

**YOUTH
SERVICE**

Inspire
Enable
Achieve

The Young Essex Assembly is the elected Youth Council for Essex representing the voice of young people.



What can you bring to the Young Essex Assembly?

If you are aged between 11-19 years and live or go to school in Essex, get an information pack today and take your first step to making a difference.



Deadline: Register for election by 5 February 2021



www.young-essex-assembly.org.uk

**Be who you
WANT to be...**

**YOUTH
SERVICE**



Essex County Council

What is the Young Essex Assembly?

The Young Essex Assembly (YEA) is the elected Youth Council for Essex.

The YEA gives young people in Essex a platform to speak their views and to be heard. It also creates opportunities to develop their individual skills and knowledge.

The YEA encourages young people to become active members of their local and wider community's and enables them to implement change.

The Young Essex Assembly is supported by Essex County Council Youth Service.



Requirements



This is the level of requirements for YEA members:

- The minimum age to join the YEA is 11 years and attending secondary school.
- The maximum age to join the YEA is 19 years, or up to 25 years old if you have additional needs.
- You must either live, work or study in the district you wish to represent.
- You will be expected to attend a monthly meeting in Chelmsford which we call a Sitting plus a monthly Local Link meeting in your local area.

Expectations



Expectations to achieve:

- You have a duty to represent all young people in your district.
- You will be expected to feed back to local young people on the YEA's work.
- You will be expected to check your emails regularly and keep in contact with staff and your peers.
- If you are elected, your term in office will be 1st June 2021 to 31st May 2023.
- You will need to make your own way to meetings. Public transport can be reimbursed.
- You will be expected to attend monthly meetings in Chelmsford and a local meeting at least once a month during your 2 year term of office.

Seats available

This shows the number of ‘seats’ available in your district and the number of candidates that will go onto the ballot paper.



District	Number of candidates	Seats
Basildon	12	9
Braintree	11	8
Brentwood	6	4
Castle Point	7	5
Chelmsford	12	9
Colchester	12	9
Epping Forest	10	7
Harlow	6	4
Maldon	5	3
Rochford	7	5
Tendring	11	8
Uttlesford	6	4
Total	105	75

“The YEA has helped me improve my debating skills and given me a platform to voice my opinions to others determined to make a change.”

**Bryony, age 15
Harlow YEA**

“Through the YEA I have been able to meet like minded people who want to help make a difference. UK Youth Parliament is an exciting experience that has allowed me to echo the voices of young people in Essex on a greater scale and to a bigger audience.

**Davina, age 16
Brentwood YEA & UKYP**

The Young Essex Assembly has been so beneficial to me, raising my confidence and giving me many new skills. I have made so many new friends who I know will stay with me for life. I have had so many great opportunities such as the UK Youth Parliament. I would definitely say the YEA is the best thing that I have ever done!

**Emily, age 15
Braintree YEA & UKYP**

The YEA in action



Being on the YEA and a Member of UK Youth Parliament, I've had great opportunities to meet and work with important individuals i would never have dreamed of meeting or working with.

Prajwal, Age 16

Chelmsford YEA and UKYP Member

What the YEA has been up to!

Youth Voice Development Day

The YEA delivered a Youth Voice Development Conference working with over 200 students across Essex. The attendees looked at how the government spends public money. The young people also developed and delivered a campaign on an issue that they were passionate about.

Working together with the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner

The YEA members planned and delivered in partnership with The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners an engagement event. This was an opportunity for 90 students from across the County to gain a better understanding of what the Police and Fire services provide.

The students also got the opportunity to take part in workshops including Cyber Security, Hate Crime, County Lines & Human Trafficking.

Violence & Vulnerability Funding

The YEA Members have been awarded some funds to deliver an early intervention project on violence & vulnerability. The young people are currently using this resource to develop and design a workshop style engagement opportunity for young people across Essex.

Climate Change & Environment

The Young Essex Assembly have identified that Climate Change & the Environment is their 2020 county wide project. The YEA are currently working in partnership with the Royal Horticultural Society and Essex County Council to deliver a meaningful piece of work that will have a positive impact on young people and their communities in Essex.

We currently have two YEA Members who Co-Chair the Climate & Environment Change Commission in Essex.

Consultations

The Young Essex Assembly members are regularly asked to take part in consultations to gain and give the views of young people in Essex.

These are just a few of the consultations the YEA have taken part in:

- Transport
- Violence & Vulnerability
- SEND
- Equality Framework
- Libraries
- Youth Service Strategic Plan





UK Youth Parliament

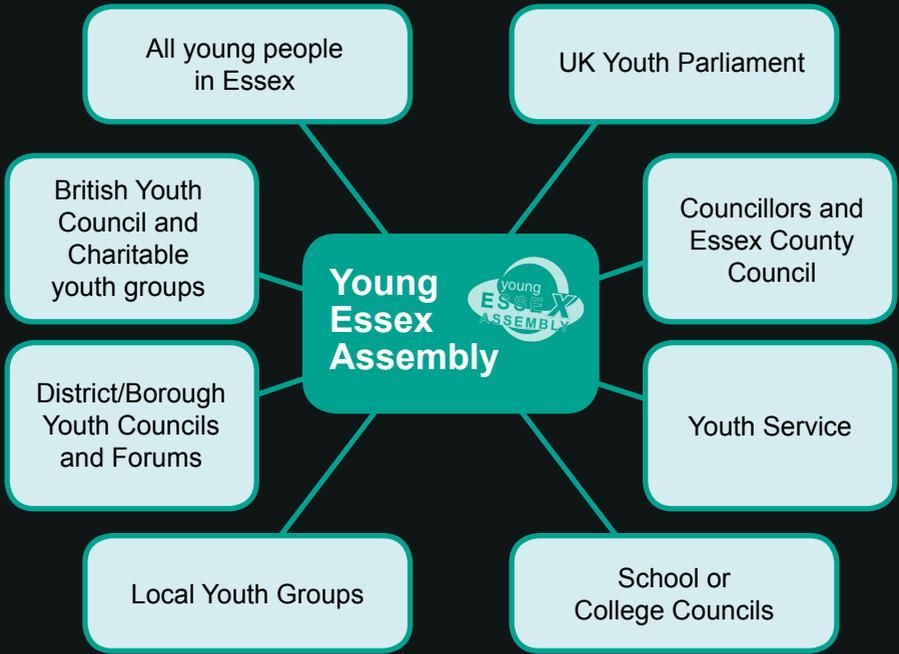


The UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) is an opportunity for young people to make a difference and represent other young people's views on a national level. You can be elected if you are aged 11 - 18 years and are already a Member of the YEA. In Essex we have 6 seats available on UKYP.

Overall the UKYP has 369 seats from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It empowers young people to take positive action within their local communities. Every year the UKYP hold the largest youth consultation in the UK. This is called 'Make Your Mark'. It gives a unique opportunity for the opinions of young people to be actively listened to and valued. This enables decision makers to see issues that are actually important to young people.



YEA links with other organisations



Hustings Day

This is an interactive day of activities and information run by current YEA members and staff. On the day you will have the opportunity to:

- Find out more about the YEA and what it's like to be a member
- Meet existing YEA members and ask them questions
- Find out what YEA members have done in previous years
- Meet the staff that work with the YEA
- Have support to write your candidate statement
- If more people attend than there are spaces on the ballot paper a vote will be held on the day. Candidates not successful on the day will be informed about other local opportunities.

Dates

Hustings Day will run during the February Half Term week from 15th February to the 19th February 2021. You will just need to attend your local event. Once your application has been received your Hustings Day date and time will be sent to you.

To find out more contact: yea@essex.gov.uk



What happens next?

Interested in becoming a member?

- Email yea@essex.gov.uk for an information pack and application form
- Return application form by Monday 5th February 2021
- Attend Hustings Day
- Write your 45 word statement
- If more people attend than there are spaces on the ballot paper a vote will be held at the Hustings Day
- Voting takes place 12th April to the 30th April 2021
- Declaration events 10th May to the 21st May 2021
- First sitting 29th May 2021 – Publicity photos and official welcome by the Council
- Monthly meetings on Saturdays in Chelmsford plus local events, meetings and training as needed.



**“Since joining the YEA
I have learnt loads of
new skills and made
loads of new friends.”**

**Caitlin S, age 15
Epping Forest YEA**

**“I have learnt collaboration is key,
and we can achieve more by working
together. Everyone has different
qualities which can be beneficial to the
team.”**

**Rachel, age 16
Basildon YEA**





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This information is issued by:
Essex County Council
YEA

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formats, on request.

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