



Welcome to the New St Helens Youth Council Newsletter

FIRST YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING

The first school based Youth Council meeting for St Helens Youth Council was held on Thursday 21st March 2019. An amazing 21 representatives from 9 schools attended this meeting. These young people will be the link between their schools and the youth council to enable young people of St Helens' voices to be heard.

Within this meeting the young people were able to introduce themselves and get to know one another to help them work harmoniously throughout the year. They voted on their Chair, Deputy Chair and secretary as well as their 'Pioneers of Sustainable Hope' (P.O.S.H) ambassadors.

They elected -

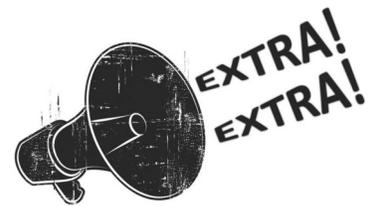
- ◆ Jessica H from Tower College as their Chair
- ◆ Jessica M from St Cuthberts High School as their Deputy Chair
- ◆ Holly S from St Cuthberts High School as their Secretary

For their P.O.S.H ambassadors they elected -

- ◆ Rosie. B from Haydock High School
- ◆ Anna. H from Hope Academy
- ◆ Charlie. S from Rainford High School

The representatives from each school/college so far are -

- ◆ Tarveen. K and Joe. M — Carmel College
- ◆ Kallie.B and Jessica. S— Cowely International College
- ◆ Rosie. B and Summer H—Haydock High School
- ◆ Anna. C, Anna. H and Morgen. L—Hope Academy
- ◆ Owen. R and Liam. A—Lansbury Bridge
- ◆ Charlie. S and Ben. L—Rainford High School
- ◆ Emily. M and Rebecca. N—St Augustines High School
- ◆ Marissa. H, Samuel. M, Jessica. M and Holly Jade. S—St Cuthberts High School
- ◆ Aidan. M and Jessica. H—Tower College



READ ALL ABOUT IT!!!

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MEET ST HELENS YOUTH COUNCIL'S ...

MEMBER OF YOUTH PARLIAMENT AND DEPUTY MEMBER OF YOUTH PARLIAMENT

The young people of St Helens, aged 11 to 18 have voted for their new Member of Youth Parliament and Deputy Member of Youth Parliament.

The United Kingdom Youth Parliament (UKYP) is a national organisation where young people campaign to make positive changes for young people across the country.

St Helens is entitled to have one Member of Youth Parliament (MYP) and one Deputy. The elections took place between 12th February 2019 and 8th March 2019. 17 young people put themselves forward and wrote their own manifestos. These manifestos were shared amongst young people in St Helens, so that they could choose an MYP who they believed best represented them. 4371 young people from 12 schools within the borough voted for their preferred young person.

From these 17 young people, Ben L from Rainford High School was elected as St Helens MYP and Morgan L from Hope Academy was elected as the Deputy MYP.

Ben L and Morgan L both look forward to working with the Youth Council, St Helens Council, MP's and the young people of St Helens over the next two years.

The key issues from Ben L's manifesto—

- ▶ Ending Knife Crime in St Helens
- ▶ Better Transport options and leisure facilities for young people in St Helens

The key issues from Morgan L's manifesto—

- ▶ Ending Knife Crime in St Helens
- ▶ Providing more support for mental illness
- ▶ Ending Homelessness in St Helens



GET READY FOR MAKE YOUR MARK

Make Your Mark is the UK and Europe's largest Youth Consultation, last year 1,106,788 young people across the UK took part.

Any young person aged 11–18 can vote for the issue they believe the UK Youth Parliament should campaign on for the next year. The top issues are then debated at the House of Commons by the Members of Youth Parliament and voted on. Two issues will become campaigns for the UKYP to then campaign on for the next year.

Last year 3,557 young people in St Helens took part in Make Your Mark. 2018's ballot paper had 10 issues which young people could vote upon. They are only allowed to place their vote against one issue. Out of the 10 issues, St Helens' young people voted the below issues as the most important for St Helens -

- * Ending Knife Crime – 702
- * More help with Mental Health – 669
- * Ending Homelessness – 403

Last Year Hope Academy obtained the most ballot papers for Make Your Mark, however St Cuthberts High School had a vast improvement from the year before, when asked how they managed to gather more ballots they said

“We did it differently this year and it worked really well, although it wasn't a true reflection of how voting works, it did at least give everyone the opportunity to see what it's like. We set up a polling station in a classroom and arranged for Year 7 to vote lesson 1, year 8 lesson 2 and so on. I also sent the voting video out a while before hand to show them what it was all about and had this running while they were waiting to vote in the polling station.”

N. Ward -Personal Development Lead

This year the Youth Service are hoping to award the school with the most improved Make Your Mark turn out with a trophy and celebration, we are also hoping to continue this award in the future.

As well as the award, this year the Youth Council representatives for their respective schools, will become Make Your Mark Champions and with the help of the Youth Service will organise and set up the Make Your Make voting within their schools.

Schools will be able to register with UKYP to get their own Make Your Mark ballots and information pack. The Youth Service will also register with UKYP, this will allow schools to have the option of either getting their ballot papers and information pack direct from UKYP or the Youth Service.



NEW MANIFESTO FOR ST HELENS YOUTH COUNCIL

During their first meeting St Helens Youth Council voted on which issues they wanted to campaign on for the year. Their options came from the top 3 issues that were voted by young people in St Helens in 2018 'Make Your Mark' national youth survey.

The top 3 issues that young people in St Helens would like to see a change in were—

- ◆ Ending Knife Crime
- ◆ More help with Mental Health
- ◆ Ending Homelessness

The youth council voted on Campaigning to end knife crime in St Helens, they also wanted to promote the young council to other young people, both in and out of school.

INTRODUCING P.O.S.H

Pioneers of Sustainable Hope (P.O.S.H)

Pioneers of Sustainable Hope (P.O.S.H) has been created by Youth Focus North West and supported by Scottish Power.



A total of 75 POSH Ambassadors aged 13-19 years will be recruited to become the North West POSH development group.

There will be 3 POSH Ambassadors recruited in each local authority, with 6 in Cumbria and Lancashire, due to their geographical size.

POSH Ambassadors will come together as a North West group seven times in 2019.

The POSH Project will:

- ◆ Create a community that takes responsibility for the natural world
- ◆ Young people will be more informed of how human behaviour can help reverse the damage done to the natural world
- ◆ POSH Ambassadors will be enthusiastic about getting a balanced environment for the future

At North West meetings, POSH Ambassadors will:

- ◆ Create an awareness raising campaign
- ◆ Plan how they will influence policy and practice
- ◆ Create an educational resource that teaches how we can live our daily lives without compromising the environment for future generations.
- ◆ Enable other young people to get the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values needed to shape a balanced environment for the future

YOUTHFOCUS RESIDENTIAL

It was a great honour to be invited to attend the annual Youthfocus residential at Brathay Hall in the Lake District. Accompanying me were Rosie B (P.O.S.H) and Morgen L (DMYP) to represent the young people of St Helens' views and to network with other young people from all over the Northwest who were present. I took a lot from the experiences that I was involved in, and I hope I proficiently set this out below.

The weekend was officially opened by Liz Harding – the Youthfocus presiding CEO- and there was a chance to meet fellow MYP's, DMYP's, POSH ambassadors and youth councillors.

The next day started with a 'How to influence decision makers,' and a 'How to influence people in education,' meetings which were very interesting as they provided relevant information on how to force positive change if required in differing environments. Furthermore, the workshops were a relevant opportunity to ask questions to the workshop leaders and collate facts from them which will be useful in the future. After that, in order to socialise with other young people attending the event, there were different activities that we could choose from to partake in, including canoeing, orienteering, banner making and high wire courses. I decided alongside Morgen and Rosie that it would be best to do the orienteering and we were able to meet the MYP's for Bury and South Lakes and Kendal. Afterwards, there was an opportunity for the youth councils in attendance to display their work over the calendar year of 2018 and areas from Sefton, Knowsley, Cheshire East and Cumbria all presented their proactive campaigns including helping people with autism, ending knife crime, and even creating a magazine for young people – called the Blink Magazine- which could be something that our youth council could consider implementing.

Later in the evening, there was an annual awards ceremony for young people and youth workers who had done extraordinary acts in 2018, and I thought that all involved deserve great credit for their achievements. Following that, there was an opportunity to attend a "silent disco," which was great fun. It was a really unique way to end a fantastic day and Rosie, Morgen and I enjoyed getting to meet new people whilst we were at the disco.

On Sunday, the day started with a meeting of all the young people from Merseyside and Cheshire to discuss "why our area is the best," and this was a good way to communicate to others the positive attributes of St Helens in general and for young people in St Helens. After collectively presenting the good things in Merseyside and Cheshire to all the young people in the main marquee at the venue, the opportunity was given for people to speak about their views and opinions on the debate question "Is it right to impact on people's daily lives, in pursuit of climate change protest?" Morgen, Rosie and I all spoke out on the matter in our workshops and it was intellectually stimulating to expose ourselves to people who had differing viewpoints to us.

With that, the weekend had sadly ended and from it I gained some great new friends, some imperative information and a perfervid sense of happiness that I know that I can look back on the weekend with pride and fond memories, but not only that, I can also use the weekend to work hard to ensure that the young people of St Helens also feel the benefit of us attending.



FUTURE DATES

What's on?	When?	Where?	Who can attend?
Youth Focus Northwest meeting with BYC convention	Saturday 22nd June 2019 -10—4pm	Edge Hill University, Ormskirk	MYP, DMYP, P.O.S.H
Srebrenica Memorial Day	Thursday 11th July 2019—Time to be	Town Hall Steps	All who would like to take part
St Helens Against Hate #Betterthanthat	Friday 12th July 2019—7—9pm	Grange Valley Youth Centre	Youth Council Members who have expressed an interest.
Youth Council Cabinet Meeting	Thursday 18th July 2019 9.30—12.30	Council Chamber, Town Hall	Youth Council Representatives and school staff
BYC Annual Conference/Sitting	Friday 2nd August—Sunday 4th Au-	TBC	MYP
Youth Focus Northwest meeting	Sunday 8th September 2019	TBC	MYP, DMYP and any Youth Council mem-
Youth Focus Northwest meeting with	Saturday 12th October 2019	Preston	MYP and DMYP

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