



What's been going on?

September – December 2016

Created by VYF members



Message from the Vale Youth Forum Chair

Hi, I'm Nikita and I'm the new chair of the Vale Youth Forum. I'm 13 years old and I attend St Cyres School. Hi, I'm Brandon and I'm the new vice chair, I'm 14 years old and I attend Ysgol Y Deri. We are both really excited to have been elected by members and given this responsibility. We have both taken part in some training to help us in our role. We hope we do the members justice and want them to know we are always here to help!



Make Your Mark 2016

Between September and October we rolled out the Make Your Mark campaign throughout the Vale. Make Your Mark is the largest youth consultation in the UK run by UK Youth Parliament. The consultation results enable young people to inform the UK Government on issues young people face. Members of the VYF, local youth action groups and school councils encouraged young people to vote for their top issue. This consultation showed us what the biggest issue is for young people locally. In total, 4136 young people in the Vale took part in the consultation, totalling 30.69% and the highest percentage turnout for a local authority in Wales! The top three issues for young people in the Vale are: 1) A curriculum to prepare us for life, 2) Votes at 16 and 3) Transport. You can see a breakdown of the results here. As the VYF we will now focus on the top issue for young people and set this as one of our main priorities.

Vale Youth Service @vysvale 7 Nov 2016
Congrats to the new #ValeYouthForum chair & vice chair! @StCyresSchool @YsgolYDeri

Make Your Mark Issue	# of votes
Votes at 16.	560
A curriculum to prepare us for life.	804
First Aid Education for All Young People.	469
Mental Health.	440
Transport.	508
Stop cuts that affect the NHS.	448
Body Image.	171
Fund our youth services, don't cut them.	143
Raising Awareness of Sexual Harassment in schools.	164
Tackling racism and religious discrimination, particularly against people who are Muslim or Jewish.	429
Total	4136



#YouthTime

On 01.10.16 members of the VYF went to #YouthTime at Barry Island. It was a great showcase of young people's talent in the Vale with all the different youth groups being represented from Barry Comprehensive's DoFE group to Cadet groups and not forgetting the amazing performances from the gymnastics club and dance group. Even though the sun wasn't shining, members promoted the VYF to young people who visited our stall.

Youth Mayor 2016-17

During Local Democracy Week young people across the Vale voted for the next Youth Mayor. During the VYF meeting on 17.10.16, the Leader of the Council and the Vale of Glamorgan Mayor announced that Daniel Marshall was elected Youth Mayor and Daley Chapman was elected Deputy Youth Mayor. In total 3992 young people voted in the election. The Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor will continue to work closely with the Vale Youth Forum to champion the views of young people and be the spokesperson for the Vale Youth Cabinet.



**For more detail please contact valeyouthforum@hotmail.co.uk
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As well as a new chair and vice chair, members also welcomed a new chair of the VYF Trustees. Members would like to welcome Eleri Thomas to her new role and are looking forward to working together. Members would also like to give a big thank you to Jane Hutt AM for her hard work and contribution as the previous chair. We're so glad that Jane Hutt AM will still continue as a trustee.

Fforwm Ieuentid y Fro

Yn y tymor diwethaf, etholwyd dau gadeirydd newydd, Nikita a Brandon. Hefyd, gwelwyd ail etholiad Daniel fel ein maer ieuentid. Gweithredem ar gynllun newydd am lywodraeth ifanc Gymreag, a pharheurn i weithredu l sicrhau integreiddiad llyfn o'r newidiadau i'r system addysg yn ein Bro. Cychwynnom hefyd l gefnogi Gofalwyr ifanc, a rydym wedi cael gweithd gan y Llysgenhadion Hawliau.

UK Youth Parliament (UKYP)

The Member of UK Youth Parliament (MYP) for the Vale attended the House of Commons debate on 11.11.16 to discuss the results of the Make Your Mark campaign. Over 300 MYPs from across the UK attended the debate which was chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons, John Bercow MP. They debated the top five issues and voted for the national UKYP priority for 2017. The top five issues debated included: Votes at 16; A curriculum to prepare us for life; Tackling racism and religious discrimination; Cuts to the NHS and Transport. Following the vote it was confirmed that the national priority for 2017 would be Votes at 16. All the Welsh MYPs took part in a training session provided by Young Wales at the end of the term to start raising awareness and campaigning on the priority!



You Retweeted
 Your Assembly @yourassembly · 10 Nov 2016
 Good luck to all Welsh MYPs attending @UKYP tomorrow with @ChildreninWales. You can watch on @BBCParliament. #MakeYourMark #UKYPHOC

Welcome!

The VYF would also like to welcome new members who have recently joined and are representing different schools, youth clubs and youth organisations in the Vale. New recruits attended a Meet & Greet session run by existing members to learn more about the VYF and the work members do. New members are excited to be able to make a positive change in the community and are fully committed as young volunteers.

Vale Youth Service @vysvale · 17 Oct 2016
 Congratulations to our #MakeYourMark champions @UKYP & everyone else at #ValeYouthForum who helped collect ballots!

A new Youth Parliament for Wales

It was great to take part in the consultation on a new Youth Parliament run by the Children & Young People's Assembly for Wales (CYPAW). Members discussed and debated the roles and responsibilities of a new Youth Parliament and how it should be set up to ensure young people are represented fairly. We're also really happy that the National Assembly for Wales has committed to establishing a new Youth Parliament and we're looking forward to being involved in the development of it.

A curriculum to prepare us for life

As the top issue for young people locally, members of the Curriculum task group researched the current curriculum reform taking place in Wales which has been carried out by Professor Donaldson. As a group we've sent a letter to the Welsh Government Cabinet Secretary for Education, local politicians and decision-makers to inform them of the concerns young people have relating to their education and requesting an update on the development of the new curriculum and for the opportunity to get involved further. Members are looking forward to receiving a response and getting involved with local pioneer schools.

Senedd Visit

At the end of term the new chair and vice chair had a tour of the National Assembly for Wales and met the Assembly Member for the Vale of Glamorgan, Jane Hutt AM. Thanks to the AM the Make Your Mark results were shared with Welsh Government ministers who responded with information on how they are tackling the issues young people raised.



**For more detail please contact valeyouthforum@hotmail.co.uk
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