

Community Select Committee

23rd July 2026

Support for Young People Review

Kerry Clifford/ Carol Richardson

Hertfordshire County Council's statutory responsibilities

HCC is the local authority designated under the **Children Act 1989** and is legally responsible for:

- safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
- Child in Need assessments (Section 17) & Child Protection enquiries (Section 47)
- Looked After Children
- fostering and adoption
- care leavers
- children's disability services
- Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
- Early Help
- SEND services
- school admissions
- home-to-school transport
- Family Centres
- education welfare and attendance

Stevenage Borough Council does not deliver children's social care.

However, it has important statutory safeguarding duties under the **Children Act 2004**, particularly

Section 10 – Duty to Co-operate

SBC must cooperate with Hertfordshire County Council and other partners to improve children's wellbeing.

Section 11 – Duty to Safeguard

SBC must ensure its own functions are carried out with regard to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

This includes:

- safeguarding policies
- safer recruitment
- staff safeguarding training
- reporting concerns
- information sharing
- participation in multi-agency safeguarding arrangements
- referring concerns promptly to HCC Children's Services

Where Stevenage Borough Council has direct responsibilities affecting children

SBC has statutory functions that often affect vulnerable children and families, including:

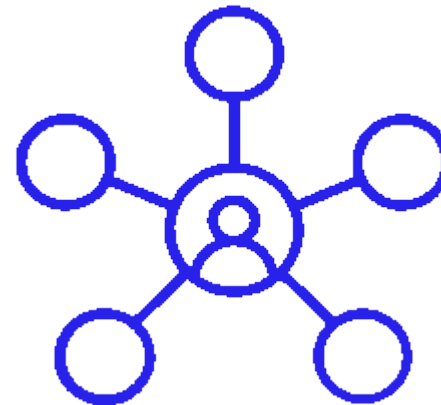
- homelessness prevention and housing duties
- temporary accommodation
- environmental health
- anti-social behaviour
- domestic abuse support
- community safety
- parks and leisure
- youth and community projects
- benefits administration
- private sector housing enforcement

Safeguarding Statistics

Children & Young People



89 Child safeguarding referrals



**185 information sharing
requests completed**

Key projects & partnerships

- Family Intervention Programme
- Care leaver support (Tenancy Sustainment)
- Professionals' meetings & Team Around the Family Meetings
- MACE (multi-agency Child Exploitation)
- Op EDUC8 – Community Safety in schools
- Christmas party for Temporary Accommodation and Safe Space Accommodation
- The Orphan video – Child Criminal Exploitation

Delivering for Young People: The Youth Team's role

The Youth Team was established to

- Understand the experiences, views & priorities of local young people through direct engagement & participation .
- Ensure young people can influence local decision-making & help shape council services, policies & priorities.

Members of the Youth Team will

- Represent SBC and attend community events.
- Contribute to council decision-making on issues affecting young people.
- Lead youth-focused projects through the £20,000 Youth Innovation budget.



Building a Stronger Youth Team

The council has broadened its youth engagement offer to create additional opportunities for young people to influence local decision-making. The expanded approach now includes:



Youth Advisory Board providing strategic input into council priorities & youth-focused initiatives

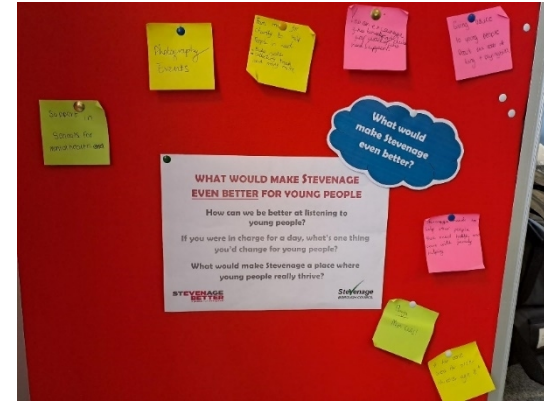
- 12 Board members recruited with YM & DYM as Chair & Vice Chair
- 10 'lead roles' of Board members including: Community Safety; Education; Equality, Diversity & Inclusion & Voting

Youth Action Group enabling young people to lead projects & take action on issues that matter to them

- Recruitment started with plans to launch late Autumn 2026
- Up to 16 members working alongside YAB

All Youth Team opportunities open to young people aged 13-19 (or 25 if have additional needs)

Young People's Experiences & Priorities



What We Are Doing For Young People

Pioneering Young STEM Futures programme – Working with Mission 44 to provide projects aimed at primary aged children & secondary aged students both within & outside of mainstream education - over 1300 young people impacted this academic year

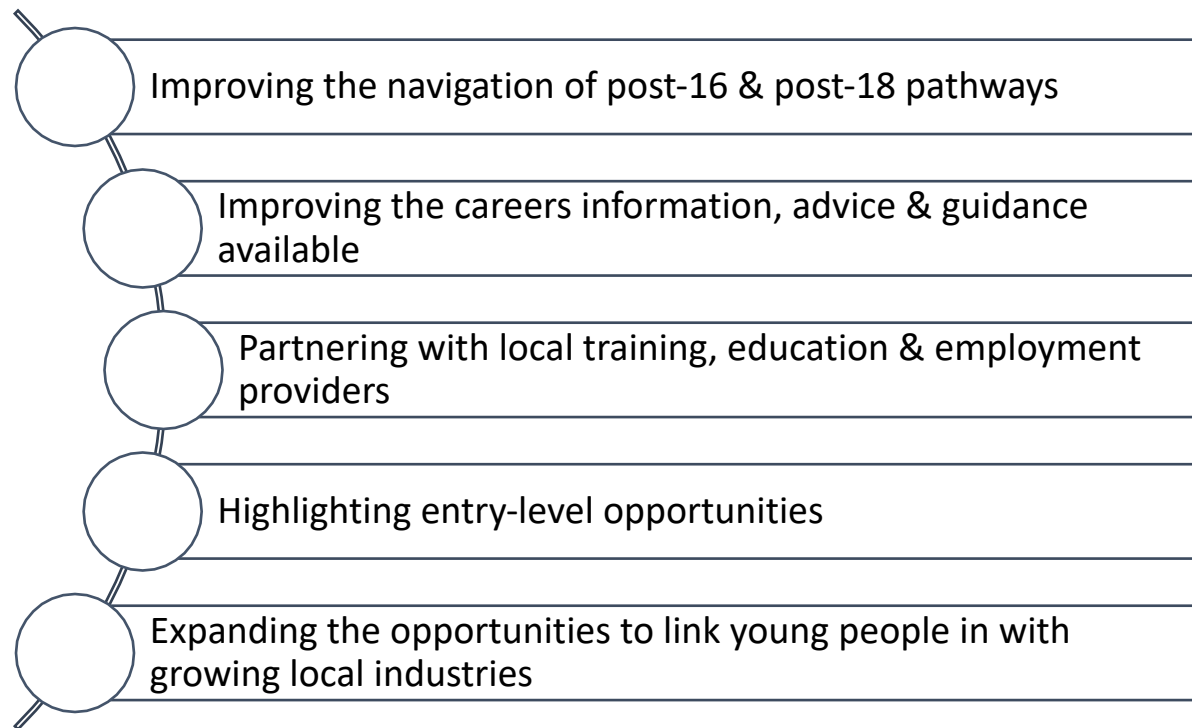
Supporting work placements – Supporting work experience placements to both Y12s & Y10s - 16 students hosted from five secondary schools this academic year

Free community STEM events - Bringing inspiring STEM opportunities to residents including Discover the Wonders of STEM event; Mad Science at Stevenage Day, a STEM-themed Christmas pantomime & the Stevenage Moon Palace Experience



Developing skills & employability – future plans

Working with local employers, education providers & partners to improve the employability of young people by:



Working in partnership for better outcomes

SB Catalyst

Offering careers mentoring sessions to local secondary schools

Autolus

Offering a pilot Early Careers' event on-site for up to 50 Y10 students

UH projects

Delivery of STEM-themed events

Mission 44

Funded Goodwood's Festival of Speed and Silverstone STEM trips

Stevenage Football Club Foundation

Trailing a pilot Y6 transition project for three primary schools

Enterprise & Skills Partnership Officer acts as dedicated link between partners & education providers, coordinating opportunities for young people & reducing the workload for participating organisations



Community & Voluntary Sector Support

The council recognises the vital role local voluntary & community organisations play in supporting young people's well-being, resilience & sense of belonging. Organisations in Stevenage include:

The Wellbeing Junction – providing safe & supportive space



Stand-by-Me – info, advice & support to help children & young people understand & manage their grief



MCR Pathways – mentoring for targeted secondary school students from disadvantaged backgrounds

Statutory Services & Responsibilities

Services for Young People HCC

- 11-15 Hub – Mon, Wed & Fri 11-5pm
- Reach Out project – supporting young people in making healthy relationships
- Bedwell Friday night project – supporting young people in the local community
- Stevenage Access Point – provides sexual health info, support & advice 13-19 (up to 21 if care leaver & up to 24 if have learning difficulty or disability)

Children & Young People's Mental Health Services NHS

- (CYPMHS - formerly CAMHS) – Community clinic based in Stevenage

SENDIASS

- Impartial service supporting children & YP with SEN & or disability 0-25

Services for Young People



Looking ahead: Our priorities for young people

We will continue to broaden our support by:

Strengthening
engagement with
electively home
education young people
& those with SEND

Explore engagement
with the traveller
community

Making opportunities
feel achievable &
accessible

Showcasing real-life
success stories of local
people

Connect our Youth
team with Services for
Young People's Youth
Council offering