

Participation Update



Participation in West Cumbria has been busy lately.

The Youth Council have been focusing on anti-social behaviour in Allerdale and considering how best to deter it. Following on from raising awareness of ASB consequences, a consultation was held at Netherhall school, where students were given scenarios and discussed reasons they thought young people acted in anti-social ways. An overriding majority felt that young people were being pushed out from society and their communities were too quick to blame and berate them, especially on social media publicly, which led to some of them feeling like ASB was a self-fulfilled prophecy, acting in ways they felt was expected of them. Along with a lack of any obvious investment in young people within certain areas and a lack of young people friendly spaces, they felt the ASB was inevitable.

All consultation findings have been passed to relevant interested organisations and parties, including the Police and Allerdale Borough council.

Our Member of Youth Parliament, Aaron Kelly, partnered with Cumbria Future Leaders to hold an online event for young people interested in LGR to pose questions to CCC managing directors and leaders. Those that attended had some insightful questions and were clearly considering the future and how LGR will affect young people.

With this in mind, the Participation Officer for the West will be accompanying the Allerdale Hub on their upcoming community days across Allerdale, to engage with young people and find out what the future Cumberland means to them.

Youth Council will be recruiting from September for new members to join them and in the run up to elections for our next Member of Youth Parliament. Schools and youth groups will be able to vote in, democratically, a representative to youth council. A new model for the new unitary authority is available **here**, which shows how youth council will feed into the bigger picture going forward.

Lastly, WCYC have been running an ongoing campaign for anti-bullying. This week some of the art work that was produced by YC members and students, including some of our resettled young people, has been displayed at Maryport promenade as part of their One Kind Word campaign. They hope to encourage tolerance and kindness within their communities and future events are planned for more artwork to be publicly displayed locally.

If you would like more details on the youth council in your area or on participation work taking place, please get in contact with Anna at: Anna.todd@cumbria.gov.uk