

Ensuring young people's voices are heard and included

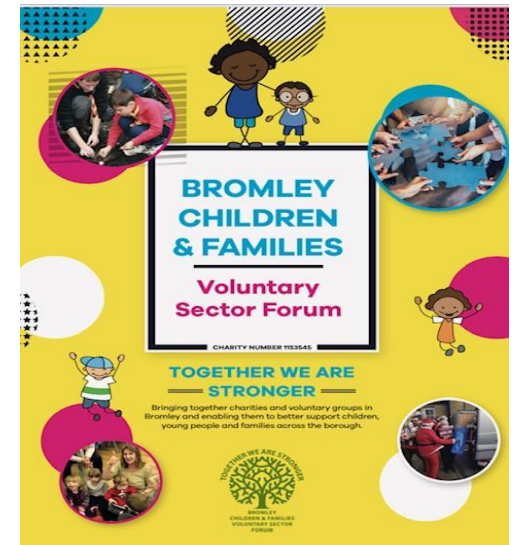
Lead : Chris Lee - Bexley Targeted Youth and Participation officer

Guest Facilitators:

Bromley Children & Families Forum (BCFForum)

Samantha Britnell – Operations Manager

Samantha Baldwin – Development Officer



Key principal : UNCRC

https://www.unicef.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/UNCRC_summary-1_1.pdf

Article 12 (respect for the views of the child)

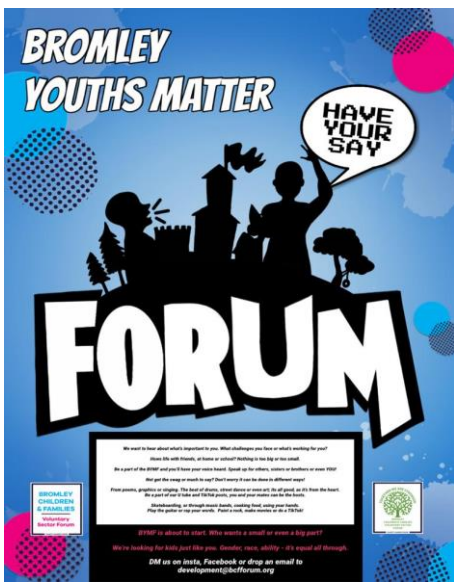
Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously. This right applies at all times, for example during immigration proceedings, housing decisions or the child's day-to-day home life.

Engaging young people effectively

- Engagement location, E.g. school, youth centre, home, outdoors or virtual. Are you in the right place and time to engage the subject topic.
- Awareness of common ground or blocking factors that could enhance or delay engagement, E.g. current affairs, TV storylines or local issues.
- Know your strengths, how many young people can you engage? E.g. a small forum, a whole class, an assembly or 1-1. Will you have the right materials & resources to suit the competency, how will you gain the young people's interest, E.g. audience participation.

Engaging young people effectively

- Inclusion – Knowing your local community & organisations, intended participants and how to reach them.
- Empowerment & self esteem - giving all young people a chance to feel comfortable with each other, developing positive relationships and respecting each others views and opinions.
- Time investment – Recognise young people have to build their trust in you, and you have to earn it.
- Communication – Young people like the personal acknowledgement, eg birthday, well done, how are you etc.
- Keep connected – using the tools that young people are using today, eg Tik Tok, Instagram, Snap Chat.



Youth Matters Project

BCFForum.org

We have recently worked on a number of youth engagement projects and found the following methods most effective.

- Engage on Social Media (Facebook, Instagram & Tik Tok)
- Connect to Uniformed & Faith Groups
- Invited Young People from School Council's
- Created marketing campaigns that are relevant to current themes/interests.
- We created a lead post to give sense of structure
- Offered training and support in areas such as website, media management, budgets
- Allowed YP to use more innovative ways to document steering groups meetings such as videos and posters.
- Provide workshops on funding applications to learn transferable skills.
- Supported and encourage fundraising initiatives.
- Build a foundation to ensure longevity allowing the next generation to grow organically and be sustainable.



Examples of good practice

- School visits - Tutor time surveys.
- School conferences - Partnership working eg Police, education and health, concluding with Q & A time
- Youth proofing documents
- Attending scrutiny meetings.
- Awareness videos <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xBsopUEZ-Zg> Bus behaviour 'Think'
'Alcoshock' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qQj6rllKenU>
- <https://vimeo.com/397134529> 'Crime Pays' Knife crime campaign.
- Peep to peer networking, joining other youth groups
- London Youth Assembly

Manifestos & elections– mapping young people priorities that form the annual plan

Bexley Youth Council Manifesto

Name

School.....

School Year.....

Contact number.....

Please return this manifesto to:

Ms Chris Lee
Bexley Targeted Youth Service
1st floor east
Bexley Civic Offices
2 Watling St
Broadway
Bexleyheath
DA6 7AT
chris.lee@bexley.gov.uk 07792 661 364



The reasons why I'd like to become a Bexley Youth Council member?

If selected, what issues do you feel need improving for young people in Bexley.

You should choose me to represent my school, because I will.....

The reasons why I'd like to become a Bexley Youth Council member

Examples of good practice

- British Youth Council / UKYP/ Make your mark ballot for the national youth agenda.
- NYA - Hear by right <https://nya.org.uk/hear-by-right/>
- Bexley pupil voice for SEND young people
- Police Independent advisory group meetings, inviting all local orgs to participate
- TFL: Bexleyheath bus garage , Q & A session
- Local Youth Council's
- Connect with uniformed Groups

Measuring outcomes, feedback & appreciation

- Its important for young people to know their time and effort has been appreciated.
- Feedback reports should be circulated to all young people involved.
- Rewarding young people whenever possible, eg day trips, thank you cards or voucher, when a campaign or their membership is ending through Jack Petchey funding.
- Evaluation / feedback forms & links after events
- Social media

Thank you for listening – We are happy to answer any questions.

