

SURREY YOUTH FOCUS
PROUDLY SUPPORTS

Youth Social Action

#iwill

YOUNG PEOPLE TAKING PRACTICAL
ACTION IN THE SERVICE OF OTHERS
TO CREATE POSITIVE CHANGE



Youth Social Action

- What is it all about??



Have you ever thought about doing something to **improve your local community** or would you like to do more to **make a difference to others**? Then you are not alone! 1000's of young people up and down the country are creating positive change through **Youth Social Action #iwill**

Youth Social Action is where young people identify local or world problems they want to change and design projects to achieve that change. Topics can be anything from improving mental health to raising awareness of disability or homelessness. Youth Social Action can be achieved through **volunteering, fundraising, campaigning or mentoring** and be a one off or over a year or two, it is up to you!

Taking part in Youth Social Action is a fantastic way to **develop skills** such as resilience, team work and employability skills whilst at the same time improving your own well being. And its not just you who benefit, Youth Social Action has been proven to **strengthen communities** and improve local areas.

So if you are **10 - 20 years old** and would like to know more about getting involved in Youth Social Action, wherever you live and whatever your background, then read on to see how local charity Surrey Youth Focus and other fantastic youth organisations such as Guides/ Scouts/ Duke of Edinburgh/ National Citizenship Service/ schools (who have signed the #iwill pledge to support Youth Social Action) can offer **practical help and advise** to get you started right here in Surrey.

You have the ability to make something positive happen!

Some of the benefits ...

#1

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

- Develop skills such as team work, leadership, initiative, communication, project management, resilience
- Increase confidence and self belief
- Broadening perspectives - more aware of others
- Increased employment potential
- Connecting with the local community/ responsible citizen

#2

FOR ORGANISATIONS

- Ensuring young people's ideas at the heart of projects
- Insight into young peoples concerns
- Connecting with local services and charities
- Good for Ofsted / PSHE
- Enrichment opportunities
- Building local reputation and connections
- Encouraging people from a range of backgrounds to meet and share ideas

#3

FOR COMMUNITIES

- Building communities through social cohesion
- Youth led projects which improve the community
- Young people speak out about what improvements are needed
- Community ownership for common problems and shared solutions
- Building respect and trust between generations

Making the Case for Social Action

The **National #iwill campaign** was launched in 2013 to promote this social movement and encourage young people to take practical action in the service of others, to make a difference and build communities.

In Surrey 30% of young people aged 10 - 20 years old are already taking part in some form of social action.

SCHOOLS and **COLLEGES** remain the main routes of Young People to get involved in social action. So why not find out who at your school can help you get involved. Youth Clubs and Young people groups are also a great place to start your youth social action projects (ask your teacher/ youth leader to email caroline.martyn@surreyyouthfocus.org.uk to find out more)

The good news is, school supporting Youth Social Action are also working towards the **PSHE curriculum**:

KS1 & 2: to share opinions on things that matter to them and explain their views through discussions (R5), to work collaboratively towards shared goals (R11) and to research, discuss and debate topical issues that are of concern to them and offer their recommendations to appropriate people (L1)

KS3 & 4: to recognise their personal strengths and how this affects their self confidence and self esteem (H1) and to further develop study and employability skills (including time management, self organisation and presentation, project planning, team working and networking).(L12)

In January 2017 the Government announced that Youth Social Action can be put on UCAS/Work/Apprentice applications forms as a **recognised form of work experience**. And taking part in Youth Social Action has been proven to increase employment potential, with skills listed by NESTA (2017) as the **top ten skills most desired by employers** such as communication, organisation, planning and teamwork being gained.

Young people taking positive action

Not only is participation in Youth Social Action a fantastic opportunity for you to be part of a social movement but it can contribute to community awards, school citizenship and youth awards. Here are some film clips we hope will inspire you to give it a go!:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rNM9cQ7cecw><<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rNM9cQ7cecw>>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RAoWPVWbaKo><<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RAoWPVWbaKo>>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6EgTin_xKkM<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6EgTin_xKkM>

Surrey Youth Focus will be producing a film for Surrey in 2018 - perhaps you could feature!!

Getting started: Identifying an opportunity

Think about your local community (school/ youth group or wider) - how could it be improved?

You could start by thinking about issues in any of the following areas

- **Health and Well being**
- **Leisure Time**
- **Safe place to live**
- **Environment**
- **Other - everyday life**

What needs to be done? What project ideas do you have?



Making things happen

Think about the following questions and make a plan for action:

- What is your project about?
- Why do you think it is needed?
- What resources and support might you need?
- What role will you play and who else is involved?
- What difference do you think your project will make and for who?
- When will you be doing your project?
- How you will know if you are successful?

By answering these questions you are becoming a "project manager"



What could YOU do?



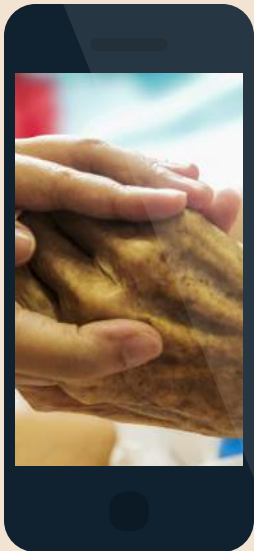
There are lots of Youth Social Action activities you could take part in

- **Fundraising/ sponsored event (e.g. bake sale)**
- **Give time to charity or cause (e.g. helping out at a charity shop)**
- **Supported people (e.g. helping an elderly neighbour with their weekly shop)**
- **Tutored, coached or mentored someone (e.g. maths tuition)**
- **Helped improve the local area (e.g. planting trees)**
- **Campaign for something (e.g. handing out a petition)**

Examples of Youth Social Action happening in Surrey



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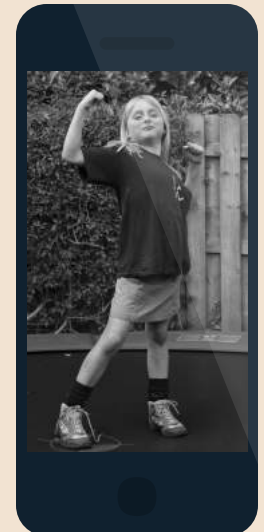


Case Study 1 - Volunteering

Bosco Youth Group – volunteer their time to organise a Generation Games Evening providing refreshments and entertainment at a local day care centre for elderly people to build a better relationship between the generations. This project was chosen as the Day care centre had recently been vandalised by young people so the group wanted to show the residents young people can be kind.

Case Study 2 - Campaigning

Sandy Hills Youth Group – campaigning for ‘A Better Place to Live’ – to remove litter, graffiti, bad language, egging....from their community. As the area has become a target for anti-social behaviour, not liked by the young people living in their community.



Examples of Youth Social Action happening in Surrey



Case Study 3 - Mentoring

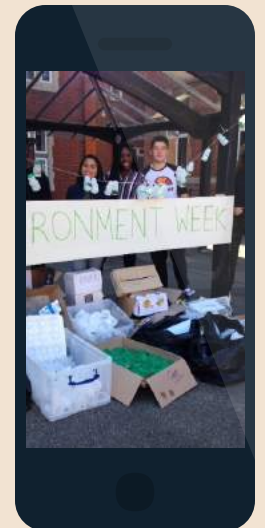


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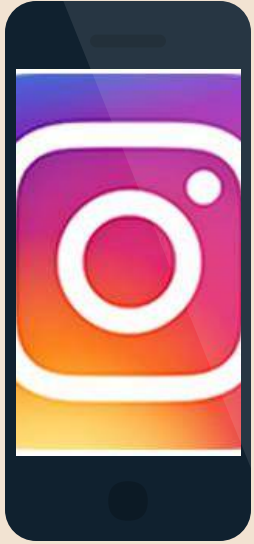
6th Former from Epsom & Ewell High School – ‘To Thrive instead of just Surviving’. A group of 6th former's decided to mentor younger students on different ways of helping with their mental health. Up to 13 younger students can take part in creative outlets of drawing and activities looking at mindfulness, physical awareness, communication, team building.

Case Study 4 - Fundraising

Epsom College - A group of students wanted to raise money for Surrey Wildlife Trust, whilst at the same time raising awareness of environmental issues. They organised a school mufti day, had a large skip in the school playground to collect plastic bottles and made films in class to tell people about the negative impact plastic has on the environment. They raised £1500



Tell us your Youth Social Action stories



If you and your friends are taking part in Youth Social Action, why not tell us about it?

We are looking to feature your stories on our instagram and facebook pages.



Surreyyouthfocus

We are also making a film about Youth Social Action projects in Surrey



#iwill

The #iwill logo is displayed on a yellow rectangular background with a white border. The text "#iwill" is in a dark grey, sans-serif font. The letter 'i' is lowercase and has a small red dot above it.

You could also become a local #iwill ambassadors to help with assemblies and promote the campaign to others.

To get involved email caroline.martyn@surreyyouthfocus.org.uk

Surrey Youth Soup



Surrey Youth Focus is giving you a unique opportunity to gain further support and funding for your project through Surrey Youth Soup.

What is it? A Youth Soup (based on a model from Detroit during their economic crisis) brings ingredients, ideas, seed funding and enthusiasm to create something good for the community.

How does it work? Individually or with friends you present your project ideas to an audience (4 mins max) – the presentation includes who you are, a picture of the problem, and your solution. You then meet local people who can help achieve your action whilst enjoying some soup. Every project receive ££ funding to get you started and during the evening all attendees get to vote for the most inspiring project, who then receives an additional star prize.

How do I get involved in Youth Soup? To get involved simply ask your school/ youth leader to email caroline.martyn@surreyyouthfocus.org.uk



Standing against bullying!



Bid of a Therapy Garden! 🌸🌸🌸🌸

Youth Social Action projects at Surrey Youth Soups



MS coffee morning



Sea Cadets bettering Guildford for the youth

What Practitioners and Councillors say about Youth Soup.....

- 'It was refreshing and stimulating to hear the varied and interesting presentations.'
Peter Martin, Chairman of Surrey County Council
- 'Our students have never had an opportunity like this" - Genevieve Rose, Priory School
- 'A really great event, so good to see the young people develop/pitching their ideas/projects, some really inspiring/engaging young people' - Suzanne Gardiner, Chair Pargiter Trust
- 'Those that presented their projects should be justly proud of what they achieved and the very positive ideas to help others and involve the wider community they are to be congratulated' Deputy Mayor Cllr Michael Parsons.
- 'I was delighted to be a part of the evening and feel that youth social action is a truly valuable experience for all young people.' Amanda Pick, Play and Youth Development Officer, Guildford Borough Council
- 'I really enjoyed the Youth Soup held last night – the young people had a marvellous range of ideas and it was quite inspiring!' Kate Owens, Grants Officer, Community Foundation for Surrey
- 'I thoroughly enjoyed the event, which in my view has very high value for the participants, who are all winners in my book' Major of Farnham Cllr Mike Hodge.
- It was a great chance to create good connections with other organisations that they would not normally meet. David Thomas. Sea Cadets



What young people say

"More young people should get involved ... it was really inspiring to hear other young peoples ideas"



"Amazing how many people wanted to help us"

"Its great to have a voice and share our ideas"

"its a fab way of learning new skills and independence"

80%

young people took part as they wanted to be more involved in their community

Young people stated the reason to get involved in Youth Social Action was to gain confidence

↑45%

Youth Soup

COMING TO A TOWN NEAR YOU !!



East Surrey

Canon, Reigate - Tuesday 7th March 2018

West Surrey

Guildford - March 2018





YOUTH SOCIAL ACTION

How can you and your friends make a difference?

YOUNG PERSON; TEACHER; YOUTH LEADER;
COMMUNITY ORGANISATION; FUNDER

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