



## **Youth Voice Bucks – Notes from Youth Voice meeting**

Meeting date: **Thursday 18 April 2024**  
Meeting time: **5 – 7.30pm**  
Meeting location: Hybrid –  
In-person access: **Buckinghamshire Council “County Hall”,  
Walton Street, Aylesbury, HP20 1UY**  
Online access: MS Teams

### Attendees

Members: IO (Vice-Chair), DT (Treasurer),  
LG (Equalities and Inclusion Lead),  
WT, PH, OG, AF, SB, EC

Participation team: Krissie, Louise

### Hello and welcome, overview of agenda for today

The meeting started at 5pm.  
IO, WT, DT, PH and OG joined in person.  
LG, AF, SB and EC joined online.

IO chaired the meeting and started us off by running through the agenda.  
We did a round of introductions including pronouns.

### Updates / Positive Pineapple

Everybody shared something positive that has happened since we last met.

### Finance update

DT wished everybody a happy new financial year!  
He shared that YVEC have a confirmed budget of £2500 for 01 Apr 2024 – 31 Mar 2025  
(excluding the Youth Summit).

DT facilitated a discussion in which we decided to distribute this budget as follows:

- £45 for our normal meetings. We will have 10 in total so £45 x 10 = £450
- £1400 on the Summer Social
- £400 on the Winter Social
- £250 for travel reimbursements, resources, and miscellaneous spending

### **Actions:**

- Krissie to set up a SharePoint location so she and DT can keep track of YVEC's spending across the year.
- Krissie to request another training session for DT with finance colleague.

### Summer Social brainstorming

We discussed options for our Summer Social event and landed on a day trip to Oxford. We agreed to include activities all together (e.g. treasure hunt, walking tour, escape room) and some shopping time, and to further plan the day in our next meeting.

We also came up with the idea of making one of our YVEC meetings into a team-building day - a longer session hosted in a Council building, focused on getting to know each other, developing team-working skills and discussing our priorities / ambitions.

#### **Actions:**

- IO and Krissie to add Summer Social activities planning to our next agenda.
- Krissie to explore feasibility and potential dates for a YVEC team-building day

### Pizza break

We had a 20-minute break while we looked at photos from the Youth Summit.

### Summit debrief: Positives & improvements

We talked about what went well and what could have been better about the Youth Summit 2024. Members attending in person wrote their comments on sticky notes, scrunched them up and threw them into bins. People joining online wrote their comments in the MS Teams chat or WhatsApp chat.

Members broadly agreed that it might be better to have 8 conversation spaces and have attendees going to 3 each of these next time.

All of the comments are included below in Appendix 1.

#### **Actions:**

- Krissie to request cartoon that artist Elly drew of PH, IO and JH at the Youth Summit via Young Creative Bucks
- Krissie to provide feedback to CEO Rachel Shimmin on how welcome and appreciated she was at the Youth Summit.

### Summit next steps

Krissie showed members the write-up page on the Bucks Youth Summit on the website and told everybody that this will be growing over the next few weeks:

[www.youthvoicebucks.co.uk/summit-2024](http://www.youthvoicebucks.co.uk/summit-2024)

We read through the comments that our attendees gave us via the feedback cards.

Krissie confirmed that Buckinghamshire Council leadership and the Youth Voice Bucks staff team are happy to run the Youth Summit again, if the Youth Voice Executive Committee would like to! Members confirmed that yes, they would like to host the event again.

Krissie asked members if they would prefer to do it at The Waterside Theatre again, or if they would like to look for another venue, for example in Wycombe. Members expressed that they would prefer to use the Waterside again, but would be willing to scope out Bucks New Uni in Wycombe as a potential alternate venue.

**Actions:**

- Krissie to continue developing the online write-up of the Youth Summit
- Krissie to send all of the feedback comments from our attendees to YVEC members
- Krissie to start preparations for the Youth Summit 2025!
- Krissie to arrange for a YVEC meeting to take place at Bucks New Uni so we can check it out as a potential venue for the Youth Summit 2025.
- IO and Krissie to ensure there is a slot for Youth Summit preparations in all future YVEC agendas.
- Krissie to express thanks to the Young Journalists on behalf of YVEC and offer them a page within the event write-up if they would like to write an article about their role on the day.

**May meeting update**

Krissie shared the plans for the May YVEC meeting; ranking the nominations for Pupil Voice Teacher of the Year in the Bucks School Awards. YVEC member WT will lead this project and attend the School Awards celebration event on our behalf.

**Action:**

- Krissie to post confirmed date, time and venue for the May YVEC meeting

**Any Other Business (AOB)**

- Krissie gave a heads up that there are some changes in the Participation Team and we will be getting a new staff member. The new staff member will be helping to run YVEC, but Krissie will very much still be around.
  - YVEC members expressed an interest in being on the youth interview panel for this role.

**Close**

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.

**Thank you** to everybody who was part of this meeting.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Krissie via the details below:  
07825928053 / [YouthVoiceBucks@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:YouthVoiceBucks@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

## Appendix 1: Comments from Youth Summit debrief

What went well	What could have been better?	Anything else?
We were much more organised this year	I don't know if the Waterside will support the Youth Summit with 10 conversation spaces again. It felt cramped at points.	We could run a short session for teacher getting feedback / talking about more of Youth Voice in schools.
what went well - the large document with all our roles on the day was useful and allowed us to keep track of where everything was easier. i definitely think it worked sending out the conversation spaces in advance and having lists of people in each space etc before the day	I would have liked to be prepared for the welcome speech being filmed	Have wristbands / Youth Voice Bucks stuff instead of popcorn and drinks.
I loved being able to speak in front of everyone and feel accepted for being myself (kneepads and all)	I wish the timetable change would have been told about. (Clarification: late change to this young person's role on the day)	Wrist bands, tote bags
It was amazing to be involved in as a young facilitator. I'm very grateful.	I was not able to spend time in the vape space.	Ballot was great. Different ways to collect votes to ensure 100%?
Planning was done well. Low stress.	The thing i didnt expect was to feel like i was not worth it in my space i thought it would be different it was the adult facilitators in my space not any of the participation team at all just to clarify	YP and schools spent lots of time in areas around the auditorium. This may be a sensory issue.
Opening remarks and pics were awesome.	The planning was overwhelming but very important	The planning and set-up on the day were a bit stressful, but not unnecessarily so.
We had lots of info about the day.	Schools arrived out of sync - too early & late	We NEED this next year.
I developed many skills including time management, public speaking, voicing my own needs and being part of a team.	i think a lot of information was delivered to the students and schools when they first arrived, maybe to ensure that things are not missed we could spread out the announcements and messages etc, maybe dedicate time for everyone to complete the ballot at once for example	Label-maker [for making lanyards / badges with] name front and timetable back
Listening to young voices on Politics. It was very interesting to see how their views were shaped based on their upbringings.	I would have liked to not write the speech the week before. I enjoyed doing it (and would be willing to do it again) but would like it to be more organised.	We had a couple of teachers sitting in the SEND space that we didn't know if they were supporting kids.
Marketplace was good	Snack packs expensive	Place for teachers to work
I felt really supported during the day and like I could achieve my full potential.	I felt as though I didn't have enough time to properly get to know and connect with the group and get enough time for feedback.	Schools didn't take responsibility last second. (Clarification: this young person's school did not attend but did not confirm this until the last second)
Stressful but fun!	Councillor Joe was in the youth space during our lunch break, having a meeting. I was a bit off-put by his presence.	Place for teacher - mini training conference?

The Youth Summit is important because it gives young people a chance to actually be listened to.	The marketplace was a bit too busy.	Teachers want tables. Safer? A space / dressing room.
It was a environment / chance to practice independent leadership skills. Being able to make the executive decisions and make decisions at my own discretion was great.	Walkie talkies need to be used better. E.g. more communication on walkie talkies about what is happening.	The kids were not always easy to engage with. Bit of an uphill struggle.
The atmosphere was overall quite positive and it felt like the young people really got it.	Explore more opportunities to get people to join Youth Voice.	Everyone I've told about the Summit has been amazed. It's such a great opportunity.
Racheal Shimmin was nice and spoke to us young people on stage before the speech. It felt like she cared and wanted the main aim of the day for young people to be heard.	The hardest part was keeping the young people entertained in my space [Sex Ed] because of how little there was of any activities	Education team to utilise teachers being there.
I became a young facilitator and learnt how to do a leading role within youth voice	Councillor man: Meetings all day, Didn't interact with YPs, Out of touch	
The goodie bags were good.	Get rid of marketplace	
It is important for young people to know what is out there and available to them. And how they can benefit / make a difference.	Less ushers for better coordination between them. In person visits to plan where schools sit.	
The youth summit was important because young people were able to have the opportunity to have their voices heard	The most difficult part was swearing at Councillor Joe because I felt uncomfortable about it.	
The atmosphere was amazing i loved the energy that was in the building it was amazing		
Definitely keep timings similar / the same.		
People reacted well to the Summit when told about it.		
I developed my problem solving skills on the day and managing a changing situation.		
Ushering was good.		
The youth summit was important as it enabled lots of different people from different backgrounds and experiences to share their opinions and feel as though they had made a difference. The key things I would like to include again are separate conversation spaces, opening and closing speeches and having important people such as a councillor present		
I enjoyed being able to teach and talk to kids about SEND.		
Lanyards and fidget were good		
My friends at uni were amazed at the work i have done		
I think it was cool having the bolt-on groups. It felt like we were definitely making sure the right kids were there.		