

Knife Crime Summit

On the 16th July 2019 we held a knife crime summit at Pudsey Civic Hall secondary school students. The purpose of the day was to raise awareness of knife crime, its causes, risks and outcomes, and educate young people on steps that they could implement to protect both themselves and others. The morning was made up of workshops on first aid, delivered by Leeds Beckett University, talks from Life Experiences, victims and assailants of knife crime, and a law and order talk from West Yorkshire Police which served as an opportunity for young people to learn about knife crime and the law.

The afternoon session was a chance for next steps to be decided, with schools drawing up action plans on ways in which they could feedback what they had learnt to their schools. Ideas included assemblies, notice boards and ambassador programmes. We are currently following up these action plans and hope to hear from the schools soon.

Campaigns

In the last 6 months we have made significant progress when it comes to our secondary campaigns.

Discussions about a curriculum for life project are looking promising, with ideas focussing on investigating the possibility of a website that young people in Leeds can readily access online resources around the key areas of a curriculum for life such as finance, politics and sustainable living.

In addition we are looking to reach out to help some of the most vulnerable in Leeds, by offering our support to a "Welcome Refugees" initiative, one of the preferred choices in Leeds MYM ballot results. In the next few meetings we hope to get in touch with organisations that work with refugees to see what work we can get involved in.

Finally, as we all know, climate change activism has become increasingly imperative over the last decade with seemingly no end to news stories covering climate change disaster after climate change disaster. The Leeds Youth Parliament are joining the cause and, after an eye opening climate change summit hosted in Leeds, have taken away the key messages on how Leeds may need to change (suggestions included lobbying for a pollution tax in Leeds, and improvements to the public transport system)

We are looking forward to the next 6 months of work on these fantastic projects.



Harry, Arqam, Sylvia & Samuel
Members of Youth Parliament for Leeds

The UK Youth Parliament represents the voices of young people from across the UK at a national level and enables young people to use their energy and passion to change the world for the better.

Regional Convention & Annual Sitting

Arqam, MYP, and Liberty, LYC, took part in the regional youth voice convention at Kingswood where we met with MYP's and youth councillors from Yorkshire and Humber. We fed back on the recent projects we have been working on in Leeds as well as hearing from other areas.

Leeds were delighted to welcome MYP's at the UKYP annual conference 2019, which was hosted at the University of Leeds. We took part in regional workshops discussing the issues of the Big Debate and planned for the future climate change campaign and looked at actions we can take to reduce pollution.

We all fully enjoyed the annual sitting, and hearing from the Little Mermaids, who gave us an insight into issues faced by the LGBTQ+ community and how everyone can support individuals who might be going through a hard time due to their sexuality.

We all took part in the Big Vote and debated issues like child poverty and unnecessary homework. We are looking forward to meeting everyone and respecting the views of young people of Leeds at the House of Commons this November.

Community Youth Voice Summit

On Wednesday 13th March 2019 we joined 134 young people from 17 different youth and community groups at Leeds Civic Hall for the 'Let's Talk About Leeds' event. In 2018, the Leeds City Council Children & Families Scrutiny Board set up an inquiry to ask the question "is Leeds a child friendly city?" The event was hosted by the Voice and Influence Team and provided the opportunity for us to speak to scrutiny board members about our views of Leeds.

The summit was a success and we really enjoyed meeting lots of different young people and hearing their views on our city.