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

**Tuesday 28th November**

**Meeting 1 – 17:00– 17:30**

**In attendance**

Essex

Hertfordshire

Southend

**Minutes**

Building on our meetings in October we held more introductory meetings this November to help reach more young people across the East of England. This time our meeting including new young people from Essex and for the first time Hertfordshire. We also had a deputy head from a Southend school in attendance to help support the group also. Once introductions had been done we moved on to ask the group what they felt this group should be focusing on moving forwards and ideas included:

* How we promote differences in schools and how people feel like they belong
* More local opportunities in the community
* More social opportunities
* A chance to build connections with others
* Improving mental health in young people
* Keeping safe online
* Feedback to young people
* Building on local groups and work

Out of all the meetings so far this was our biggest list of suggestions so well done to all those involved.

This group is about young people, not adults, so they need ownership over everything. This includes the naming the group and there were some suggestions:

* Bat and ball
* United East of England
* Voices for young people
* Young people heard
* Young people matter

Ideas will be collated with what we across the other groups and a vote will be made before we reach our next group meeting in January 2024. Next up we discussed how these meetings could be more interesting:

* Make presentations colourful
* Have some guest speakers
* Have activities as part of the meeting
* Could we do some in person?
* Make interactive – use polls
* Activities before and during meetings to complete
* Young people can send feedback in even if they can’t get to the meetings

A massive thank-you to everyone who made this an enjoyable meeting to be involved in!