



Manifesto 2017/2018

The Hastings Youth Council Manifesto tackles a wide range of topics affecting young people, from mental health to life skills, once again proving that today's generation of young people are far from apathetic about the world they live in.

The aim of the manifesto is to inform and influence local and national decision makers, particularly those deciding their manifestos in political parties.

It was created by young people, locally to represent the views of their peers, and was approved by Members of Hastings Youth Council at their full council meeting on the 22nd November 2017.

Our vision:

A world where young people are valued equally, listened to and included. Our challenge is to make this world a reality. We want to make a difference for all young people in Hastings and ensure their needs are met.

Right now, young people in Hastings face inequalities and we need to tackle the issues head on through regular campaigning and events.

Aims:

Youth representation

We believe that as members of Hastings Youth Council we should consult with young people in Hastings and St Leonards to feed their views of local matters back to the Youth Council.

Lobby the Local Authority and key partners

Hastings Youth Council will lobby the local authority, the government and key partners to bring about change to benefit young people.

End child poverty

We believe that no child should live in poverty, that every child matters and deserves quality of life

Fair representation of young people in the media

We believe we need to tackle the unfairly negative portrayal of young people within our society; this is evident through the use of stereotypes in the media who label young people as thugs or gangs. We should challenge Hastings Observer, Hastings Independent Press and social media where young people of Hastings and St Leonards are portrayed negatively.

Equality

We believe that all young people regardless of location, upbringing or ethnicity, should have equal opportunities in life.

Improving community relations

We believe that more needs to be done between the young and old generations. One solution would be to run local workshops to give both generations a chance to come together to resolve any issues and help tackle stereotypes.

Alcohol and drug abuse

We believe that all young people should have in depth drug and alcohol abuse education through PHSEE lessons in school and there should be more interaction between the police and schools to raise awareness. We will therefore support the local Alcohol Partnership in any way we can.

Our mental health matters

We believe mental health education should be made compulsory at schools, and this should provide information on common clinical conditions including depression and challenging stereotypes and the taboo around mental health. We will support World Mental Health Day to raise awareness in our town.

Domestic violence

We do not condone or accept domestic violence and will join other organisations in promoting Hastings White Ribbon day each year.

Sexual orientation

Every year we will support and help to run Hastings Pride which celebrates diversity in our town. We will promote the need for education around “positive relationships” and “healthy sex education” in school lessons.

Life skills

We want all young people, when they leave education, to have the skills and knowledge to equip them into today’s life. We will support providers and campaign on this important issue. Life skills mean to us; financial capability, CV writing, interview skills, networking, work experience, problem solving, communication, managing online reputation, living independently.

Young people’s achievements

Each year we will recognise organisations that work with young people in our community that do a fantastic job and are not always recognised. Within these groups we will also identify young individuals that are either role models or who have made a difference to others. Our celebration event will be called Hastings Youth Awards.

Youth Grants

We will source and allocate direct funding for young people in our town to provide meaningful community activities.

We plan to achieve these aims by attending key stakeholder meetings, engaging and being proactive with organisations that provide a young person service. We will organise and deliver events as well as supporting others which align with the themes outlined within this manifesto.

The manifesto will be reviewed annually with changes made to reflect the current challenges young people face.