



# THURROCK YOUTH CABINET

OUTCOME REPORT  
2024





## **WHO ARE THURROCK YOUTH CABINET?**

The Youth Cabinet are a group of young people aged 11 to 18 who work together to make Thurrock a better place for young people to live, work and study.

The Youth Cabinet was set-up to give young people in Thurrock a platform to share their voice and helps to ensure that young people's views and ideas are listened to by decision makers.

## **WHAT WAS THE FOCUS FOR 2024?**

At the end of 2023, our Youth Cabinet voted on the themes they wanted their work to focus on in 2024.

Youth Cabinet identified three key issues that they felt were currently affecting young people the most in Thurrock:

- Youth Crime and Safety
- Improving Wellbeing
- The Environment

To help bring awareness to these themes, Youth Cabinet planned a number of projects, activities and campaigns to get other young people in Thurrock involved and aware of their work.

Alongside these issues, another key theme was to increase SEND youth voice by supporting and developing a key group of young people that are representative of their peers. Together with the Youth Cabinet, they were involved in and supported the work on addressing the three key issues that were identified.

## TACKLING KNIFE CRIME AND IMPROVING YOUTH SAFETY

### VISIT TO THE BEN KINSELLA TRUST

To kickstart our work around Youth Crime and Safety, we visited the Ben Kinsella Trust on Tuesday 3 January to explore their exhibition and learn about the impacts of knife crime.



The knowledge that was gained from the visit was used to help inform the Youth Cabinet's work around knife crime; which included awareness campaigns and workshops across the year.

George Hare, Member of Youth Parliament for Thurrock, said: "The visit to the exhibition was so insightful and really inspired us to do more to promote the dangers of knife crime."

### KNIFE CRIME AWARENESS WEEK

George Hare, Member of Youth Parliament for Thurrock, hosted a pop-up display at Ortu Hassenbrook Academy in Stanford-le-Hope to encourage students to pledge a commitment to never carrying a knife and to act responsibly if they learn of someone carrying a knife.

The day was a resounding success with 45 students signing the pledge and 20 teachers signing the teacher's pledge.

**Read more about their pledge and how students were inspired to take action**

### YOUTH SAFETY WEEK

Our Youth Cabinet ran a Youth Safety Week in conjunction with South Essex College in October. Across the week there was a mini fair, a County Lines performance and a series of workshops delivered based on various themes, such as:

- Hate Crime
- Knife Crime
- Substance Misuse
- Sexual Health

Following one of the Knife Crime workshops, one student said: "I found the session enlightening, educational and heart-touching. It was much appreciated"



## MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING SUPPORT

### REDUCING EXAM STRESS DURING MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

In May, our Youth Cabinet got active and outdoors for Mental Health Awareness Week to learn about how to look after their wellbeing during exam season.



This year's theme was "Movement: Moving for our mental health", so the group paid a visit to Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre to take part in an Orienteering Scavenger Hunt, searching high and low for tips on relieving exam pressure.

The group then worked together to create a 'top tips' poster on how to reduce exam stress. The poster was shared with schools, colleges and on Thurrock Council's social media channels.

[Take a look at the exam stress poster they created](#)

### T100 YOUNG AMBASSADORS

We signed up to be T100 Young Ambassadors to help shape and run activities as part of the T100 festival this year (2025).

Members of our Youth Cabinet were in attendance for the T100 Year 2 launch event for Young Ambassadors at High House in Purfleet in September.

Our Members got an introduction to the programme before taking part in some taster workshops which included learning how to wax silks and learn about the natural dye process.

Our Youth Cabinet will be involved with planning and organising the main T100 event which is due to take place in May 2025. They'll have the opportunity to design a pennant, attend various workshops delivered by artists from around the world and plan and run a public walking event for residents in Thurrock.



[Learn more about the T100 Young Ambassador programme](#)

## HELPING TO GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE A VOICE

### LAUNCHING OUR SEND YOUTH VOICE GROUP

Thanks to support from Thurrock Youth Cabinet, we held our first SEND Youth Voice meeting in February 2024.



Five young people went down to Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre to take part in activities that encouraged them to find their voice and develop their views and opinions including: bushcraft and team-building exercises.

One of the young people in attendance for the first meeting said: "I really enjoyed the activities and getting to know a new group of people. I'm looking forward to the next youth voice day."

Since the first meeting, the group have continued to meet and as part of their work, they met with officers from Thurrock Council's Children's Commissioning Team to speak about the changes and services they would like to see for SEND young people in our borough.

[Get in touch to find out more about the SEND Youth Voice Group](#)

### TAKING PART IN THE LARGEST YOUTH CONSULTATION IN THE UK

Make Your Mark gives young people aged 11-18 the opportunity to vote for the topics they feel are the most important to them locally and across the UK.

We kicked off the Make Your Mark 2024 campaign with a visit to USP College in Grays to chat with students and set-up a replica polling station to cast votes.

We hosted a results evening in March that revealed over 4,100 young people in Thurrock took part in the vote (22.5% of young people in the borough).



The results revealed that jobs, the economy and benefits are some of the most important issues that our young people face.

[Learn more about the Make Your Mark campaign that took place](#)

## IN THE LOOP...

That's not all Youth Cabinet have been up to, they have also:

### **SUPPORTED TRADING STANDARDS TO PREVENT UNDERAGE SALES**

A Youth Cabinet member collaborated with Thurrock's Trading Standards Team in an underage sales operation, testing if retailers check customers' ages for restricted products such as alcohol and vapes. The experience helped to identify businesses that were and were not complying with the law.

### **SHAPING THURROCK'S DESIGN CODE**

During a working group, the Design and Place team hosted an interactive workshop with Youth Cabinet to gather feedback for updating residential design guidance.

### **CARE EXPERIENCE RECOGNISED AS A PROTECTED CHARACTERISTIC**






We supported Thurrock Young Voices Group in advocating for 'care experience' to be recognised as a protected characteristic. On 24 July 2024, Thurrock Council approved the motion, ensuring better support for care-experienced young people. [Read more](#)

### **YOUTH DEBATES**

As part of Local Democracy Week, Thurrock Youth Cabinet participated in Youth Debates on key issues like work experience and life-preparing curriculum. The event, attended by Cllr Ryan Polston, highlighted the importance of youth voices, with council members acknowledging their ideas and committing to incorporating them into future decisions.

[Read more](#)

## 2024 IN NUMBERS

-  21 meetings
-  16 Youth Cabinet members
-  11 guest speakers
-  10 out of 13 secondary schools represented
-  1 out of 2 colleges represented

## GET INVOLVED!

Email: [youthcabinet@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:youthcabinet@thurrock.gov.uk) for more information if you would like to represent Thurrock as a Youth Cabinet member and you're a young person who is:

- aged between 11 years-old to 18 years-old
- living in Thurrock
- attending a Thurrock secondary school or college

[For even more information, you can also visit our website.](#)