wider young voice activities and outlines the impact and outcomes of engagement, predominantly at a service, local, regional and national level. The annual report also focuses on young people's perspectives and experiences during the pandemic and associated restrictions.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 The annual report is received and the continuing engagement with children and young voice at an individual, service, and strategic level is noted and the positive impact and outcomes achieved welcomed.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 This annual report is for information and once received by the Cabinet Member, it is proposed that it be circulated digitally and widely to schools, colleges across the Council, to partner organisations and key stakeholders. Particular acknowledgement and recognition needs to be given to the children and young people's participation, work and contributions made throughout the year. Their time, focus, input, views and associated outcomes to be considered during relevant service and strategic planning.

5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)

- 5.1 There are no direct resource implications associated with this report

6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)

- 6.1 The annual report contributes towards the priorities and outcomes of the Council Plan

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

- 7.1 Not Applicable

8. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

- 8.1 The focus of this report is about participation young voice activity and serves to highlight the involvement, support, engagement and consultation opportunities presented to children and young people as individuals, in groups and with their families across North Lincolnshire
- 8.2 There are no conflicts of interest.

9. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 That the NLYC and Young Voice Annual Report, as attached, be received, noted and welcomed and it be published and circulated widely to schools, colleges, across the Council and to its partners and key stakeholder groups.
- 9.2 That the participation, roles, work and impact of the NLYC and the wider young voice in North Lincolnshire be noted.

DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS.

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Date: 18 November 2020

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report –

NLYC and Young Voice Annual Report 2019/20



Search

NLYC Annu...



North Lincolnshire Youth Council

ANNUAL REPORT

2019/20



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8.32am | Feeling: Welcoming

Welcome to the North Lincolnshire Youth Council and Young Voice Annual Report

North Lincolnshire Council values and amplifies the views of its young people across the area. The North Lincolnshire Youth Council (NLYC) has existed for over nine years in its current format. We pride ourselves on the passion of our members for getting both their own views heard and those of their peers. We are proud of the ways we work with others to improve outcomes for the young people of North Lincolnshire.

There are many opportunities for young people to have a voice, get involved and make a difference both as individuals and for the wider community which this report aims to show. NLYC and wider young voice activities are fantastic opportunities for us as young people to have a voice, discuss topical issues, engage with, challenge and support decision makers and contribute to improving the lives of young people in the area.

Every year the membership of NLYC changes, new members join as long-standing members move on to college, university, apprenticeships, and their chosen life paths. The group has become more diverse and representative of the young people of North Lincolnshire. It continues to be a well-recognised group and it enjoys positive relationships with representatives from organisations, services, and agencies, who link in regularly to share information and ask for our views. We continue to build and develop our relationships with schools and colleges as well as other groups of young people.

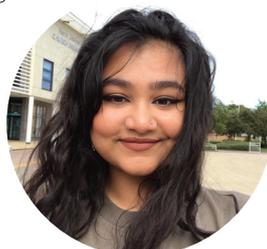
We have some established projects that we have been working on for some time and we've also started on some new areas of work, all of which have been informed by the views of young people in the area. Through young voice activities, young people are able to have their say and they have led and contributed to developing resources for young people by young people.

Examples of impacts for young people include:

- The opportunity to make new friends and hear different points of view.
- An increase in confidence and self esteem.
- Upskilling in areas including public speaking, problem solving and debating.
- Making a difference to their own lives and those of other young people.
- Sharing views with policy makers.
- Improving awareness of issues affecting young people.
- Producing marketing and staging workshops and events for other young people and professional partners.
- Gaining a greater understanding of services and support available.
- HAVING FUN!

In a year that presented many challenges through the restrictions imposed by the Coronavirus pandemic the young people adapted their ways of working together and continued where possible to progress projects. We have got creative and found alternative ways of achieving our goals.

We are proud of the work that has been done by NLYC members and other young people. This annual report will showcase our efforts, celebrate our successes, and demonstrate how we have made a difference in difficult unprecedented times.



Zaynah Jamal
Young Mayor



Julija Solovjova
Member of Youth Parliament



9.05am | Feeling: Proud

Headlines



Make your Mark



The British Youth Council Make Your Mark annual youth ballot is an opportunity for young people to vote about issues that matter to them. Once again, the young people of North Lincolnshire showed how eager they were to make their voices heard with over 8000 of them casting their vote. This made North Lincolnshire for the fourth consecutive year the area with the highest voting turnout (51%) in the Yorkshire and Humber region.

659 Likes

46 Shares



Please just BIN IT!

Young people were also given the opportunity in Make Your Mark to put forward a local issue that is of concern to them. An astounding 31% stated that litter was a major issue – NLYC have taken this on board and began working with elected members to address the problem.

578 Likes

35 Shares



Going Green? How about going places to start with!



NLYC hosted the second Young People's Transport Conference which brought together regional transport providers, decision makers, keynote speaker and young people from across Yorkshire and Humber to discuss transport related issues.

493 Likes

31 Shares



We beat you to it Boris!



A group of youth councillors were consulted by Public Health to look at what influences young people in their choices of food and exercise. What started off as a small project finished in an amazing Healthy Environment Conference in December 2019 which highlighted the factors that contributed to obesity. Many of their findings and recommendations have since been echoed by the Prime Minister in the new Government Obesity Strategy.

1,066 Likes

26 Shares



Covid stops play, work ...everything



The Coronavirus pandemic and subsequent lockdown cancelled out many of the events that form the Young Voice calendar and workstreams that fall out of those events. However, our young people have not been phased by this and have adapted by holding virtual meetings both locally and nationally.

1,066 Likes

26 Shares



9.47am | Feeling: Positive



North Lincolnshire Youth Council

The North Lincolnshire Youth Council (NLYC) is open to all young people aged 11 to 19 (or 25 for young people with additional needs) who live, work, or go to school or college in North Lincolnshire.

The NLYC aims to:

- Highlight issues affecting young people.
- Communicate and promote the views of young people.
- Raise the profile of young people in a positive way.
- Encourage young people to be good citizens, so they act with understanding and communicate between themselves and their communities.
- Ensure the views of young people are considered by North Lincolnshire Council and its partners when priority setting, service planning and delivery.

Meetings have taken place monthly at Church Square House Conference Facility. As a result of the pandemic all meetings from March to July (including the AGM) were held virtually via Microsoft Teams. Once established these meetings were held initially on a weekly basis moving to fortnightly as a way of enabling the members to remain connected. The meetings have been well attended and young people have accessed them with relative ease. NLYC remains evermore diverse with different schools and colleges, sexualities, ethnicities are being represented. This makes for a really interesting mix and some lively discussions. New members have joined and been welcomed.

People from different agencies, services and organisations are keen to visit the NLYC and there is usually one guest speaker at each meeting including the recent virtual ones. Examples of presentations and discussions discussed over the year include:

- A visit from the Police & Crime Commissioner of Humberside Police talking about his role.
- The Director of Governance and Partnerships and Principal Accountant of North Lincs Council explaining how the council's financial planning works and asked for young people's views.
- Housing Advice Team spoke around issues on homelessness and rough sleeping.
- Through a series of sessions, young people were consulted around the Children's Challenge 2020.
- Principal Neighbourhood Officers on tackling litter problems and The Big Spring Clean.
- Neighbourhood Sergeant on the effects of Positive Community Policing.
- Library Services asked how their service could be improved for older young people.

Through these presentations and discussions, NLYC members receive information which can help them to think differently, change their behaviours and support their peers. They are encouraged to have their say about young people's issues and to share their lived experiences. Guest speakers can use young people's views to help shape and influence decision making and work alongside young people to co-design information, services, and support. Speakers attending the NLYC are very positive about their engagement with the group.

NLYC has welcomed the strengthening links and opportunities that both the Mayor, Leader of North Lincolnshire Council and Councillors have offered our young people. Their support has shown young people that their voice is respected and valued.

Every year, we hold a NLYC Annual General Meeting (AGM) to showcase young people's activities and to highlight the impacts and outcomes, which are referenced in this annual report. This year's AGM was held virtually on Thursday 23 July 2020.



Member of Youth Parliament

The Elected Member of Youth Parliament(MYP) Julija Solovjova (17) continues to support and promote the voice of the young people of North Lincolnshire. Attending meetings and conferences locally, regionally and nationally Julija campaigns for healthier safer environments and inclusive opportunities for young people .Julija commits her spare time to representing young people on North Lincs Independent Advisory Group (NLIAG) and the Children and Young People's Partnership (CYPP) and champions the Make Your Mark Annual Ballot. She has played a major part in the Healthy Environment Project and is a key member of Positive Steps, Disability Champions and Rainbow Youth.

Her much anticipated visit to the UKYP Sitting (United Kingdom Youth Parliament) in Nov 2019 which is held in the House of Commons was scuppered by inclement weather and disrupted travel and she was unable to make the journey to London. The 2020 sitting has sadly been cancelled due to Covid Restrictions with a possibility of it being deferred until Spring 2021.

The visit to House of Commons and opportunity to sit on the green benches is the biggest highlight of being an elected MYP and we are determined that Julija will get the opportunity before her term as MYP comes to an end.

Julija attended the UKYP Annual Conference 2019 at Leeds University where she met with all the MYPs from across United Kingdom in an informative weekend where elected members put forward, discussed and voted on issues to be added to the UKYP Manifesto. Although they did work throughout the weekend ,young people also managed to have some fun with quizzes, games, and a very strange silent disco. The 2020 Conference has not been quite as sociable as it was held virtually during September. A marathon two-day event that required Julija to listen to and vote on manifesto proposals. Julija presented her own point for inclusion and debate; 'Give Immigrants Under the Settlement Scheme the Right to Vote in General Elections'. The motion was passed with little opposition and is now included in the UKYP Manifesto.

– Julija is supported by her Deputy MYP Alex Bainbridge.

"This past year has been so rewarding. I am so grateful for the amazing opportunities that I've been given this year to represent young people across so many different platforms. From sitting in local meetings to national gatherings like the annual conference I've been able to make the voices of our local young people heard and I'm super excited to continue to do so."



Young Mayor

Zaynah Jamal (17) has been elected as Interim Young Mayor for North Lincolnshire following the resignation of Levi Bonnett.

We wish to thank Levi for his contribution to NLYC and Young Voice during his term in office and wish him well in his chosen career path.

"It has been a privilege to serve as Young Mayor and an honour to represent the young people of North Lincolnshire. I take with me nothing but treasured memories and will be forever grateful for the unwavering support the local community has provided. Serving as Young Mayor has been an extraordinary experience – an experience that has helped boost my confidence, given me a strong sense of purpose and a drive to make a difference in the community."

Levi Bonnett



As we were unable to hold a wider election (Covid 19) Zaynah was elected by members of NLYC and has taken to the role with enthusiasm and an abundance of ideas. A committed and well-liked member of NLYC she is proud to become North Lincs first female young mayor.

Zaynah has the ability to inject a sense of fun into every event she attends, encouraging other young people to have pride in our area and aspire to being the best they can be. Zaynah has already started planning an event fund with an NLYC team to fund raise for a local charity. Although this will take place next year this may prove the toughest challenge to date for NLYC!

However, Zaynah can equally represent young people in more serious matters and meetings taking her place at CYPP and alongside the Mayor of North Lincs raising the Pride Flag.

ELECTION UPDATE:

An extraordinary NLYC meeting was held to propose that the Feb 2021 NLYC Elections be postponed until 2022 to allow for Covid recovery and to bring into line with British Youth Council terms of MYPs being elected into 2 year roles starting with new cohort 2022-24. Youth Council Members voted unanimously for the proposal to postpone elections until Feb 2022 and current roles remain until that time.

"I didn't come into the role in the conventional way through wider youth elections, but that doesn't mean I won't give it my all. I'm really hoping to make a lasting, positive impact for the young people in our area and I will do everything I can to do and that by making sure there are enough opportunities for everyone and making it easily accessible for everyone to find."





10.18am | Feeling: Diplomatic

Faces and Voices of NLYC



Isobel Andrews - Chair

Isobel has recently been elected by her peers as Chair of NLYC. As a popular and long-standing member, she demonstrates strong leadership and organisational skills which helps keep meetings running to time. Isobel is very much a 'doer' and gets 'stuck in' to any projects or campaigns that NLYC take on.

"Isobel is always there/volunteering when people are unable to fulfil the role they signed up for."



Rosie Parkin - Young Ambassador - Covid Champion 2020

Rosie has been a member of NLYC for over 6 years, reliable and kind Rosie is the 'glue' that holds the group together. Always promoting Young Voice, always committed and an excellent ambassador. During lockdown Rosie posted daily videos on social media documenting family life during the pandemic - all 90 of them! Rosie is moving onto to University of Sheffield and we wish her well although she assures us, she will remain a Young Ambassador and will be back and involved albeit virtually.



"Last year Jordan and I were made Young Voice Ambassadors for North Lincolnshire Youth Council. This role has enabled me to view the work we do from a different perspective. Rather than directly influencing our campaigns I have been helping to support other young people to share their ideas and shape the future of our projects. I also have been able to help newer members of youth council to feel more comfortable by supporting them to express their views both locally and regionally."

I have been a part of NLYC for 6 years now and it is amazing to be able to give something back. I have learnt so much during my time and I have a lot of experience to share with others to enable them to make the most of this wonderful experience.

I thoroughly enjoy this role as I love seeing the young people growing in confidence and really finding their feet, it is so rewarding to see."



Jordan Davison - Young Ambassador

Seven years on from first joining NLYC Jordan is still with us. He has moved from Youth Councillor to Young Ambassador and Voluntary Youth Worker. Jordan is a role model and mentor to our members and helps support our team in so many ways - he is a listening ear and friend. He continues to develop his own personal skills and qualifications gaining an award in youth work.



Jordan attended last years Annual Conference as part as his youth work development programme - managing to blag a free night's accommodation and dinner. With a passion for all things transport

related Jordan is the groups must have train travel companion (stops us getting on wrong ones).



Erin Nicholson – NLYC Youth Councillor of Year

Erin is the driving force behind the Positive Steps Group. As Chair she actively promotes the need for young people to have good mental and emotional wellbeing. Not afraid to challenge decision makers and services she voices concerns in these areas and fights for improvements and better resources. Erin is a popular colourful character and was elected Youth Councillor of the Year by other members. She has recently been accepted as a Young Champion for the Anna Freud Institute.

"I would like to nominate Erin for Youth Councillor of the year! Over the past year Erin has done so much work around mental health including with Stairways. I feel like a lot of this work is behind the scenes and off her own back, so she does not always get enough credit. She has attended regional Mental Health conferences as the only young person and confidently delivered workshops to rooms full of professionals.

Most recently she has helped Stairways and other various professionals to create a document about how to protect and support the mental health of young people when returning to school. She always promotes the work of the youth council and does what she can to ensure everything is the best it can be."



Oliver Woodliffe – Good Egg Award Winner



This award goes to someone who quietly goes about achieving and that supporting officers wish to recognise. Oliver worked all last summer on the Healthy Environment project delivering a workshop, riding his bike to show us how dangerous the roads are for cyclists and trying to persuade us to choose healthy food and cook nutritional meals.

He gets involved with scouting activities which have contributed to helping charities. He has recently been in hospital with suspected Meningitis (thankfully it was just a severe virus) and he did not want to miss anything and joined his Scouting meeting online from his hospital bed. He joined Youth Council meetings while he was recovering and under quarantine. We see the confidence growing in Oliver and hope he will continue being a Youth Councillor however we may not play 'Chubby Bunny' again at the next Xmas Party!

(You had to be there to understand why).



Harry Plowright – Youngest Member

Harry is our youngest member of NLYC .
We asked him a few questions around what it was like to be a member.



Why did you want to join Youth Council? -
I wanted to join because it looked like a lot of fun and something I thought I would enjoy.

What were the other members like when you first joined? -
Since I first joined everybody has been kind and friendly and have included me as much as possible.

What are the meetings like? -
Meetings start with Icebreakers such as "What would you do in a zombie apocalypse?". Then we have Youth Council updates, where members that represent us for different things tell us what they have been up to, for example we have a Member of Youth Parliament. After that we usually have a guest speaker who comes in and talks about things that are relevant at the time. Last year we had someone from Humberside Police talking about knife crime. At the end we have a debate and we can vote on the outcome.

What is your favourite part of the meeting? -
My favourite part of the meetings are the debates because we sometimes do weird and fun topics such as "Is Batman a good role model?". We also do serious topics such as "Social Distancing vs The Right to Protest". I really enjoy hearing everybody's thoughts and ideas and their interesting opinions.

What was it like attending your first Convention? -
My first Convention was in Hull at the Guildhall and I was excited because I had never done anything like that before. It was just like a big Youth Council meeting but with young people from all over the region. While I was there, I earned a nickname - Rupert - because the scarf I was wearing at the time looked a lot like the scarf worn by Rupert the Bear. Everybody at Youth Council has a nickname so getting a nickname made me feel really included and like I belonged.



Caitlyn Poole – Quiet Stalwart Member



Caitlyn has been getting involved in youth council since about the age of 8 (thanks initially to some parental connection) and has been attending regularly, supporting events and campaigns. Caitlyn contributes to Young Voice in her own quiet way, promoting NLYC and remaining a loyal member. Not all young people feel comfortable speaking out in front of others but still have opinions and ideas - at NLYC we understand that every young person is different and recognise that our more reserved members are just as valuable as the vociferous ones. Caitlyn has enjoyed joining in with all the virtual meetings where she can contribute via the chat and get involved with whatever makes her feel comfortable - she has proved an invaluable member of the litter picking team!



Alicia Garrod – Newest Member

Alicia is our very newest member and was just starting to get involved in meetings as lockdown happened. We could have easily lost that connection, but the opposite has happened. Alicia has embraced technology and attends not only NLYC meetings virtually but almost all the regional meetings too. Alicia is really stepping up when it comes to environmental campaigns and look forward to building on her enthusiasm in the future. Alicia recently been accepted onto the become part of the Dept of DMCS National Young Inspectors Programme – Well done Alicia.

"I am a relatively new member of the Youth Council joining after of the events that was hosted by NLYC, called The Great Debate . I was invited to join NLYC which I happily excepted. Since joining the Youth Council I have attended several meetings covering a range of important topics.

I have and continue to enjoy my time within the Youth Council, and I continue to get to know the wonderful people who are also a part of this amazing group".



11.45am | Feeling: Helpful

Where are they now

Being a member of youth council gives young people skills and confidence to take them through their future education and career paths . Alongside academic results the involvement they have with NLYC gives value to personal statements and CV's that make applications jump out from the crowd . We always like to keep in touch with our former members and track their progress through life.



Jack Marshall - Jack our founder of Disability Champions has had an amazing year – settling in and completing his first year at Sussex University studying Law and being best man at his sister's wedding . The huge highlight of his year was receiving a British Empire Medal in the New Year's Honours List for all his fundraising efforts for charities- Well Done Jack.



Addison Potter Former Chair of NLYC - Addison was our well-loved Chair and resident comedian. He continues studying Politics at University College London alongside his part-time job as a parliamentary assistant at Westminster.

Kian Borg-Jackson - Young Mayor 2015-2017- Quiet Kian who lead the Be Smart Social Media Campaign is looking forward to studying Maths at Manchester University.

Cameron McFarlane - Young Mayor 2017-2019- Cameron is studying HND in Nautical Science and is an Officer Cadet currently on his first officer placement on a cruise ship sailing the Caribbean.

Jake Newbury - Dep MYP 2017-2019- Who can forget the flamboyant Jake currently studying History at University of Warwick. Continuing his passion for politics and rhetoric Jake is Secretary of the University Conservative Association and remains an elected Bottesford Town Councillor. He has aspirations of becoming either a Criminal Defence Barrister or a Commissioned Officer in Armed Forces.



Minhaz Uddin – MYP 2013-15 Minhaz was our youngest MYP and now studying Law at De Montford University.



12.08pm | Feeling: Involved



Make Your Mark, Annual Sitings and Great Debate 2019-20

Make Your Mark (MYM) is the British Youth Council's annual youth ballot where young people across the county have their say on issues that matter to them. The MYM ballot is the cornerstone of youth democracy and we encourage any young person to cast their ballot and have their voice heard.

The results are collated nationally, those issues receiving the most votes are debated in the House of Commons by members of the UK Youth Parliament at their Annual Debate. The outcomes help to shape the British Youth Council's national campaign, as well as influencing local actions and priorities. NLYC members and officers work with learning settings to encourage students to cast their vote between August and October. In 2019 most mainstream schools and both colleges submitted votes and for the fifth time the ballot was extended to include Year 6's in primary schools.

In North Lincolnshire, 8485 of our young people voted. This represented 51% of those eligible to vote and once again gave us the top turnout in the Yorkshire and Humber region.

2019 saw the introduction of a new look ballot paper which offered young people wider opportunity to vote on issues in both a UK Wide topics section and a Devolved topic section.

There was also year a space added to the ballot paper that allowed young people to write in a local issue that they felt was of importance.

BALLOT PAPER



Who makes decisions about what issues?

Important decisions are made by different groups of people depending on where you live in the UK. Some power is shared between the UK Parliament in London, the Scottish Parliament, the Assemblies in Northern Ireland and Wales and some Mayors in England (Devolved Issues). Other decisions that affect all the UK can only be made by the UK Parliament in London (UK Issues).

YOU HAVE 3 VOTES. 1 UK issue, 1 Devolved issue and 1 local issue important to you.

Put a cross next to one UK issue you want to vote for

- Protect the Environment** We believe that we have a responsibility to protect the environment from the effects of climate change for the next generation; and that the Government should look towards carbon neutral alternatives.
- Votes at 16** Give 16 and 17 year olds the right to vote in all elections/referendums.
- Tackling Hate Crime** We should be educated on how to report hate crime. We believe the Government should invest in creating safe spaces that promote unity in communities.
- Make the United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child (UNCRC) Statutory Law** This is important for children's rights. The UK government agrees with it but they don't currently have to follow it; we believe they should and make sure our voices are heard in all decisions that affect us.
- Welcome Refugees** Everyone deserves the right to live without fear of death and persecution so we believe that refugees should be welcomed into communities in the UK.

Put a cross next to one devolved issue you want to vote for

- Curriculum to Prepare Us for Life** Schools should cover topics like finance, sex and relationship education and politics.
- Tackle Child Poverty** No-one should have a disadvantaged start in life just because of their financial position; the Government should do more to put an end to child poverty.
- Mental Health** Services should be improved with young people's help, and should be available in schools.
- Stop street Harassment** We think it needs to be recognised more. It could be stopped through investment in local strategies; and by both consulting young people and educating young people.
- Put an End to Knife Crime** Too many young people's lives are lost to knife crime; the Government need to do more to help end the knife crime epidemic.

Write down the one local issue most important to you in the box below

The top Make Your Mark ballot issues for North Lincolnshire are outlined below:

UK Wide Issue: Protect the Environment -

We believe that we have a responsibility to protect the environment from the effects of climate change for the next generation; and that the Government should look towards carbon neutral alternatives (51%).



Devolved Issue: Put an end to Knife crime -

Too many young people's lives are lost to knife crime; the Government need to do more to help end the knife crime epidemic (38%).

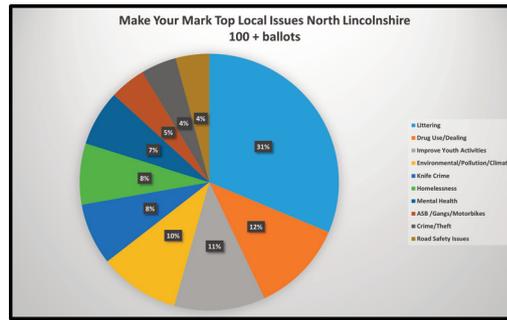


Local Issues: Young people were also given the opportunity to put forward a local issue that is of concern to them. Issues receiving most ballots were:

- Littering (31%).
- Drug use and drug dealing (12%).
- Lack of youth activities and provisions (11%).

These top issues will help shape the North Lincolnshire Youth Council work plan, including North Lincolnshire's Great Debate events.

Taking account of the outcomes of Make Your Mark, Members of Youth Parliament took part in their Annual Debate in the House of Commons, which was chaired for the first time by the new Speaker of the House Sir Lindsay Hoyle. Young people debated the top issues and then voted on which two would become the national campaigns for the year ahead. On Friday 9th November 2019, our MYP Julija Solovjova was all set to attend but extreme weather and flooding prevented her traveling down to London. Julija understandably was very disappointed.



12.54pm | Feeling: Inquisitive

Great Debate

The Secondary Great Debate was held in January 2020. The event was well attended by 58 students from 10 schools and colleges. The Great Debate event young people to learn more about issues they voted for and to discuss their opinions in an open forum.

NLYC Members hosted the event alongside wider partners who facilitated informative workshops on the top issues in the morning session, and then in the afternoon young people get to debate a question again based on those subjects.

Unfortunately, the Primary Great Debate scheduled for June had to be cancelled due to the Covid pandemic.



I was involved with the great debate sitting in on all workshops and helping deliver or explain where needed. Additionally, I was the debate lead for the lower secondary young people, I ensured that everybody had a fair chance to speak whilst also helping get wanted answers to the adult's questions. I found it very interesting what the young people thought about subjects around drugs, crime, transport, and local sporting opportunities. I feel that as a result it showed gaps in knowledge which can easily be addressed. I think it can help shape new projects and how they are delivered to different aged young people as to make them effective projects. I would like to see follow up actions around policing and how they teach young people about drugs and knife crime to raise awareness and reduce risk.



1.16pm | Feeling: Mindful

Make Your Mark 2020

As the pandemic has disrupted the normal ballot process and timeline, this year's ballot will be held electronically, and all voting will be online.

Schools and Colleges are encouraged to register and participate in the ballot over the month of November.



2.01pm | Feeling: Empowered



Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing – The Positive Steps group

Mental health is high on everyone's agenda now not least to the NLYC who have been championing 'Positive Steps' for some time. The links made between members of this group and the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) are well-established and continue to meet monthly to promote positive emotional wellbeing and develop resources that help towards reducing the stigma of mental health in young people.

Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust very kindly donated funds to translate and print the Positive Steps Leaflet into five different languages- Lithuanian, Polish, Romanian, Bengali and Urdu these leaflets will be distributed into health care and settings with the aim of reaching young people and their families from different communities. The group also worked with the engagement team to produce some informative films -click on the link below to view.

www.northlincslocaloffer.com/children-and-young-people/positive-health-and-ewb/

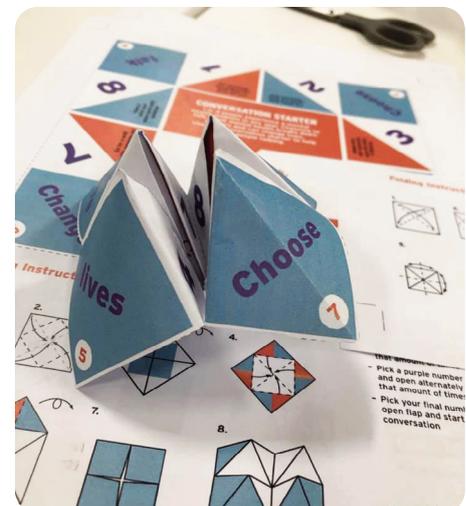
The group continue to promote their positive body image project 'Be Unique ' producing posters for distribution to schools, colleges and venues young people attend.

Life Central continues to grow under the guidance of the Positive Steps steering group. Following mental health champion training there was discussion about whether teens are aware of brain development and that what they go through in their teen years is "normal". An animation has been produced on the Teen Brain (with the teen brain wearing Converse!) to help explain the adolescent brain. This has been added to the Life Central website along with a page containing further information.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=zWdtus2cS2Q&feature=youtu.be

The group expressed concern over the pressures of exams and the anxiety young people feel during that period. They developed a list of tips and suggestions that may help students tackle the stress of revision and exams. These tips have been incorporated into pens which have a pull-out banner and will be distributed to students at beginning of exam season 2021.

Positive Steps is now working under the strong and committed chairpersonship of Erin Nicholson; who is passionate around addressing mental health in young people. Erin has rose to the challenges that the pandemic has brought and encouraged the group to keep meeting and remain proactive.





3.16pm | Feeling: Safe

LGBTQ

NLYC is a diverse and inclusive organisation that welcomes all young people sexuality, gender or race. Members promote acceptance and celebrate differences. The Young Mayor and Member of Youth Parliament joined the Mayor of North Lincs, Leader of the Council and the CEO of North Lincs Council to raise the Pride flag in a socially distanced virtual ceremony.

www.facebook.com/northlincscouncil/videos/271397154280182

Addressing issues around those 11-18 year olds identifying as LGBTQ+ the recently formed group Rainbow Youth North Lincs provides young people a safe place that allows them the space to socialise, feel supported, hold discussions and have a voice. The group will feed into the Yorkshire and Humber regional LGBTQ+ Young Voice and be supported to attend regional conventions and events.



Rainbow Youth North Lincs Report 2020



This year has been a year of highs and lows for many people and the same is true for Rainbow Youth North Lincs (RYNL). RYNL relaunched in 2019

with the support of North Lincolnshire Council.

We were kindly provided with the use of Bottesford Youth Centre funded by the Youth Service who also provided the support of a Youth Work student to help run the sessions. Sessions have followed a format of a more formal section which has an agenda to socialising. With support from Frederick Gough School the group grew in members as members of the school's own group started to attend.

It soon became clear that the group members wanted more than just to meet and share their experiences. They are an active group of young people who want to make life easier for other LGBTQ+ young people.

With support from North Lincolnshire Youth Council links have been forged with the Yorkshire and Humber regional Youth Work Unit. Some of our members have been fortunate enough to attend regional events.

In November 2019, the group made the decision to become independent. This change in the Constitution has opened new funding streams and allowed the development of further grass roots links. A Board was set up to manage the group.

The group continues to meet fortnightly with up to 20 members attending each time. We made the decision to continue to make attendance free to increase inclusivity and reduce disadvantage. Members are between 11 and 18 years of age. A chair and secretary were elected at our inaugural Annual General Meeting in September 2019. The chair attends Board meetings and reports to the Youth Council. The chair was fortunate to be voted into the role of LGBTQ+ Champion for North Lincs.

As a result of our numbers increasing, we sadly outgrew Bottesford Youth Centre. The group are now sponsored by Castles Education Ltd, who kindly provide us with the use of their school free of charge.

The new venue is larger which provides us with space for break out discussions and room for our numbers to continue to grow. Castles is situated in Scunthorpe Town Centre so also more central, with better transport links.

£200 kindly donated to the group from the Rotary Club 'Swimathon' funded our first independent trip - a Christmas Bowling party. It was great to see everyone enjoying themselves and getting to know each other in a safe, public environment.

Rainbow Youth have a social media presence with Facebook and Instagram accounts along with Snap Chat groups to keep in touch. We have also become a nominated charitable group with Lincs Lotto which will provide us with a regular income which will help with forward planning. The group members also make items for sale and have other ideas in the pipeline to help raise funds.

The group would like there to be a consistent approach to LGBT+ issues and support in secondary schools and colleges across North Lincolnshire. They have been working in partnership with Jemima Flintoft from North Lincolnshire Council to move this forward.

The young people have high hopes to improve acceptance and to celebrate the diversity of the LGBT+ community. Plans to hold a Family Pride event in North Lincolnshire in 2020 were unfortunately put on hold due to the coronavirus pandemic. A partnership has been forged with Cafe Independent. A fund-raising event due to be held at Cafe INDIE was also cancelled but will hopefully take place in due course. The group are determined to make this happen in 2021.

With continued support we hope to make North Lincs Family Pride 2021 an amazing event enjoyed by the whole community.

Thanks to the continued support of North Lincolnshire Youth Council, RYNL are beginning to develop connections with other LGBT+ young people's groups in the Yorkshire and Humber region. In the next 12 months we plan to visit other groups and arrange for them to visit us here in North Lincolnshire. We hope to use these opportunities to develop a regional identity, share ideas, support each other, and aim for our region to make a foothold in the national LGBT+ young people's agenda.

Andy Lambie
Group Facilitator

Rainbow Youth North Lincs

Max Lambie is the youth council LGBTQ+ Champion and the Chair of Rainbow Youth Group. He is the link between the two groups and makes sure information is shared.

"This year as the LGBTQ+ champion of North Lincolnshire Youth council I have achieved many things in many different areas. My goals for this year were to develop the group, to hold a Pride Event in Scunthorpe North Lincs and try to make small changes that help LGBTQ+ young people but especially transgender teens and children. I believe that the group has developed a lot, our group went from 3 people to near 20 which was a massive increase. We started to pull together a plan of what we wanted to do together.

- create LGBTQ+ information notice boards in secondary schools
- label LGBTQ+ books in libraries near us with a rainbow sticker
- create a fun, family friendly pride and hold a fundraising event towards this.

We started to design and consult with authorities about the boards, but because of COVID-19 we couldn't go any further with that project, but we're hoping to carry that on and change the board termly and half termly when it's safe to do so.

We did get every LGBTQ+ book labelling in Scunthorpe Central Library is something we are proud of because we had quite a few members who struggled to find books that showed representation of who we are.

We hope to try and do the same thing in more libraries near us as we have members all round North Lincolnshire.

We did create a Pride plan and it was going to be held at the end of July 2020 but because of COVID-19 we could not hold this event. We were also going to host a fundraising evening at Cafe Indie, but this also was affected by the pandemic. The Cafe has suggested that when they open again and it is safe to do so, we can hold the fundraiser then and hold the Pride in the summer of 2021. This would have been an extremely exciting event for us as there has never been a Pride event near us before but however we will continue to plan for Pride 2021 and make it as much as fun possible.

As a group, we have struggled to meet all together online owing to various reasons such as danger of being 'outed' at home and not wanting to be on camera. These are understandable and we are hoping to be back to normal as soon as possible with a social distanced meeting in a park or something like that so we can get back to planning amazing things together again.

Personally, I have achieved many amazing things in school. In the past year I have performed speeches to fellow students at my school. I did a presentation to promote the group on an assembly and I have spoken with the school counsellor to Year 7s, 8s and 11s about the importance of accepting and respecting lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. I have now left my secondary school, but I hope to do more speeches for future students and try to make The St Lawrence Academy the safest place possible for LGBTQ+ young people, like me."



4.03pm | Feeling: Heard



Disability Champions

Initiated by member Jack Marshall, the group was formed in 2017 and now chaired by Harrison Lawrence.

The Disability Champions group had quite a lot planned this year, but unfortunately, this all had to be put on hold due to the current situation with COVID-19. We reviewed our aims at the beginning of the year to ensure we had a clear vision for the future. In short, the Disability Champions group aims to promote inclusion of people with disabilities, educate people about different disabilities, and help prevent discrimination against those with disabilities.

One of our current projects is the accessibility at Scunthorpe Vue cinema. The group have tried to seek a meeting with the manager of the cinema to discuss wheelchair access for families, as well as viewing comfort for wheelchair users, as they are currently restricted to low rows (usually A and B), which often causes neck pain. As the cinema has been closed, we have not been able to progress this issue.

Another ambition we had was to create a series of 'Journey/Shopping Assistance Cards,' which aimed to make using public transport easier for those with disabilities. They would have been able to present a card to the bus driver, which included things such as, 'Please tell me when we reach my stop' or 'Please count my change for me,' or 'Please help me find a seat. The cards would have catered for a range of disabilities, ranging from physical impairments, sensory impairments or learning difficulties. We have recently learnt that there may be a government initiative in the pipeline to produce a standard set of assistance cards to be used by all transport service providers – at present there are many different types. We will wait to see if this happens prior to producing our own.

Disability Champions wish to maintain and build links with Cygnets and St Hugh's Communication College by visiting these settings when Covid restrictions allow.

We also asked SEND young people to reflect their views on the pandemic, these are Harrison's thoughts.

"Due to my disability, I do not go out for socialisation or otherwise as much as other young people, so I do not think the lockdown has affected me in the same way as other young people who are perhaps more active, or miss being able to interact with their friends often. I have instead used this time to complete transitional work for college, as well as devote more time to a hobby that I am extremely passionate about - gaming! This way, I can ensure that my transition to the next stage of my education goes as smoothly as possible while keeping my spirits up by pursuing my interests."



Rosie Parkin herself has Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, she also has four siblings one with special educational needs.

Challenges of SEND in lockdown:

"Lockdown has been unprecedented and challenging for everyone. For those with special educational needs and disabilities it is no different. As a family we have found ourselves facing new challenges but also finding lots of positives too.

Normally, in North Lincs, the support network for those with SEND and their families is fantastic. Support services link in well with a variety of educational settings, and comprehensive plans are in place. Unfortunately, when schools closed, and lockdown was announced life became much more challenging. Children were now at home all day; routines were changed, and support networks interrupted. In my case, this made things quite difficult for my brother, we found that our house became quite chaotic and the familiar day to day processes became disrupted. There is also anxiety for him around when lockdown will end, when he can go back to school and what is going to happen next. Fortunately, we found a new routine combining work and play that is really helping to manage it and enjoy our family time.

For me, lockdown has presented different challenges. I have struggled with the lack of physical activity and I have really noticed that it has impacted my joints. I used to swim a couple of nights a week to help keep my joints moving. It really helps to reduce my pain and dislocations, however because of lockdown all the leisure

centres closed. I am unable to run or cycle as it is too high impact, and after a few weeks I noticed my pain levels had increased and my joints were more unstable. I started going for family afternoon walks which has helped my mental health as well as my physical health.

There have been some services which have continued to try and support us through this challenging time. Therefore, I would like to give a big shout out to Beth Coombs from the young carers team whose socially distanced visits have really helped! Also, another shout out to Stuart Pattison from the physical disabilities team who has rung every week and has been incredibly supportive throughout this whole experience.

Whilst this time has been challenging, we have found positives in it. We have spent a lot more time together as a family and I feel like it has brought us closer! Normally we are all rushing about straight from one thing to another but now we have time to really appreciate each other's company. It is naive to think that life will go back to the way it used to be, the likelihood is that we have to find a new kind of normal. Hopefully, the kids of North Lincs with SEND will not have too long to wait before services can come back on board, and we can get back to doing some of the things that we love."



5.37pm | Feeling: Involved



Young People Promoting Young Voice and Representing Young People at a Regional Level

In addition to working with and representing their peers locally members of NLYC attend conventions across the Yorkshire and Humber region. The conventions focus on developing skills, sharing good practice, networking, and enabling regional campaigns to develop. The conventions are planned by the young people themselves as part of a steering group. In North Lincolnshire, our Steering Group Representative is Rosie Parkin whose report features below.

This year has been very productive and interesting when it comes to the regional work.

We started off with a Youth Climate Summit in Leeds in August 2019. This was attended by six members of NLYC and we managed to include a visit to The Royal Armouries. At the event we had a talk from an academic doctor about the science behind climate change and what is likely to happen in the future. We then had a tabletop session where we discussed what we can do as individuals, as communities and what we can ask of government.



In October we travelled to Halifax for Convention 2. Here we discussed the importance of youth work in recognition of the 30 years anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child. We also ran workshops on establishing the differences between banter and bullying and outlined the importance of respecting other people's personal space. I hosted a workshop on transport to help plan for the upcoming regional event! We finished off by celebrating the Make Your Mark results and planning how we are going to use them in our local areas.

On November 2nd North Lincolnshire hosted the long awaited Second Young People's Transport Conference! We invited transport providers from across the Yorkshire and Humber region to take part in workshops.



These workshops were about disability access and journey assistance, ID cards and cross boundary travel, and ticketing.

We finished off our events this year with Convention 3 in Hull in January 2020. During the morning we learnt about a new educational resource Pol-Ed and then held Youth Voice Star Awards ceremony! The afternoon saw us all walking across Hull and experiencing an amazing trip to the Deep to learn about climate change and the impact it has on our oceans and of course to look at the fascinating sea life.

It was shortly after this that things got interesting. On 23rd March lockdown was announced meaning none of our planned events, including the annual Dearne Valley residential, could go ahead. This meant we had to get creative. We decided to host weekly sessions on Zoom. At these sessions we tried to cover information we usually would at events, such as roles and responsibilities. Every other week we held a Q+A session with one of the region's MPs. These sessions proved to be incredibly popular and really fun way of keeping in touch with everyone!



Overall, we have had a very busy year and I think we have adapted well to the challenges 2020 has thrown at us!



4.56pm | Feeling: Excited

Local Litter and Environment Issues

Make Your Mark ballot help identify that the problem of littering was an issue that concerned the young people of North Lincolnshire . Both the former Young Mayor Levi Bonnett and present Young Mayor Zaynah Jamal have met with the Leader of the Council on several occasions to discuss ways of tackling the litter problem , encourage responsible disposal of rubbish and address the plastic pollution problem.

Alongside the Leader they have been active taking part in litter picking along the Ironstone Walk and more recently Queensway in support of Big September Clean Up.

Zaynah has expressed a wish to create a Young Mayor's Environment Award where by young people can be nominated by town councils/parishes, schools/colleges , youth groups or parents to receive an award in recognition of their efforts to make their community in North Lincs a better place.

The award scheme will be launched soon.



5.15pm | Feeling: Involved

Transport



THE PEOPLE'S POWERHOUSE





Regional Transport Event 2nd November 2019 – Scunthorpe.

In October 2018, the regional Youth Voice Steering Group co-hosted with Transport for the North a regional Transport event. The aim of the event was to raise awareness with transport providers some of the issues young people experience when using public transport.

A year on the Yorkshire & Humber (YH) Youth Voice Steering Group in partnership with North Lincolnshire Youth Council hosted a follow up event, to bring those providers back together and check on progress. This event was hosted in Scunthorpe in part in recognition of the contribution towards transport infrastructure by British Steel. But also, to demonstrate the challenges young people face when traveling across the region. Supported with funding from People's Powerhouse and Erasmus by 38 young participants from across the region with representatives from 5 Transport providers.

The event was planned and hosted by young people from North Lincolnshire Youth Council and members of the regional steering group. Building on the previous year's agenda, they identified topics they wanted to follow up these included; Disability Accessibility and Journey Assistance, ID and Cross boundary Travel and Ticketing, which they explored through interactive workshops and a panel Q&A with Transport Providers and Commissioners. Additionally, the day explored the future of public transport in light of climate change and Dr Gesa Reiss shared her insights into the development of sustainable travel.

Feedback was very positive and gave participants the opportunity to reflect on how they can reduce their personal travel carbon footprint. Service providers and decision makers listened to the young people and took information back to their respective companies /local authorities for discussion with colleagues.

"I was involved with the transport conference and helped host the ticketing workshop along with Levi. As well as this I helped set up and run other workshops, take notes for feedback, and manage the debates among the guests. I learned the background and reasons for ticket prices, mainly focused on buses. I also found it interesting how the prices can fluctuate depending on the number of users. Overall, within other workshops and within the main conversation we discussed sustainable transport and how the energy used can be renewable too. All those in attendance learned about the positive attributes of using sustainable transport and ways that young people can be encouraged to use public transport to reduce North Lincolnshire carbon footprint. As a result of these discussions I would like for the representatives of the transport companies to try and integrate the ideas surrounding sustainability in order to help shape change and development within these companies – to help make public transport sustainable and more affordable for young people as well as those with disabilities." – Isobel, Age 15

*"We will be feeding back what we have heard into our 'peoples plan for the north' session at our convention" – Stephanie Riches
People's Powerhouse*

*"We will be looking at issues Young Carers have when travelling/ use of a disabled companion pass? the availability of Journey Assistance Cards and training improvement on companion passes. We need better conduct between the bus industry and young people at a national level." – Bob Rackley
East Yorkshire Buses*

*"Simplification - reduce the number of ticket options to make it similar for users across the region. ID Scheme - work towards standardisation across the region. Rurality - improve and target services to more rural areas to give young people more opportunities. We will focus on the above points and try to involve young people/youth councils in the region as we develop our services." – Dave Skepper
StageCoach East Midlands*



Remembrance Day Parade

The Former Young Mayor, MYP and Young Voice Ambassador joined members of the armed forces, veterans, and cadets in the annual parade in memory of those fallen in times of conflict. They laid a poppy wreath at the memorial on behalf of the young people of North Lincolnshire.



Healthy Environments

In Dec 2018 three public health officers attended a Youth Council meeting to discuss issues surrounding healthy weight and a Trailblazer bid proposal.

They found the discussion extremely helpful and the insights provided by council members were invaluable. As a result of the discussion they modified and submitted the bid proposal. Unfortunately, amongst fierce competition the bid was not successful, but the ideas put forward by members sparked what would turn out to be an exciting project.

Five young people set out armed with Go Pro cameras to look into individual areas of interest that would help to give some understanding on how the environment around us (virtual and physical) affects the food and exercise choices young people make.

Over the summer break with support from an undergraduate from Hull University they researched, recorded data, and made films in the following subject areas.

- Leisure Centre Catering Facilities healthy or unhealthy?
- Urban Green Spaces and the barriers that stop young people using them.
- Product Promotion in supermarkets and on digital platforms.
- Calories and labelling that influence choices.
- Convenience of Fast Food, shops, and apps.
- Cycling – danger versus health benefits.

The information these young people had pulled together was of such quality that it was decided that they would host a Healthy Environments Conference for professionals and present their ideas and findings.

The day was well attended, and the young people facilitated workshops and answered questions enabling professionals to take away the information and apply to their service areas.

Summer 2020 highlighted the fact that being overweight was putting people at greater risk of serious illness or death from Covid 19 and prompted the government to publish an Obesity Strategy and launch a Better Health Campaign led by Public Health England.

Many of the recommendations in the strategy echoed the research and findings that our young people had discovered the previous year and they are proud to say that in their words 'we beat you to it Boris'.

With the launch of the Better Health Campaign our young people once again became enthused and have started to look and review the original project with the thought of organising another follow-up conference.

"I was involved with this conference by originally signing up for a health orientated project. After a few months, the project started to take off and ideas of a conference began. I took interest in the areas around product advertisement as well as subliminal messaging. I researched information and examples across a period of around 6 months as well as creating my presentation in this time. As a result, I learned how companies use specified and targeted advertising to increase sales and encourage customers to return to their business. As I hosted this event, I found it important to show the audience how susceptible we are to subliminal advertising. I feel presenting this conference we as young people showed the professionals how hard it is to remove certain unhealthy products from our daily lives – it is not just one quick and easy fix. Also, I feel the professionals learned about North Lincolnshire itself through the young people's eyes; it was highlighted how hard it can be to maintain a healthy lifestyle within the local area. As a result of our workshops I have seen the development of a healthier targeted leisure centre at Baysgarth. I would however like to see the number of healthier targeted products around North Lincolnshire to increase, for example: healthier vending machines and healthier fast-food shops."- Isobel



6.00pm | Feeling: Helpful

Local Policing

NLYC continue to maintain strong links with Humberside Police and PCC office. Sgt Main is a regular and welcome guest speaker at meetings and events. Julija Solovjova attends the North Lincs Independent Advisory Group on a regular basis. At present she is the only young person on the group and her input is appreciated. Julija was recently invited to attend the Humberside Police Diversity and Inclusion Conference in Hull, this gave her the opportunity to voice her opinions, network and experience a legitimate ride in a police van.



Reporting Crime and the methods in which that can be done is an area that young people often ask questions about. In response a small working group have joined forces with the Engagement Officer (North Lincs) at the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to develop some information resources that will appeal to young people.



6.45pm | Feeling: Helpful

Holocaust Memorial

Holocaust Remembrance on Jan 27th, Former Young Mayor Levi Bonnett had the honour of attending North Lincolnshire Holocaust Memorial Service and reading the explanation of 'stone laying' to those attending. Holocaust recognition and remembrance has been a subject that our young people have been interested in exploring. In previous years NLYC have twice visited the Holocaust Exhibition and Learning Centre at the University of Huddersfield. Youth Councillors have had the opportunity to take part in a bespoke and thought-provoking workshop. The young people came away with new knowledge and awareness of prejudice and the difficulty in choices that were made and how this may reflect contemporary times. We have maintained links with the centre and during July were given the chance to join a webinar with Ruth Barnett. Ruth Barnett was born in Berlin in Jan 1935. Ruth survived Holocaust, by being part of the Kindertransport (Children's Transport) sent to England.

The webinar was informative and created discussions around identity, anti-Semitism, Germanophobia and the effect that these issues had on Ruth and her daughter's lives. Ruth was so impressed by our young people that she has expressed the wish to hold more conversations with them in the future.





7.36pm | Feeling: Helpful

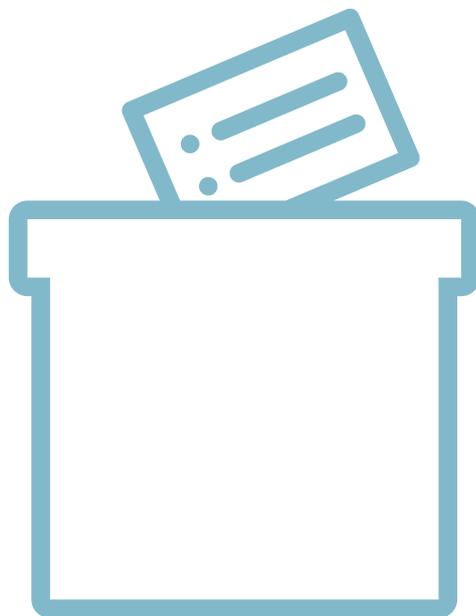
Understanding Democracy and encouraging future voters

The Youth Council believe that it is important to educate young people on the meaning of democracy, why we vote and the importance of having your voice heard. We have found that young people do not know what to expect when they first vote as an adult in elections. With this in mind, we attended Frederick Gough School and gave a demonstration to several young people on how the system worked. The students were able to experience a mock-up of a polling station, how the station worked and the voting process. After discussing mock manifestos, they were then able to vote for their chosen party and candidate. Students were then chosen to count the votes and declare the winner.

Some of the comments received from the students were:

"it was really interesting, and they felt more prepared".

"I had not seen a polling booth or box before and I now feel reassured about voting".





8.10pm | Feeling: Helpful



Campaigning and Activism during Covid-19

2020 has been an eventful year regarding campaigning and activism. Many of our young people are members of NLYC because they want to have a voice on issues that matter to them. We campaign on issues selected through the Make Your Mark Process. This often reflects wider public concerns for example protecting the environment and tackling knife crime. We as an organisation are apolitical. We act as advocates and conduits

for young people :setting up meetings with those who have the power to make change happen such as MP's and Local Authority Decision Makers

As thousands across the country joined protests our NLYC members many who hold strong views looked at other ways they could use their collective voice in a Covid Safe Environment.

Campaigning during these times has been different, to say the least. We have never experienced anything like this and had no idea what to expect. We had so many plans and such a good momentum going for it all to just come to a halt so getting used to this new way of living took some time. I was worried about how much we could actually accomplish while not being able to leave our homes, what could we actually do?

Turns out, quite a lot. Social media has played a vital role during this pandemic, from educating peers to donating to charities. There are 229 million active users on Snapchat, 800 million on TikTok and over 1 billion on Instagram, posting something on your story may not seem like a big thing but if two friends repost it 2 friends of theirs may repost that and so on, this way you've now reached thousands of people. A great advantage of this is that you can post virtually everything, links to petitions to sign, links for charity donations, informative posts, and anything else you might find helpful.

But even if someone is unable to post on their social media for whatever reason there are still so many things that can be done. For example, there are multiple YouTube videos and Twitch streams

where creators are donating all the money made from ad revenue and donated gifts to charities, these videos can easily be put on in the background whenever you're doing something. As well as this people can sign petitions on websites such as change.org or petition.parliament.uk even if they're not able to publicly share for others to sign.

One of the main things we can do is educate ourselves to understand topics to the best of our abilities, there are so many informative documentaries people can watch on platforms like Netflix or YouTube or listen to podcasts on Spotify or other podcast platforms. There are also many educational books people can buy or find online.

Overall this has shown how loud our voices can be even while we're all sat in our bedrooms. Campaigning now is definitely different, but with the technology available to us now a pandemic and quarantine shouldn't stop people campaigning for what they think is right, it certainly hasn't stopped us. If anything we've actually been able to reach far more people and I believe this will change the way we campaign for the better.

– Zaynah age 18



9.05pm | Feeling: Helpful

Impact of Exams and Education

The pandemic has had an immense effect on our young people's education. Schools and colleges closing have meant that exams, transition days, end of year proms have all been deferred. Home schooling requires self-discipline amongst distractions created by being in lockdown for many weeks. Those in Years 11 and 13 were left in limbo wondering how with examinations cancelled they

would achieve the results they had worked so hard towards.

When the government awarded their grades calculated using the controversial algorithm many young people were understandably disappointed. Three of our members shared their personal experiences.

*"Throughout my time studying at John Leggott College, I had worked inside and outside of college to enable me to receive results to set me apart from other students to gain access to a top 10 university. Dealing with personal circumstances as well as working a part time job and being a full-time student can be difficult to balance. However, I still always managed to put my A levels first. The fact we were unable to take exams was a choice completely out of my control, I could understand why but it was still frustrating. As students leaving Six Forms, we have had to sacrifice an awful lot over the past few months to help fight the Covid 19 pandemic. Staying home, missing proms, final goodbyes with one another to just mention a few. After all this we had been promised results that would enable us to progress. However, the classist system really illustrated otherwise. The 13th of August for me and many alike was a day filled with extreme anxiety. When your predicted A*A*A and received A*BB it does not really seem to match your personal expectations which only grew as we waited over 5 months for our exam results. With the efforts of many young people and supportive staff members, immense pressure influenced the government to allow us to receive CAG (Centre Assessed Grades) grades instead. Yet I feel as though it is not completely clear if they will be our certificate grades or not. Overall, when you compare the A-level results day to GCSEs I believe they were two different experiences. Simply A-level students like me deserved better. (My CAG grades were A*AB)" – Erin, Age 18*

"The process this year was not only confusing but also incredibly frustrating. As a young person who has given up time with friends and family to study and try and ensure a future for myself, I was shocked to see that my results didn't reflect the work I'd put in or even the results I'd got in the mock exams. Results day should have been a day of celebration, a day I had been looking forward to since starting my second year of college. Instead I saw that through no fault of my own I received grades which were out of my control consequently losing me my place at university. I was scared to put it simply. I had no idea what to do next due to a lack of guidance and support from the government, only able to go off speculation and newspapers instead of clarified advice. CAG grades helped to some extent in that they got me into university but as a law student whose very career relies on their A level grades, I am still under performing. As a result, I must spend an extra year resitting my business exam which could have been avoided if there was better organisation to begin with." – Holly, Age 18

"Initially I was gutted when exams were cancelled. I had worked incredibly hard and sacrificed so much over the previous 2 years to get the best grades possible, so I felt like it had all been a waste. After the announcement about how grades were to be calculated I felt more confident about getting the results I needed to get into university. Then the Scottish results came out. Like most

people, I became very concerned by just how little control I had over my results, so the stress kicked in. Fortunately, when results day came, I was lucky enough for my grades to be the same as my CAGs and I was accepted into my first choice uni. I move into Sheffield to study Zoology on 19th September and I am very excited!"
– Rosie, Age 18

Clearly the pandemic has had an impact on these and many more student's futures or mental wellbeing. As young people return to schools and colleges under Covid Restrictions they will need support and guidance .

Erin helped via NHS Stairways to develop a return to education plan. Helping to pull together a framework with ideas of good practice to deal with

a range of concerns as young people return to education. NLYC through members like Erin and the Positive Steps group will continue to have conversations around student wellbeing as they adjust and settle back into education amidst ever changing guidelines.



9.56pm | Feeling: Excited

The Next Year?

2020 has proved a challenging year and 2021 seems that it too may be a challenge. As NLYC and Young Voice we will continue to meet virtually for the foreseeable future and continue with as many campaigns and projects that restrictions and technology allows. We will try and maintain a platform for young people to have their voices heard and welcome guest speakers to impart information and consult with members.

The next Make Your Mark ballot (electronic) will help inform those campaigns, projects and events that NLYC will focus on. Members will continue to promote positive emotional wellbeing, encourage community pride, and make North Lincolnshire a place where young people feel SAFE, WELL, PROSPEROUS and CONNECTED.



10.27pm | Feeling: Connected

Interested? Join In!

If you are interested in our projects and events - get in touch . North Lincolnshire Youth Council and Young Voice always welcome new members to join. If you as a young person like to have their voice heard want to make a difference and have some FUN contact us – we will get back to you.

Sarah Newton
Democratic Services
01724 298434

Email us on young.voice@northlincs.gov.uk

Parents, Carer's ,Teachers' – if you know any young person that may be interested please show them this publication. Service Providers, decision makers do you need young people's opinions ? NLYC are happy to help.

Website:
www.northlincs.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople

 North Lincs Youth Council

 @NLCYC