



Worcestershire Youth Cabinet Manifesto 2024 to 2025

This document outlines the manifesto of Worcestershire youth cabinet for the year 2024 to 2025

Foreword from the chair

I am incredibly proud to reflect on the progress that we have made as a Cabinet over the past year. Having been a member since the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, I have had the privilege of witnessing the growth of our region's youth services and the commitments that so many young people have to further our Cabinet's aims and ambitions.

This year our Cabinet has expanded not only in size, but also in our desire to achieve much more. We have undertaken a range of projects that address critical issues on the minds of young people today - issues such as health and wellbeing, crime and safety, and education. One of our key achievements from this year was bridging the gap between discourse on youth issues at a national level from our decision makers, along with the dialogue we are having as a Cabinet.

Our focus remains on addressing the concerns raised by young people across the whole of Worcestershire, as highlighted by 'Make Your Mark' programme. It is of vital importance that we continue to tackle the recurrent desire to improve mental health support and hospital experiences as well as knife crime.

Looking ahead, I am keen to see how we can make tangible changes by collaborating closely with key stakeholders, including MP's and councillors, with whom we have already started productive conversations. Our ambition is to ensure that we can make a real and lasting impact on the lives of young people across the county, ensuring that their voices are not only heard, but acted upon.

I am excited to see where the next year will take us, and I am confident that we can continue to build a brighter future for young people in our community.

Anusha Salhan

Chair, Worcestershire Youth Cabinet

Manifesto

Health and wellbeing

- **Hospital Experience:**
 - Start discussions with NHS support staff to reduce waiting times and improve support to children in A&E, ensuring a more pleasant hospital experience.
 - Hospital and GP service
 - Feedback from service users- and information gathered.
- **Mental health:**
 - Design and distribute a pamphlet for schools and young people detailing available mental health support in Worcestershire, including explanations of CAMHS.
 - Collaborate with schools to promote open discussions and adequate provisions around mental health.
- **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND):**
 - Work with organisations, NHS leads and students to destigmatise SEND and promote inclusive language and practise, and to connect to children and young people with SEND, to co-produce improvements in SEND services via the Worcestershire SEND and Alternative Provision Local Area Partnership.

Crime and safety

- **Knife crime:**
 - Collaborating with officials to identify causes and motivations behind knife crime among young people and develop strategies to address the issues by collaborating with community safety officers and other qualified individuals.
- **Online safety:**
 - Staying safe online can be incredibly difficult, and mitigating the impact of what can be seen as a harmless joke can be hard. We aim to raise awareness about how to stay safe online and what can be constituted as a threat or concern in the online sphere.

Culture, media and sport

- **Equal access:**
 - Foster increased discourse on equal access to arts and sports opportunities by working with organisations, newspapers, community groups and MPs who specialise in these areas.

Education and learning

- **Transition support:**
 - Enhance support for students transitioning from year 6-7 and year 11-12.
- **Holistic education:**
 - Advocate for a more comprehensive educational approach in Worcestershire that equips students with essential life skills such as financial awareness, communication and critical thinking.

Who are we planning on working with to achieve our manifesto aims?

- **Local MPs-** a letter to all MPs in Worcestershire has been sent, to a prominent level of success, by the Cabinet Chair to start a productive dialogue with them and our Cabinet's youth. Many MPs have been keen to support the Cabinet on achieving its aims within Worcester and more broadly.
- **Worcestershire county councillors-** We aim to collaborate with all councillors with specified responsibilities in the area of our manifesto to provide the most constructive pathway for our manifesto aims to be actualised.
- Develop a working relationship with the **SEND Co-Production Coordinator** when appointed and maintain links with the SEND and Alternative Provision Partnership Committee as part of the SEND improvement plan.
- Work with the newly appointed **Children and Young People's Mental Health and Well-being Communication and Engagement officer.**
- Worcestershire County Council's **Get Safe Team**
- Collaborating with **external stakeholders** with expertise in areas of our manifesto, such as Mind, The Career and Enterprise Company

Cabinet members 2024-2025

Chair- Anusha Salhan

Secretary- Narayan Singh

Media Manager- Amulya Mohanty

Assistant Media Manager- Miki Conroy

Rotating Vice Chair- Camron and Anwyn

Members- Karter, Rhys, Tyler, Annabelle, Lexi

Contact details Youthvoiceteam@worcestershire.gov.uk

Office number- 01905 846498