



## **Southend Youth Council Anti-Bullying Policy 2020**

The Southend Youth Council wants to ensure that people of all backgrounds and views can express their perspectives without being discouraged by other Youth Councillors.

### **Who to contact**

The Youth Council Worker or another Youth Council member may be contacted in an instance when a victim is concerned or worried either for themselves or for another member. [lucybissell@southend.gov.uk](mailto:lucybissell@southend.gov.uk) can be emailed

The designated Anti-Bullying Ambassador, Marion Simakungwe, can also be contacted and can assist in anything in relation to bullying.

### **How it works**

If it is seen that a Youth Councillor is backtalking, harrassing or not being cooperative with another Youth Councillor – be it verbal abuse (swearing), physical abuse, being disrespectful of another member, back-talking – (and this can be outside meetings like online environments as well as inside) the anti-bullying policy can be enacted:

- A 2-strike system means 1 warning and if that warning has not been listened to, the Youth Council member will be asked to leave the chamber, will be stripped of any roles and will be allowed to return after 3 months.
- After the 3 months' probation, if a person offends again, a 6 month suspension must be made.
- If another offence is made after the 6 months' probation, the Youth Councillor will be asked to leave the Youth Council and not return to protect members who may have been affected.

All records of bullying will be recorded.

Offenders may run for roles in the Southend Youth Council like any other Youth Councillor.

The anti-bullying policy is to be used if continuous instances happen and it is encouraged that opinions are kept to ourselves. It is best to collaborate and be respectful. A positive environment is required for any sort of success.

**Written by Eugene Vlas, Southend Youth Mayor & agreed by Southend Youth Council May 2020**