

## **Harrogate Youth Council**

### **Area Committee Meeting Update**

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13/3/26



#### **To the Members of the Area Committee,**

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of the Harrogate Youth Council to provide an update for the March meeting and to outline our current campaigns, projects, and priorities. As a youth-led council representing a diverse range of young people across the Harrogate district, we remain committed to ensuring that youth voice continues to play a meaningful and active role in local decision-making.

One of our greatest strengths is the diversity within our membership. Young people from different backgrounds, experiences, and communities contribute to the Youth Council's discussions. This diversity enables us to hold balanced, informed conversations and to explore local issues in a way that reflects the breadth of experience within Harrogate's youth population. We believe that inclusive representation leads to stronger, more equitable outcomes.

#### **Campaign Focus Areas**

Over the past several months, the Youth Council has been working consistently and collaboratively to develop this year's campaign priorities. We have taken time to consult, explore ideas, gather peer perspectives, and build youth-led themes that reflect the real concerns and ambitions of young people across Harrogate.

#### **Youth Mental Health**

Youth mental health continues to be the most significant concern raised by young people in our district. We are maintaining close links with both local and national mental health charities to create opportunities for young people to share their lived experiences, co-design solutions, and raise awareness of the challenges their peers face. Our work includes workshops, collaborative events, and ongoing engagement aimed at improving early access to support and tackling stigma.

#### **Anti-Discrimination and Inclusion**

We are also campaigning actively around discrimination in all its forms—whether related to race, disability, gender identity, sexuality, or socio-economic background. Through partnership work with schools, youth groups, and community organisations, we aim to challenge discriminatory attitudes, promote inclusion, and empower young people to speak confidently about their experiences.

## **Campaign Launch Visibility**

Throughout the coming year, the Youth Council will be visibly launching and promoting these campaigns across Harrogate. This activity will be closely aligned with:

- Local and national awareness days
- Themed months and celebration periods
- Key points in the Harrogate Youth Council's campaign calendar

Our intention is to ensure sustained, meaningful visibility that keeps youth priorities at the forefront of community conversations. These planned launches will provide opportunities for wider engagement, partnership working, and stronger youth representation across the district.

## **Engagement in Local Planning and Regeneration**

Recently, Harrogate Youth Council has taken part in consultation sessions with Harrogate Town Planning. We have engaged in workshops and shared young people's views on the regeneration of the town, including priorities around accessible spaces, youth-friendly design, environmental sustainability, and how future developments can better reflect the needs of younger generations.

We are keen to remain actively involved in this work, and we encourage the Area Committee to consider formalising ongoing youth input within future planning and regeneration processes. Young people have a direct stake in the long-term development of the district, and their insight offers valuable perspective.

## **Strengthening Collaboration**

As part of our continued commitment to meaningful partnership working, we would like to invite members of the Area Committee to attend one of our upcoming Youth Council meetings. This will offer an opportunity to hear directly from young people, understand their priorities, and discuss shared areas of interest.

Equally, we would welcome the chance for Youth Council representatives to attend future Area Committee meetings.

Thank you for your continued support and for your commitment to engaging the voices of young people across the Harrogate district. We look forward to working with the Committee more closely in the months ahead.

Yours sincerely,

**Max Kelly**

Chair, **Harrogate Youth Council**



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