



Buckinghamshire
Council

Bucks Youth Voice Executive Committee Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: Thursday 10th September 2026

Meeting Time: 5-7:30pm

Meeting Location: Newtown Family Centre, Chesham

Staffing: Shayan, Flic, Krissie

Guests: Dan Barton (Service Director for Education)

Attendees:

In Person: (Chair) WT, (Vice Chair) RH, ZK, LW, RM, AN, CK, PH

Online: N/A

Hello and welcome, overview of agenda for today

The meeting started slightly later at 5:10pm (waiting for members to arrive), with all members joining in-person. Shayan opened the meeting, welcomed everyone and briefly introduced the new members of YVEC, as well as herself. Shayan also gave an overview of the agenda and group agreement.

Positive Pineapple

Everyone introduced themselves and shared something positive that had happened.

Introducing the new YVEC members - ice breaker activity

The YVEC members took part in an icebreaker activity to welcome and get to know the three new members.

They threw a beach ball to one another, where each member answered a question written on the ball, when they caught it. Questions included, 'if you could have any superpower, what would it be?' and 'would you rather be able to speak all languages or understand animals'.

YVEC also demonstrated creativity by coming up with their own unique questions to ask one another.

An introduction to YVEC and the Bucks Youth Summit - a discussion

The group took part in a discussion to introduce the three new members to what YVEC does and the Annual Bucks Youth Summit. Existing members shared their experiences and reflected on their own involvement simultaneously. The new members were proactive in asking questions and engaging with the discussion.

Key points covered:

- What YVEC does, including projects and timetabling
- What the Bucks Youth Summit is and YVEC's role in this event
- Comparison of previous Summits', from personal experience
- Conversation spaces held in previous years
- Facilitators of the Summit, structure and layout

The discussion about the Summit, naturally led to the question of whether the group would like to hold the Summit in 2027.

Key points discussed:

- Suggestions to consider changing the venue if a Summit 27 took place
- A need identified for greater involvement of YVEC in planning of the Summit
- An importance of increased commitment from all members

Decision: YVEC then held a vote to decide if a Summit should go ahead for next year. The group voted in favour of holding the Summit.

Summit - information on next steps

Following the agreement to hold the Summit 27, YVEC discussed potential venues. This followed information that Aylesbury Waterside Theatre had increased its fee, which would take up a significant proportion of the available budget this year. Members considered alternative indoor and outdoor venues, considering suitability and time of the year.

Key points discussed:

- Alternative indoor venues were suggested, including the Swan in High Wycombe and the Crowne Plaza near Gerrards Cross
- The Gutmann Centre was explored in previous years, though not considered ideal as it can only accommodate one big space
- The suitability for an outdoor venue given the weather conditions in March (when the Summit has been held previously)
- The timing of the Summit, where March remained the preferred option due to school examination timings and holiday restraints

Decision: It was agreed that Shayan would explore suitable venues across Buckinghamshire, within the budget. Potential venues will be collated in a poll for YVEC to vote on via. group chat.

Break

The group had a 15-minute food break where they ate picnic style food.

DB - consultation session

YVEC guest and the Service Director of Education at Buckinghamshire Council, Dan Barton facilitated a session with YVEC to gather their feedback and opinions on key areas identified within Education. The topics discussed were mental health, post-16 education & training, attendance/exclusions and 'other areas' members wanted to discuss.

Before the activity, Dan Barton spent time building connections with YVEC, where each member introduced themselves individually. For the activity, an interactive approach was used to encourage participation and ensure everyone's voice was heard. Posters for each topic were placed around the room and members moved around and recorded their feedback for each one. During this, Dan briefly spoke with members about the points they had made.

Main themes included:

Attendance/Exclusions: lack of support for those struggling with low attendance

Post-16 Education & Training: more promotion and awareness of different options

Mental Health: A better understanding of mental health from schools and staff

Other: More inclusivity/diversity in curriculum taught across different subjects

Following the activity, Dan Barton reviewed each poster with YVEC and discussed the main themes raised. Dan Barton acknowledged the feedback and responded to additional verbal feedback shared by members.

Decision: Dan Barton explained that YVEC's poster feedback would be collated and discussions would take place with Shayan to establish next steps. Shayan confirmed that the group would be updated on the progress, to demonstrate the impact they have had today.



