

In January 2022, 11,290 young people across schools, colleges and youth centres in Bristol elected their Youth Council representatives for a two-year term of office with the to represent the views and voices of the young people in Bristol.

As we are now in the election process for the new term to begin this report is to highlight the present youth councils two year term of office and plans for the incoming youth council and the young people of Bristol.

Over the two year term the youth council have worked on the following campaigns.

Inclusive Bristol

Inclusive Bristol, this year partnered with EPIC charity. The campaign have run workshops and represented Epic Charity at the youth voice conference. We've also made long term friendships and created worthwhile networks and connections in the work.

Neuro Diversity

We believe, as the Neurodivergent subcommittee, that our time was mostly well-spent, we made a functioning, accessible survey, and got information from many students in Bristol on how their schools support Neurodivergent young people. We believe were productive, however, due to circumstances out of our control the survey did not reach as many schools and organisations as we thought/hoped, due to this we think we have a less varied response, and this will hopefully be improved in the near future.

Youth Safety Group

Overall, this year has been a success for the Youth Safety Team, despite internal and external setbacks. At the start of the year, the Youth Safety Team was built as one key issue Knife Crime. However, by April a new womans safety group team had been created. The Womans Safety Team set out with a goal of empowering the young women of Bristol to speak up and feel confident to make a change of their own. To do this we contacted national charity everyones invited and were able to interview their CEO, Soma Sara about how she was able to impact womens lives as a young person herself. We also became involved in the young woman's forums at Bristol Womens Voice and now are set to publish the video on their websites.

Despite the numerous challenges we have faced along the way, we are proud of the work we have done to campaign for young women in Bristol. We are incredibly grateful for the input of the women we have met along the way and are super eager to get the input of more women, young people in the future.

It is clear that there is more crucial work to be done regarding knife crime and young people's safety. We were lucky to host a Youth Voice Conference at City Hall in October, where young people voted Knife Crime and Young People's Safety as the most important issue into the new year and term of the Youth Council and we are excited to carry on working for and representing Bristol's young people.

Your Health Matters

As a campaign group, we wanted to improve the health and mental health of the young people living and being educated in Bristol. Your Health Matters attempted to promote accessible sport by sending out a leaflet on the bulletin that goes to all head teachers in Bristol, that detailed accessible sports programmes offered across Bristol. We contacted schools across Bristol to gather best practise on school's policies regarding period poverty and exam stress. Members of our campaign group visited a golf centre in south Bristol to look at how they promoted accessible sports. One of our members also organised a menstrual hygiene day in their school, inspired by their work on the Youth Council to raise awareness around period poverty. Another Youth Councillor who is also a member of the Children In Care Council looked into research on the impact being in care has on the mental health of children and how struggles with mental health, abuse and breakdown in placements are dealt with.

UK Youth Parliament

On Friday 17th November Bristol UKYP members Theo and Louisha joined other UKYP member from across the United Kingdom at the House of Commons for their annual debate. UK Youth Parliament debated free school meals as part of their campaign, 'Food for Learning'. More than 200 Members of Youth Parliament from across the UK participated in the House of Commons debate, which forms part of their proposed solutions to extending free school meals to support young people with the cost of living and it's impact on young people's health.

Youth Mayor

Over the last 2 years, the youth mayors have worked closely with the mayor, co chaired the children and young peoples board and represented the voice of young people at various event. The youth mayors also hosted a radio show on Ujima radio discussing issues for young people and highlighting youth organisations within Bristol. They have campaigned on various issues over their time as youth mayor including knife crime, school exclusions, mental health and transport.

Youth Voice Conference

On October 26th 2023 the youth council hosted their annual youth voice conference where over seventy young people came to city hall. The youth voice conference consisted of feedback to the young people about youth services and the launch of a video made with young people about youth services in Bristol. Young people then had the opportunity to share what they liked about their youth services and what gaps are missing for them. The young people then brought priorities that were important to them and took part in a vote for the top priority for children and young people in Bristol. The result of this priority was **Knife Crime and Safety of young people**.

This priority will be a city wide campaign for the new Bristol City Youth Council who will be starting in February 2024 and will aim to work in partnership with organisations, decision makers, youth groups, schools and young people of Bristol to ensure this campaign is met.

Please see link for video of youth services launched at the youth voice conference :

[Bristol City Council Youth and Play film - final version closed captions - 31-10 on Vimeo](#)

Area Forums

As of 2024 local area youth forums will be held in north south and east central Bristol 3 times a year and finishing the year with a youth voice conference on national youth work week. The aim of these area youth forums is for local young people and youth groups to come and discuss what is going on in their local area for them. Youth Councillors will attend these forums and get views and opinions which will tailor their campaigns, it also allows the youth council to build relationships with young people across their city and ensure that young people are being heard.