Manifesto
2014 – 2015
Aim

Rotherham Youth Cabinet is an active voice representing all young people equally, in order to have a positive effect throughout our communities.

Objectives

The Youth Cabinet’s Objectives

- To ensure young people’s voices influence decisions made within Rotherham.
- Ensure young people’s views are canvassed and listened to within schools, colleges, communities and across Rotherham IYSS (Integrated Youth Support Service) to get their opinions.
- To target wider groups, for example Looked After young people, young people with disabilities and those from our diverse communities, so that all views are represented.
- Undertake research in order to improve public facilities and services for young people.
- To develop further links with Elected Members, local Councillors and Members of Parliament.
- To convert words into action.
Rotherham Youth Cabinet
Key Aims 2014-2015

To educate and encourage young people to be more aware of Politics and to vote for what *they* believe in.

To work with young people from other Rotherham IYSS groups to organise a borough wide IYSS Youth Conference.

To investigate existing support networks for young people around emotional wellbeing and establish ways to promote positive mental health.

To establish a range of strategies, networks and publicity to promote Rotherham Youth Cabinet.

To help ensure that young people in Rotherham have an understanding of the lives and needs of all young people from within our diverse communities through curriculum based work and community cohesion activities of Youth Cabinet members.
1. To support the development of the Integrated Youth Support Service through consultation and the creation of IYSS promotional materials.

Achievements:

- We consulted with around 550 young people throughout IYSS and also at the Rotherham Show to find out what young people would like from a new web site.

- We worked with IYSS staff who are developing the site to share the findings from this consultation.

- Over the past year we have liaised with the website development team to offer support, contributions and feedback on further developments including logo design, website name and content.

- We trialled the website at one of our Youth Cabinet meetings and offered constructive feedback to the development team.

- We supported the launch of the website at the Rotherham Show this year.
2. To listen to the needs of and issues of young people in Rotherham surrounding public transport and work with transport companies, the Police and other organisations to improve areas of concern regarding public transport for young people.

- We met with people involved in Public Transport e.g. Managers from First, Stagecoach, SYpTE, Rotherham Interchange etc. to discuss developments from our recommendations made at the Children’s Commissioner Takeover Day 2013. We received a lot of positive feedback.

- We were involved in producing a DVD to be used in training new bus drivers regarding positive communication and attitudes towards young people which has now been completed.

- Young people from the Youth Cabinet attend regular Transport User Group meetings at Rotherham Interchange to ensure young people have a Voice on this group.

- A member of the Youth Cabinet undertook work experience at SYpTE, during which he worked on ways to engage young people in having a Voice within decisions made around public transport.

- The group have been allocated a PYPPO (Police Young Person’s Partnership Officer) to help with any issues around safety, crime or policing.

3. To help develop information for young people around Self Harm and a strategy to disseminate this. Also to work with Services to contribute to the improvement of access for young people seeking help and support around Self Harm.

- We undertook training around Self Harm to ensure we fully understood the issue before we began our research.

- We set up a Self Harm sub-group which met regularly to work on the issue.
We gained case studies from other young people about issues they faced when seeking support around self harm and analysed these to establish the main issues facing young people in Rotherham.

We met with a whole range of people including health professionals, school and college staff, Elected Members, RMBC Officers, Commissioners, IYSS personnel, young people etc. to discuss the key issues and identify our key priorities.

At the Children’s Commissioners Takeover Day we delivered our findings and recommendations to the Council’s Overview Scrutiny Management Committee who endorsed them and work is now ongoing to put these recommendations into action.

Feedback from RMBC Public Health about the difference Youth Cabinet have made by doing this work included:

“Developments following the recommendations for improving access for young people seeking help and support around self harm. Some of these were in their infancy, but the work of the Youth Cabinet has given them the prominence and has helped Commissioners and Service Providers understand what local young people feel would be beneficial to their needs.”

The Youth Cabinet will hold a meeting towards the end of year to monitor progress.

Rotherham Youth Cabinet delivered a presentation at the Suicide Prevention Conference to share their findings.

A positive article featured in the Rotherham Advertiser about the work of Youth Cabinet around Self Harm.

As a result of this work Youth Cabinet members have also had meetings with Commissioners around the School Nursing Specification and CAMHS strategy.
4. To ensure that young people in Rotherham have an understanding of the lives and needs of all young people from within our diverse communities such as Looked After Children, LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) young people and young people with disabilities, through the curriculum based work of Youth Cabinet members.

- Members participated in the Holocaust Memorial Day event at The Town Hall by reading stories about people who were persecuted in the Holocaust.

- Some Members of Youth Cabinet visited Poland. During this trip, they visited Auschwitz-Birkenau, Schindler’s Factory and the Jewish Quarter in Krakow. They also participated in a presentation event to share their experiences and explain the impact the visit had on them.

- We also visited Beth Shalom Holocaust Centre in Nottingham to further develop our knowledge around the Holocaust and genocide around the world. The most poignant part of the day was a talk by a Holocaust survivor.

- Youth Cabinet members joined LACC (Looked After Childrens Council) and UKYP (UK Youth Parliament) to attend the Remembrance Day Service at Rotherham Minster and laid a wreath at the Cenotaph in Clifton Park on behalf of all young people in Rotherham.

- We attended the Annual LGBT History Month Event at Myplace.

- Two Youth Cabinet members gave speeches about their experiences at an Anti-Bullying conference in Leicester. Other group members attended the conference to support them.
Further achievements and involvement during 2013-2014

- Youth Cabinet members undertook consultation at the Rotherham Show around young people and politics and also promoted Youth Voice across Rotherham.

- We visited the Houses of Parliament and had a tour. This was organised by Sarah Champion MP.

- The Publicity and Promotion sub-group have worked hard to extend the presence of Youth Cabinet on Facebook and Twitter, along with developing a promotional DVD, literature and posters.

- We supported the Voice and Influence Team in launching the Hear By Right Standards at the IYSS conference held at the New York Stadium.

- Following a request from a young person in Rotherham, Youth Cabinet members have been establishing links with the Department for Education and have received a number of e-mails from the Secretary of Education regarding exam stress.

- Members have been consulted on the annual Lifestyle Survey around questions to ask young people and their feedback has been incorporated into the development of the Survey.

- We have met with Healthwatch staff and are in talks to work more closely with them over the next year.
Youth Cabinet members attended the Working Together for a Healthier Rotherham Conference at New York Stadium.

A member of Youth Cabinet helped to deliver a workshop alongside IYSS staff at the National Citizenship Service residential around Politics. Three members also participated in the National Citizenship Scheme during the summer of 2014.

Members have participated in the Raising Aspirations: The Miners’ Strike Through the Eyes of Women project, helping in the development of the Facebook page, interviews and teambuilding activities. This project is happening in the south of Rotherham and aims to raise the aspiration of young people through researching and filming positive stories of women during the 1984/85 miner’s strike.

We have participated in many training days aimed at ensuring members of Youth Cabinet have the skills and knowledge to be pro-active and positive members of the group.

We have participated in joint residential with other groups of young people including LGBT and LACC, along with joint Youth Cabinet and LACC training days.

We have developed a range of policies and publications e.g. Welcome Pack, Social Media Policy, Finance Policy, Constitution etc. to assist all Youth Cabinet members to fully understand the aims and procedures of the group.

We are continuing to try to maintain numbers on Rotherham Youth Cabinet and ensure all areas and groups of young people are represented.

**We are continuing to work for the good of young people in Rotherham and we are all fully committed to the Rotherham Youth Cabinet.**
Get in touch!

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