



Bristol City Youth Council Manifesto Campaigns 2022 – 2024



Introduction from Bristol City Youth Council Chair

January 2022 saw 11,290 young people across schools, colleges and youth centres in Bristol elect their Youth Council representatives for a two-year term of office. The Youth Council consists of 24 elected representatives and 5 co-optees from equalities groups and 6 area representatives totalling 35 young people, who aim to fairly represent the views and voices of the young people in Bristol. Members of the youth council worked to produce three main campaigns — carefully selected to promote and push for the issues that face those they represent in the city — which will be their focus during the next two years.

- **Inclusive Bristol**
- **yOur Health Matters**
- **Youth Safety Support**

Though separate to those of the Bristol City Youth Council, the priorities of our four United Kingdom Youth Parliament (UKYP) representatives, and our two Youth Mayors are fully supported by the Youth Council and are outlined in this document. As a united body, our first action was to elect these 6 positions of responsibility, as they provide important links to other youth councils across the country, as well as to key political figures. Moreover, the Youth Council now sits on the One City Transport Board and the Children's Board: they look forward to making change with these new positions and intend make use of the resulting connections and influence within their campaigns.

The following manifesto was created with the intent to tackle issues that young people aged 11 to 18 across Bristol are concerned about, as well as the issues the current Youth Council were elected pursue. With the help and cooperation of specialist organisations, decision makers and the young people of Bristol, we can make the changes promised in this document — aiming to improve Bristol for the young people.

Lucy Morling
Chairperson
Bristol City Youth Council 2022-24

About This Manifesto

Over the next two years, the Bristol City Youth Council will work hard to achieve change in a number of areas that affect young people across the city. As we do this, we will seek to further embed young people at the heart of democracy in Bristol. This city can be proud of how far it has come regarding young people's involvement, but it still needs to continue to push forward to become a standard bearer for the rest of the United Kingdom and Europe.

The priorities featured in this manifesto originated from a number of different sources:

- Campaigns that members of the Bristol City Youth Council stood for
- Mayoral priorities
- UK Youth Parliament priorities
- Equality Forum priorities
- Issues gathered from the young people of Bristol

As well as focusing on the campaigns, Bristol City Youth Council has also committed to supporting **Equality Youth Forums** in the city. Although the equality forums will lead these campaigns, Bristol City Youth Council will also champion these priorities on their behalf:

Listening Partnership	Raising awareness of invisible disability and developing the understanding and need for accessibility across the city.
Children in Care Council	Celebrating the role of foster carers and helping to recruit new carers.
Unity BAME Youth Forum	Unity is a place where BAME young people can come together and express their voices and share experiences in a safe place. It is a place where young people can discuss the matters that affect them and work together to address these issues.
Freedom Youth	'Freedom is a gender and sexuality project for young people focussing on providing support, advice, information and signposting for LGBTQ+ young people 11-25, working together with LGBTQ+ young people to make positive change.'
Young Carers Voice	Raising awareness to reach hidden young carers. YCV will be developing and delivering trainings session for professionals in school and those working with young people.

YOUTH FORUMS

Bristol City Youth Council members will also ensure young people's issues are being listened to on a local level by attending Area Youth Forum meetings throughout their term. This ensures members will be visible to local young people and hear the issues that are important to the young people of Bristol as well as being known to young people.

Bristol City Youth Council Priorities

Equality Campaign

Inclusive Bristol

Our campaign's aim is that all young people feel included and accepted in Bristol. We want to do this through highlighting communities that are underrepresented and discriminated against. This will subsequently lead to a Bristol that is equal and accessible for everyone. There will be 2 sub-groups which is based on the aims of which young people were elected on. These are **Ethnic minorities issues** and **Accessibility and Inclusivity**.

Our Campaign aims are:

Ethnic Equality:

- Actively Educating people in school and raising awareness – Staff and students on Microaggressions, racial biases, racial privileges, and teaching ethnic minority history throughout curriculum.
- Pushing for equal access to opportunities for people from ethnic minority backgrounds.

Hate crime and discrimination-based crime prevention:

- Promoting a belief program – helping people hear the voices of survivors of hate crime and other discrimination-based crimes.
- Promote education and early prevention of offenders.

Accessibility and Inclusivity:

- Accessibility – ramps, lifts, handles, etc for people with physical disabilities, as well as support for people with cognitive or neurological disabilities.
 - Changing the narrative of people from certain backgrounds (people in care) or of certain groups (LGBTQIA+, Disabled people, etc)
 - Access to services – including healthcare, among other day to day services.
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yOur Health Matters

This campaign aims to improve the health and mental health of young people in a post-lockdown world. We will achieve this by working with local organisations, collecting the views of young people, and raising awareness within our local community. As a campaign group, we have decided to focus on the mental health issues caused by disabilities by promoting accessible sports and eliminating stigma through a YouTube video which will include public figures.

Physical activities:

Collaboration with local organisations to:

- promote their accessible sport options for young people with disabilities.
- Cooperate with organisations providing physical activities for mental health.

YouTube Video:

Aims to eliminate stigma by educating young people in:

- The mental health of men and boys; often less discussed.
- Less well-known situations, disorders or disabilities that aren't talked about enough.
- Early intervention before the mental health of young people gets to a crisis point.

Discussions with schools in Bristol:

As a group we would like to achieve two goals by holding conversations with schools. These include:

- understanding the provision of sanitary products in schools, then questioning their methods and providing new suggestions
 - Producing a list of young people's needs when it comes to exams and accompanying stress, and making sure schools receive and read these.
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Youth Safety Support

This campaign group aims to target the safety of Bristol's youth and make everyone feel safe. We aim to achieve progress through more broad actions like going into schools and youth groups to try and better support mechanisms for young people but also in more specific ways like working with other groups on certain topics. We want to make Bristol feel as safe as possible and allow everyone to be comfortable everywhere no matter their identity or how they express themselves.

Our aims are:

Education

- We will do two surveys among a small group of students from schools in different areas. We will do one at the beginning of our term and one at the end. This will help us gather the information and voices we need from different viewpoints, giving us a point to begin from as well as feedback to see if we made an improvement.
- We will go into schools to talk to the students in an assembly format with professionals in different fields e.g. a youth worker, a mental health specialist and maybe even a police officer or something similar.
- We will hold a conference at the end of our term with several schools: building off of the infrastructure of a past conference around PSHE. This is currently planned to be focused on how to educate about staying safe as a young person but will be altered in different ways as our campaign grows and we gain more viewpoints.

Youth Groups

- We will go into youth groups, especially those aimed around topics linked with our campaign e.g., youth violence and safety. We plan on sitting in on some sessions and watching them work as well as gathering more information and explaining what we are doing as a campaign group.
- We will work on advertising with these groups. We find a big problem with different youth networks and groups is reaching and finding the young people who need them. A social media presence would help but also more hard-copy advertising in the area like posters or leaflets. We want to help these youth groups achieve this by spreading them as much as we can, getting them into schools etc.

Specific Topics

- Knife Crime - The BAME subsection of the equalities campaign group and youth Mayors have expressed a willingness to work on this together and so we would like to work closely with them to achieve progress on this topic.
- Hate Crime & Sexual Assault - The equalities group as a whole has conveyed their interest in working with us on this topic and so we again want to work

closely with them to work on this issue among young people and help everyone feel safe.

UK Youth Parliament

The Bristol members of UK Youth Parliament, Louis Afford and Aya Mohamed, and Deputies Alex Pope and Felix Massey were elected after the Bristol Youth Vote in February 2022. As well as championing for the BCYC's campaigns, Members of Youth Parliament support UKYP's national campaigns.

Stop Plastic Pollution

Plastic pollution and climate change more broadly are issues with global impact. We are proud that UK Youth Parliament has a nationwide network of young people working for change. That's why we have partnered with Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace to make sure that you can take part in meaningful action to address this issue locally, nationally and globally.

Mental Health: A movement for change

We'll be working with you to listen to young people, **creating a blueprint for children and young people's mental health, and setting up local mental health support hubs.**

Take part in our **British Youth Council x YoungMinds Movement for Change consultation.**

Campaign Detail

We will be partnering with YoungMinds to support their campaign actions for local mental health hubs and to create a blueprint for children and young people's mental health, which will be accountable and create a noticeable difference for young people struggling with things such as bereavement, depression, BPD, isolation

Transforming Education

We'll be working with you to listen to young people, create a manifesto for inclusive education and campaign so that education is given the attention it deserves by decision makers locally and nationally in the coming year.

Campaign Detail

The NUS have developed resources to run “Transforming Education” events. You can run these in your school or town hall. At this event you’ll work with other young people to create a “Manifesto for Inclusive Education which we’ll then use to advocate for an inclusive vision of education moving forward. We’ll work with politicians from across parties to host a Parliamentary event campaigning for the vision we develop together.

Bristol Youth Mayors

The Bristol Youth Mayors Anika Mistry and Jeremiah Dom Ogbonna were also elected in February 2022. Working alongside the Mayor They have created a different manifesto to improve the lives of young people specifically focusing on youth violence.

Youth Violence:

Knife crime has claimed 235 lives in the UK 2020/1 and as youth mayors we want to aim to campaign on getting children off the streets to help tackle this issue.

- Collect the opinions of students about the support they have in schools and their local institutions
- Work with the Mayor, cabinet, and councillors to create a positive campaign about reducing youth violence
- Continue the work and outcomes of the youth violence conference that took place in March 2022
- We will also be working with our fellow BCYC members on their campaigns relevant to this issue as well as the Safer Options Peer Influencers to ensure effective partnership working on this issue.
- To ensure that Bristol has a safe, inviting atmosphere where young people feel valued and respected in and around the Bristol community.

Emerging Priorities

Bristol City Youth Council will respond to emerging issues over their term in office, as they occur. Issues may emerge if decision makers from the Bristol City Council, other organisations or Bristol young people wish to consult with us or raise any concerns.

Conclusion from the Bristol City Youth Council Chair

Now that you are familiar with the priorities of the Bristol City Youth Council, we hope that you can support us in achieving these aims. If you can support us in any way, or want to get involved in our campaigns, please contact us. Any young person from Bristol or going to school in Bristol is able to join BCYC as a campaign advisor, supporting BCYC in its campaigns. Any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the manifesto or the Youth Council as a body, can be directed to the contacts below.

Thank you very much for reading our manifesto. I am excited to work with the Youth Council these coming two years, and even more so to see what we can achieve together. I hope we can represent the young people of Bristol successfully in our term of office.

Lucy Morling
Chairperson
Bristol City Youth Council 2022-24

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