

NEW CYC MEMBER WRITES ABOUT PROGRESS SO FAR

Thursday 24th October

Within my first four months as a part of the Cheshire Youth Commission, I have already been able to see the change being a member can have in relation to Cheshire Constabulary. This is due to how they value our opinions and advice on how they interact with young people and deal with issues that impact them.

In our group meetings we have been able to decide on the topics we will focus on in 2019/20, that we all consider to have a significant impact on young people, crime, and the police. These topics include knife crime, unhealthy relationships, and mental health, to name a few.

We have been able to start drafting the foundation of the workshops we want to run and come up with the best way to gather the views of as many young people within Cheshire as we can.

We have had a guest speaker from the RASASC Rape Centre, who explained the work the staff within the centre do in order to support those who come to them for aid. This allowed us to gain a greater understanding of the aid that is available to those affected by sexual assault and unhealthy relationships.

I have also had the opportunity to join other youth commission members in attending a Police and Young People Task Force meeting and a Youth Advisory Group.

In the Police and Young People Task Force meeting, we were able to talk to PCSOs, PCs and a Chief Inspector, where we discussed the interaction the police have in general with young people. We discussed what was currently being done and then offered suggestions on what could be improved. We agreed that the police are more often seen visiting schools in a negative way. For example, to deliver a talk on Anti Social Behaviour issues caused by the youth in the area.

We felt that this could be improved by officers dropping into schools on a more regular basis and making more informal interactions with young people in order to build a better trust and relation between the police and young people. Everyone that attended the meeting all felt like our views were both greatly valued and listened to by the police force.

In addition to this, we also had the opportunity to attend a Youth Advisory Group meeting. Here we discussed cybercrime in Cheshire, what action the police are currently taking and what they want to do in the near future.

This was explained to us by a Detective Sergeant from the Cyber Crime division. We then were able to offer our suggestions on how the police could make young people aware of cybercrime and how it can affect them. Again we thought our views were respected by the Police and would be taken on board going forward within their future projects.

I have greatly enjoyed my time as a part of the Youth Commission so far and I can't wait to see what projects and change we will make in the foreseeable future.

Amber, CYC member