



WEST CUMBRIA YOUTH COUNCIL

Your Voice Matters



REPRESENTING YOUNG
PEOPLE AND THEIR VIEWS

What do we do?

- West Cumbria Youth Council are a friendly group of 11-18 year old young people that regularly meet to discuss issues that are current to them and their peers.
- They plan and carry out projects to raise awareness of issues that are important to them.
- Sometimes they are approached to give a young person's perspective on different organisations' policies or ways of working.
- Often they support and promote other organisations that are working on issues that they have identified as important.
- Their voice is represented in the House of Commons during youth Parliament week, by our Member of Youth Parliament. You could be our next MYP!

Make Your Mark

A lot of the issues we discuss and plan our projects around are issues that are voted for by young people every year in the Make Your Mark ballot.

This is the UK's biggest consultation of young people and gives a good idea of the issues that are important to them, both locally and nationally.

The following slides show some examples of the work and projects we have done that have been shaped by the results of Make Your Mark.





Resettled Young People in Cumbria

We created an opportunity for resettled young people from Syria to tell us what it was like to live in Cumbria and tell us what the barriers are, through the medium of art.

We want to make these young people welcome in our community and give them a voice.

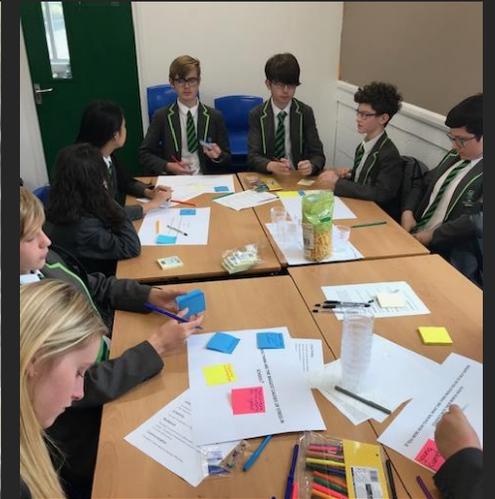
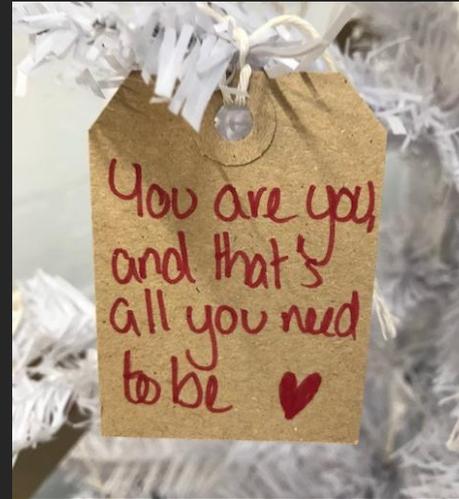
Mental Health

One of our top priorities has been to discuss how mental health provision could be improved in our area. These views have been fed back to organisations like the NHS and CAMHS who supply the services for young people here.

We have worked with the Workington Reds to help promote good mental health along with other projects to help support each other and recognise when we might need some help.



Mental Health in school



Visiting schools locally to raise awareness of how we can be resilient and what we can do to help ourselves and each other.

We collected student's views on what works well in school to support their mental health and what they would like to see more of.

Environmental issues

We have worked together with Workington Nature Partnership to gain insight and raise awareness of local environmental projects and work.

We have also carried out planting, beach and town clean ups and attended environmental summits.



Knife Crime

We have raised awareness of the need for more education around violence and knife crime in Cumbria. Working in partnership with Cumbria Police to promote more education for young people. We consulted with young people to find out about their experiences.



British Youth Council

We are members of the British Youth Council and have a Member of Youth Parliament, who is currently Aaron Kelly, 17 years old and attends UTC.

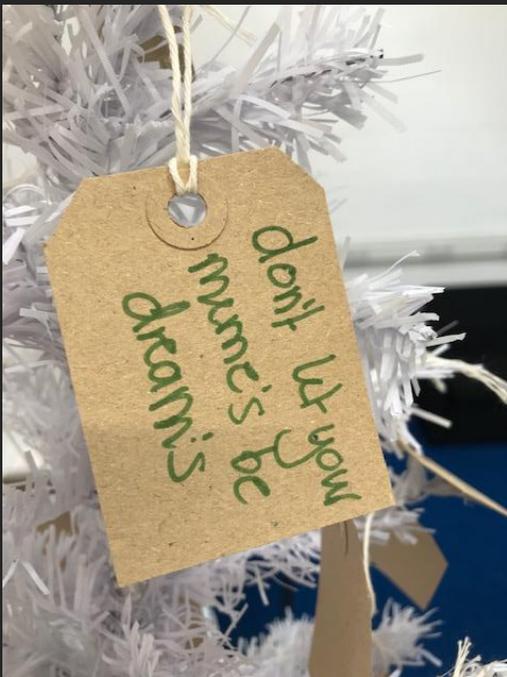
Aaron represents the voices of young people around West Cumbria and speaks directly to elected members about young people's issues he is made aware of.

Our MYP visits the House Of Commons once a year to take part in debating issues from Make Your Mark during Youth Parliament Week.

You could be our next MYP!



How to get involved



Anyone aged 11-18 can get involved with West Cumbria Youth Council.

Our meetings are currently held online in the evening bi-monthly. We sometimes have meetings more often if we are planning a project or have a focus group to concentrate on a particular issue.

Our views are important and help to inform partnership organisations and groups that provide services for young people.

You can get in touch by emailing anna.todd@cumbria.gov.uk or send a text to Anna, our Participation Officer who leads the WCYC on 07843470849.