**East of England Young People’s forum**

**Thursday 25th January 2024**

**Meeting 2 – 18:00 – 19:00**

**In attendance**

Cambridgeshire

Suffolk

Essex

Hertfordshire

**Minutes**

A later meeting to accommodate those attending who aren’t in school or who wished to join out of school hours. We are seeing an improved uptake at each meeting too which is great! After our interactive quiz which included questions such as how many young people are there under 16 in the UK, we got going with the questions!

Our first discussion was around ideas of how to engage more young people in this group:

* Use social media
* Posters/Leaflets
* Get in contact with more schools
* Do some meetings in person
* Explain to them how this could make a difference
* Include colleges
* When using social media make sure we use Instagram
* Get parents or carers to help spread the word
* Local TV/Radio
* Use some inter school networks
* Word of mouth
* Travel around and advocate
* Get contacts in the Government
* Advertise in public

You can see we had some smaller & bigger plans with this group and will be working with all those involved in this group to respond.

Up next, we focused on the 7 areas identified in previous meetings by the group as being something they wished to focus on moving forwards. We used an interactive poll & in addition to these votes we will also add the totals from our previous 2 meetings throughout the day, with an announcement coming soon. Moving on to our next agenda item the group wished to focus on activities & games that could form part of local engagement sessions throughout February:

* Uno
* Treasure hunt
* Art
* Puzzles/Drawing
* Football
* Drama games
* Word search
* Make sure everything is accessible
* Human bingo
* Musical instruments

Throughout February local areas will be bringing together young people to feedback & contribute effectively to the next steps of this network – please consider these ideas above.

The final voices of the East meeting for this month moved onto discussing rewards for the group. We asked how they think young people should be rewarded for their time and here is what came back:

* A group trip
* Vouchers
* The reward for me is actually just being part of this group and helping other young people to have their voices heard
* My reward is being here so I don’t feel isolated
* Making sure we use this group to make people happy
* It’s a reward to be involved, we should all be accepted for who we are and help us spread our wings
* We just want to be heard
* Food
* A little treat – something social because everyone see’s rewards in different ways

It was really heart warming to hear the feedback on this & no extra words are needed on why it’s important for this group to grow and become established. **The next set of virtual meetings will take place on the 28th of March.**