

Youth Involvement Summary Paper

Situation:

There are a large number of young people in Bingley and this is not directly represented on the council in any way. There have been sporadic instances of ASB – graffiti, low level arson and damage caused, underage drinking and loitering in/near Bingley Market Square. Young people do not feel there is enough for them to do nor do they feel particularly listened to.

Proposed Solution:

Enable young people to have a say, feel heard and feel that they have a stake in Bingley too.

Steps Involved:

Secondary aged pupils

Contact secondary schools, local bodies (youth café, youth workers) and community groups representing young people to find ways of asking parents and young people themselves two key questions:

1/ What do you care about? 2/ How would you like to be heard?

There is no pre-determined end state, and this would be a project steered by young people's answers to these questions. Options include but are not limited to:

- Informal meetings with BTC Councillors
- Dialogue through school councils/youth café/youth groups
 - Councillors attending meetings to listen
 - Standing BTC FTC agenda item for an appointed young person to present recent school council outcomes
- A formal/informal Bingley [Youth Council](#)
- Making schools "[democracy friendly](#)"

Primary aged pupils

Contact primary schools to ask the status of their school councils. The Council can assess how regularly councillors would attend these meetings. Kirklees has a "democracy friendly" programme [for primary](#) aged children.

This could be a very positive experience for the children involved whilst providing visibility of BTC to parents. This could be in combination with addressing whether local Primary Schools have considered going for plastic free status.

Potential Obstacles:

- Safeguarding
- Low interest
- Lack of diversity
- Workload
- Complexity

Benefits:

- Engage young people in Bingley

- Providing young people a feeling of ownership and pride in Bingley
- Provide an activity for young people to be involved with
- Increase interest in Town Council activities
- Provide young people a volunteering opportunity for extra-curricular activities such as DoE
- Voices from a diverse range of young people across our town
- Provide positive experiences for young people
- Be a vehicle for publicising BTC to parents and teachers as well as young people
- More information is available [here](#)