

# A CASE FOR CHANGE

DORSET #YOUTHVOICE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

## BACKGROUND

Climate change is a familiar topic for young people to talk about.

We have inspiring youth figures like Greta Thunberg speaking out and encouraging us to take action using media channels we understand and use daily.

This year, Dorset Youth Council will lead a climate change campaign with and for young people. Before we go into the detail of what that will look like, we wanted to show you how we know other young people, aged 11-18, are passionate about climate change.

## YOUNG PEOPLE, AGED 11-18, HAVE TOLD US...

Every year, Dorset Youth Council ask young people to take part in a national ballot, called Make Your Mark.

October 2019, 5,300 young people from Dorset made their mark and chose "protecting the environment" as their top national issue to be debated by Member's of Youth Parliament in the House of Commons.

Protect the environment ballot description was:

**"Believing in our responsibility to protect the environment from the effects of climate change for the next generation."**

As a Youth Council, we wrote to our MP's asking them to take action. Simon Hoare MP responded and will be joining us at our April Youth Council meeting to discuss the issue further. We hope other MPs will join him!



## DORSET YOUNG RESEARCHERS

Are a group of young people aged 13 - 18 from across Dorset. They are trained in professional research skills and supported to lead a county wide consultation from start to finish every year.

## DORSET YOUTH COUNCIL

Are a group of young people, aged 11-18, from across Dorset. Their aim is to empower and enable other young people to have their say on decisions that affect them. The group is led by Dorset's Members of Youth Parliament.

## DORSET YOUNG INSPECTORS

Young people trained to inspect services. They mystery shop, interview professionals and service users as well as run desk top research to inform their findings. Finally, they co-produce an action response plan with decision makers to improve their service.



## DORSET'S CARE LEAVER AND CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL

Groups of young people, who are in or who have experienced being in care from Dorset. Junior Council is aged 5-9; Children Council is aged 10-14 and Care Leaver's Council is aged 15-21. Together, they campaign to improve services that support them to live their best life.

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## YOUNG PEOPLE, AGED 11-18, HAVE TOLD US...

January 2020, Dorset hosted its annual youth election. 11 candidates stood to be Dorset's next Members and Deputy Member's of Youth Parliament.

11,962 votes were cast. 3 of the 4 candidates who received the most votes, all ran to improve Dorset's response to climate change.

- Ted wants to reduce carbon emissions across Dorset.
- Olly wants to co-producing a Youth Climate Charter.
- Phoebe wants to reduce single use plastic and support industries to use ecobricks.

## A #YOUTHVOICE CALL TO ACTION

February half term, 2020, we worked together to create our manifesto 2020, which is:

**Campaign Aim:** Empower and support groups of young people to make a tangible difference to the climate crisis within their communities.

**Campaign Action 1:** Audit what actions schools and youth groups are already taking. Develop an online resource to share what works and doesn't work in schools and youth groups.

**Campaign Action 2:** Create a school and youth group carbon zero competition using social media.

**Campaign Action 3:** Run a Youth Climate Commission event, inviting schools and youth groups from across Dorset; co-creating a Dorset Youth Climate Charter together.

**Evidencing impact:** Schools and youth groups will have measured and shared actions they are taking to reduce their impact on the climate crisis.