

Participation In West Cumbria County Council

The Participation teams have been busy across Cumbria and with no exception on the West Coast. We have been looking back at projects and Youth Council campaigns that have been particularly impactful, with a view to moving forward in the new era of LGR.



In Copeland we held a drop in at the library for resettled young people and their families to attend. Working in collaboration with the Whitehaven police hub, it gave an opportunity for relationships to be brokered between the families, young people and the police. It was also an opportunity for me to capture young people's voice on our anti-bullying campaign "One Kind Word" and some of the young people produced some artwork that is being displayed, along with other young people's contributions, across the West Coast. The "One Kind Word" project was supported by schools across Copeland and aims to encourage tolerance, kindness and to give a clear message on antibullying.

Aaron Kelly is our Member of Youth Parliament, who lives in Copeland and is a huge advocate for the area and its young people. He has recently helped to promote the Make Your Mark campaign, giving young people an opportunity to be involved in a democratic process of voting for issues that they would like to see more action taken on in their areas. The results of which saw Health and Wellbeing as a main priority for young people in Copeland. Closely followed by jobs, money, homes and opportunities which covers a broad spectrum of issues relating to those priorities.

Aaron has 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 that in mind Aaron has launched a survey to try and find out what young people know about LGR in Copeland and if they would like to know how the new unitary authority may affect them.

West Cumbria Youth Council continues to meet both online and in person and is currently campaigning against anti-social behaviour issues across the West Coast, in particular, at train stations up and down that train line. There has been an unprecedented amount of ASB on platforms and shelters and young people are helping to inform action groups set up to tackle this issue.

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. We would especially like to target young people from year groups 7 and 8 to represent youth voice on the Youth Council. Schools will be contacted at the beginning of September to ask if they would like to be involved, but if you run a youth group and would like to vote in a representative, please get in touch with Anna. From the Youth Council a new Member of Youth Parliament will be appointed following elections next year.

A new model for youth council and how it would feed into the new unitary authority is available [here](#).

The framework for Participation can be found on our website [here](#).

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