Spotlight On…

Anti-Bullying Week 2019

Breckland Youth Advisory Board were awarded the Ben Cohen StandUp Foundation Award for anti-bullying Organisation of the Year for their work to tackle bullying in Norfolk.

Young Commissioners from all Youth Advisory Boards worked together to facilitate the Norfolk Youth Against Bullying Conference: a youth-led day of collaboration between nearly 200 young people and professionals from across Norfolk, and anti-bullying experts from around the country.
Attendees heard from leading experts in the field of anti-bullying, took part in workshops facilitated by Young Commissioners, and heard from young people with lived experience of bullying. The conference was captured by graphic-recording artists Rebecca Osborne and Ruby Staton, and the completed artwork will be touring Norfolk schools.

Breckland Youth Advisory Board premiered a new animated film, ‘10 Steps to Prevent Bullying’, created in collaboration with local animation studio Indigo Illusions. The film will be shown in schools around Norfolk.

Youth Housing & Homelessness Research Trip to Berlin

The results of Norwich Youth Advisory Board’s annual youth consultation showed that youth housing and homelessness is a key issue for young people in Norwich.

Young Commissioners are completing research into the barriers to accessing stable, good-quality housing faced by young people in Norwich and internationally.

As part of this research young people visited Berlin, where they met with political representatives and campaigners to discuss their own work in the area of youth housing and homelessness. They will be creating a documentary to share their learning.
Transforming Mental Health provision for young people

Since March 2019, Young Commissioners from across Norfolk have been working with youth organisation MAP and the Norfolk & Suffolk Foundation Trust (NSFT) to involve young people in the development of NSFT’s Youth Mental Health Service. Young Commissioners sit on a project steering group of young people with a passion for improving mental health services. This group has helped design and deliver a range of participation activities and events alongside Youth Advisory Boards, looking at aspects of mental health support such as Improving Assessments, Support while Waiting for Treatment and Receiving Treatment in Groups. The ideas and experiences from the Youth Advisory Boards have been well received by NSFT, who are now incorporating many of these recommendations into their ways of working.

Young commissioners have also helped support with training, recruitment and staff events for NSFT, which has helped develop a greater understanding on both sides of some of the challenges involved in delivering a great mental health service in Norfolk and Suffolk. A number of Young Commissioners from across the county have also participated in the CAMHS redesign work that is being led by Norfolk County Council as part of their transformation of Children’s Services.

For more information about any aspect of this work, please contact Jo Hand, Participation Youth Worker at johand@map.uk.net

South Norfolk Young Commissioners completed Mental Health First Aid training alongside Norfolk Police and Crime Commission Youth Commissioners.

South Norfolk Young Commissioners are completing accredited courses including Food Hygiene and First Aid.

Broadland Young Commissioners attended the Enabling Social Action Conference in London to talk to conference delegates about their work.

Breckland Young Commissioners spoke about bullying at the Norfolk School Governors Conference.

South Norfolk Young Commissioners held their monthly YAB Youth Club, Wellbeing and Social group, Young Carers Forum and Clinks Care Farm sessions.

South Norfolk Young Commissioners attended a training session on the careers website Icanbea... with a view of supporting its development.

Broadland Young Commissioners attended Broadland District Council’s wellbeing panel to discuss the importance of young people’s wellbeing.

Broadland Young Commissioners attended a performance and Q+A about LGBT+ refugees: ‘This is Who I Am by Ice and Fire’.
Youth Advisory Boards (YABs) are bodies of Young Commissioners (aged 11-19 and up to 25 with a disability) and professionals who work to identify the issues that young people in their area care most about and then take action through campaigning, lobbying, advocacy and commissioning services. A YAB operates in each district area of Norfolk. Norwich, Great Yarmouth, Broadland, Breckland, North Norfolk, and West Norfolk YABs are coordinated by youth organisation MAP, and South Norfolk YAB is coordinated by MTM Youth Services.

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