



2024



# THE YEAR-END REPORT



WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED A LOT TOGETHER,  
AND WE'RE EXCITED TO SHARE THE  
HIGHLIGHTS WITH YOU!

# KEY NUMBERS

2024 BY THE NUMBERS

40



NEW YOUTH COUNCILLORS JOINED US

24



FULL YOUTH COUNCIL MEETINGS

14,492



YOUNG PEOPLE 'S VOICES HEARD THROUGH OUR  
CONSULTATIONS

£753

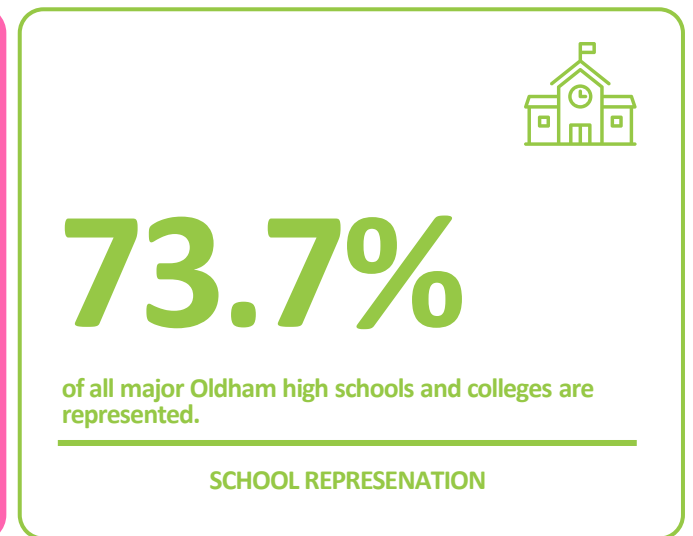
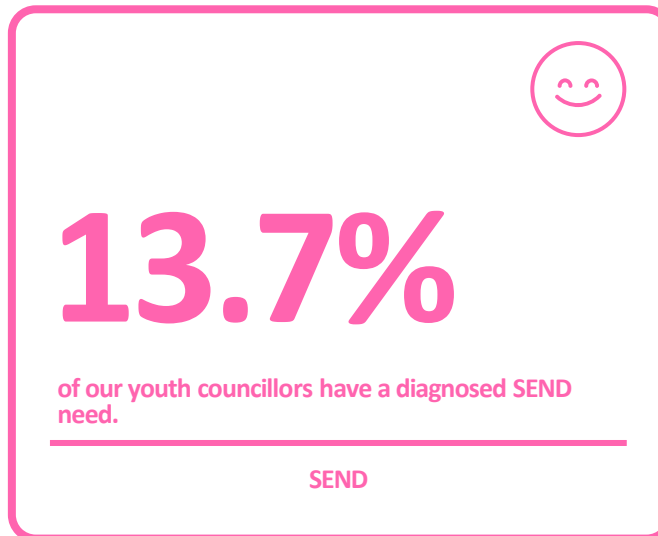
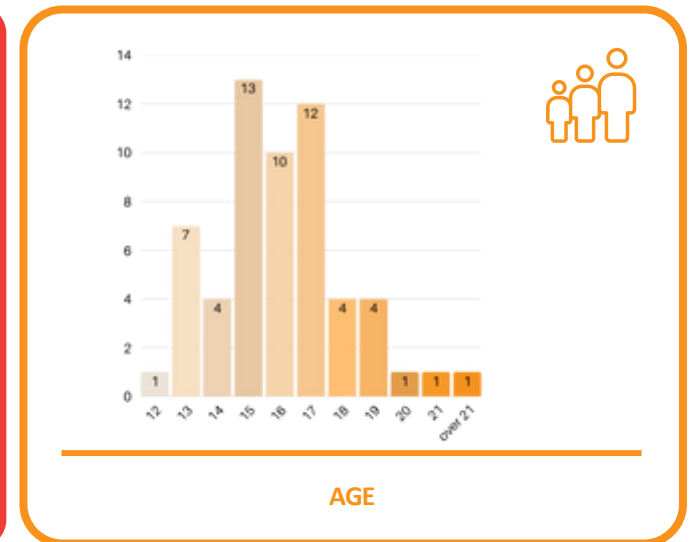
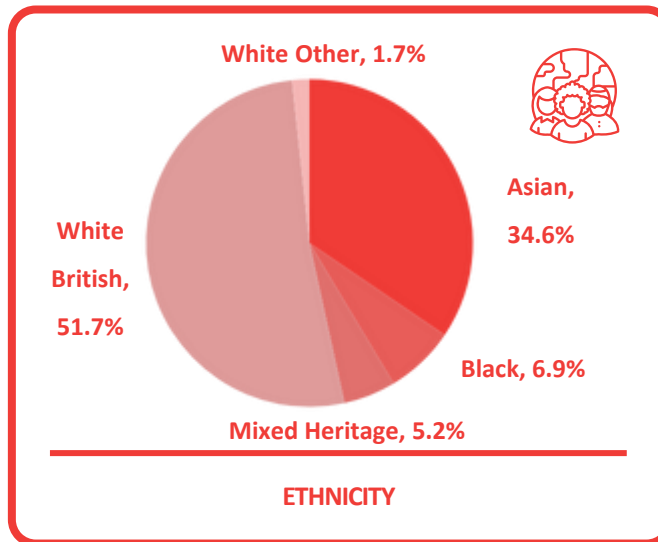
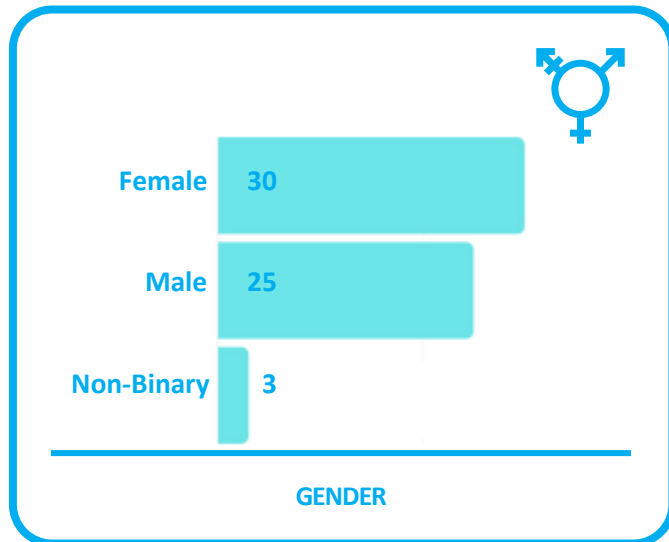


MONEY RAISED FOR CHARITY THROUGH  
SPONSORSHIP



# KEY NUMBERS

## OYC BREAKDOWN



# TEAM ACHIEVEMENTS

"I have made invaluable friends and connections throughout my Youth Mayor year and I look forward to what comes next"

ISAAC QUINN

15TH YOUTH MAYOR OF OLDHAM



ISAAC BECAME THE 15TH YOUTH  
MAYOR OF OLDHAM



PENELOPE BECAME CHAIR OF  
OLDHAM YOUTH COUNCIL



LEAH BECAME VICE CHAIR OF  
OLDHAM YOUTH COUNCIL



# CAMPAIGNS

“Credible Witnesses was an amazing project, that has allowed us to use our stories of injustice, to better the lives of those who can’t speak up for themselves”

**HASSAN JABBAR**  
YOUTH COUNCILLOR & GM REP



## STATIONARY CAMPAIGN

Following a successful motion to Full Council in 2023, where OYC requested unused stationery for distribution to schools, the Youth Council received enough pens, pencils, and rulers to create packs for every high school in Oldham. Additionally, Oldham Council Partners (Muse, CBRE, and Rowan Ashworth) generously donated a £1,000 cheque for OYC to purchase other stationery items, such as calculators.



## WHAT'S YOUR FLAVOUR?

With more young people taking up vaping, Oldham Youth Council wanted to raise awareness of the adverse effects and to let young people know where to get help to quit. OYC created a series of posters tackling the physical, mental, financial, and environmental effects of vaping. However, the posters haven't been released due to potential conflict with NHS guidance on using vapes to quit smoking.



## CREDIBLE WITNESSES

A collaboration with Little Fish Theatre and Oldham Theatre Workshop, this campaign used workshops and performances to engage young people in London and Oldham. The project also partnered with social workers and other professionals to create training and resources. It aimed to transform practices in schools, social work, and criminal justice, empowering youth to share experiences and foster testimonial justice.

# MOTION TO FULL COUNCIL

## FREE SCHOOL MEALS & HAF

In September, Oldham Youth Council (OYC) presented their sole motion of the year to Full Council, driven by the Make Your Mark consultation with young people about the cost-of-living crisis.

While the new UK government's manifesto pledged £315M for universal primary school breakfast clubs, OYC felt this funding could be used more effectively. We advocated for an increased Free School Meal (FSM) threshold to target support more effectively and enhance the wellbeing of young people experiencing poverty.

Additionally, OYC called for the continuation of the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) program. We believed that making HAF universally accessible, even without increasing its budget, would reduce stigma and encourage more FSM-eligible young people to participate.

At Full Council, the OYC motion faced an amendment—a first since 2012. The amendment proposed that funding for extending Free School Meal eligibility and continuing the Holiday Activity and Food program should occur in addition to, rather than instead of, the proposed breakfast clubs.

Oldham Youth Council had hoped to take another motion to Full Council in 2024. Though present at the December Full Council meeting, we unfortunately couldn't deliver the mental health motion we had prepared.



# REPRESENTATION

"Oldham Youth Council gives us the power to speak and, more importantly, to be heard."

ASAD RANJA  
YOUTH COUNCILLOR

## MEETINGS

Throughout the year, Oldham Youth Council hosts many organisations, giving Youth Councillors a chance to represent the young people they serve. In these meetings, Youth Councillors speak directly with local decision-makers, sharing valuable ideas and suggestions to improve services across the borough.



- **Children's Society:** OYC provided insights into financial exploitation, its impact on youth, their understanding, and support.
- **Clinical Psychologists (NHS):** OYC met with the NHS head of clinical psychologists to discuss promoting psychology careers to young people.
- **CYP Participation Framework:** OYC helped shape the Children and Young People (CYP) Participation Framework from inception to final sign-off and foreword.
- **Economic Vision/Local Plan:** The Director of Economy consulted OYC on Oldham's economic climate and future plans, including the Local Plan. Youth Councillors shared opinions and priorities.
- **First Choice Homes Oldham (FCHO):** OYC reviewed FCHO's draft anti-social behaviour policy, giving feedback and suggesting improvements.
- **Kooth.com:** OYC members discussed Kooth and Qwell online mental wellbeing platforms with staff, offering input on user-friendliness.
- **Mental Health Consultation (NHS & Council):** OYC met with NHS and Council health teams to discuss Oldham's youth mental health services and awareness strategies.
- **Town Centre Plan:** OYC engaged with Muse and Turley on Town Centre plans, offering opinions and volunteering to gather more youth voices via a "10 forward" survey.
- **Youth Vaping (Council Public Health):** OYC discussed youth vaping/smoking data with Public Health, exploring prevention strategies.



# CONSULTATION

"The opportunity to be consulted with and to consult others, on such important projects for Oldham, makes being part of OYC worthwhile."

IBRAHIM KHAN  
YOUTH COUNCILLOR

## MAKE YOUR MARK

A UK-wide consultation, conducted on behalf of UK Youth Parliament. OYC consulted 13,500 young people (the highest turnout in the Northwest, 4th in the UK) who said Crime & Safety and Jobs, Economy & Benefits were the most pressing issues. They also wanted more help for families around the cost-of-living crisis and more to be done about violent crime (including knife crime).

## #BEEWELL

Post-2024 #BeeWell survey, Oldham Youth Council (OYC) investigated why <50% of Oldham's youth felt unheard. Focus groups (with approx. 250 young people) revealed OYC had a lower profile than expected. It also revealed a lack of awareness of effective channels for young people's ideas, especially within schools where change felt unlikely.



Make  
Your Mark

## TOWN CENTRE PLAN

Oldham Youth Council partnered with Muse and Turley, reaching out to 343 young people, to influence the Town Centre Plan.

## 10 FORWARDS

OYC's "10 Forwards" (where each YCllr asks 10 friends a short survey) engaged 430 young people on free school meals, informing a September motion.



# MEETINGS

"Attending meetings is brilliant. We get to tell decision-makers what young people in Oldham truly need, and they actually listen."

**TOM PENKETH**  
YOUTH COUNCILLOR



## GMP YOUTH SCRUTINY PANEL

As part of Greater Manchester Police's Child Centred Policing initiative, Oldham Youth Councillors are members of the Youth Scrutiny Panel. Each term young people watch body-worn footage of either a 'stop and search' or 'use of force' procedure, giving their opinions of how the interaction between officer and young person could be improved. This information has been used as feedback to officers and to inform training.



## GMP INDEPENDANT ADVISORY GROUP

An Independent Advisory Group (IAG) acts as a "critical friend" to the police, offering community perception insights for improved policing. Members bring personal experiences.

Oldham Youth Council has three representatives on the IAG, who join meetings once a term, ensuring young people's voices inform and enhance policing engagement in Oldham.



## OLDHAM TOWN CENTRE BOARD

Oldham Youth Council (OYC) actively participates in the Oldham Town Centre Board, with their Economy Officer and deputy ensuring young people's perspectives are integrated into all town centre planning. Their involvement has been instrumental in developing the Town Investment Plan and informing the Town Deal, directly influencing the amount of investment secured through the Towns Fund.

# REGIONAL WORK

“Being Chair of the GMYCA has provided me so many opportunities, including working alongside Andy Burnham”

**ALI AHMED**  
YOUTH COUNCILLOR & GM REP

## YOUTHFORIA

Oldham Youth Councillors actively participated in six Youthforia meetings and the annual residential, connecting with young people from across the Northwest to meet, network, and learn. The diverse themes covered, including disability awareness, social media, Black History Month, and LGBTQ+ rights, significantly upskilled Oldham Youth Councillors.



## GM YOUTH COMBINED AUTHORITY (GMYCA)

Youth Councillors regularly attend GMYCA meetings in the city centre. This year, they have directly influenced projects such as the Bee Network transport links and the Greater Manchester Baccalaureate (MBacc), which aims to establish technical education pathways within the city-region, through direct discussions with Andy Burnham.



# NATIONAL WORK

"Being an MYP is really an amazing experience, it's a privilege to be able to represent Oldham on a national stage and ensure our voices are heard."

**LOUIE WILD**  
YOUTH COUNCILLOR & MYP

## A NEW CHAPTER FOR YOUTH VOICE:

In March 2024, we received the news that the British Youth Council (BYC), after 75 years of youth advocacy, would cease operations. As a member of BYC, Oldham Youth Council had been involved in many of their programs, most notably the UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) and the Votes at 16 Coalition.



Following a period of uncertainty, the National Youth Agency (NYA) stepped in to assume responsibility for running the UKYP and is exploring the reinstatement of a national youth council.

Oldham continues to be represented by two Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs), who advocate for young people at a national level. While the transition to the NYA caused program delays, our representatives were able to attend the Annual Conference at Warwick University. Here, they engaged in crucial discussions about the future direction of UKYP and debated new manifesto pledges for the 2024-2026 term of office. Unfortunately, due to the delays, the highly anticipated 2024 House of Commons sitting, typically held in November, was postponed to February 2025.



# INTERNATIONAL WORK

"Doing Listen to the Earth has been one of the most incredible experiences of my life so far, providing memories that will impact me forever!"

PETER STEELE  
YOUTH COUNCILLOR

## LISTEN TO THE EARTH



### Listen to the Earth Program

In 2024, the Oldham Youth Council once again partnered with the Oldham Theatre Workshop for the "Listen to the Earth" program. After ten weeks of intensive preparation, young people journeyed to Oświęcim, Poland. There, they experienced the Auschwitz and Birkenau camps firsthand, gaining an understanding of the Holocaust's devastating effects. Participants also had the invaluable opportunity to meet with a survivor and hear her eye-witness testimony of the horrific conditions. Drawing on this powerful experience, Youth Councillors developed creative skills to produce resources that will be used in Oldham.

Consistent with previous years, the core objective of the project was to use Holocaust education to develop sensitivity and understanding. This immersive program empowered these young individuals to serve as positive role models within their Oldham communities.

### UP Conference: Challenging Prejudice and Discrimination

Upon their return, the participants channelled their experiences into planning the United Peoples (UP) Conference. This event aimed to bring together young people from across Oldham to share, the participants' of Listen to the Earth, crucial learning. Held in the Failsworth Suite of the Queen Elizabeth Hall, the conference saw approximately 60 young people engage in workshops centred around prejudice, discrimination, the spread of hate, and practical steps young people can take to challenge it. The young people who travelled to Poland bravely led each of these workshops, drawing directly on what they had witnessed and the creative skills they had developed during their powerful journey.

# FUNDRAISING

"The 80 for 80 walk was fun but I was really tired after walking so far. That all left me though when I realised what we had raised."

MILAN KELIS-HUGHES  
YOUTH COUNCILLOR



To commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day, OYC supported an event where participants walked 80km over two days, including an overnight sleepout at the Civic Centre. Sponsorship raised went to the Royal British Legion.



Youth Councillors dedicated their day to staffing a stall at a fun day and music event, which was held to raise money for the Royal British Legion. Running a tombola, tuck shop and leading games for the children attending was all part of the day.



Youth Councillors joined the Youth Service's Masculinity and Normality (MAN) project to raise £180 for Movember. Their efforts, which included a sponsored walk, hosting BBQs, and attempting to grow mustaches, helped combat prostate and testicular cancer and raised awareness of male suicide.



# FUN MEMORIES

"I have so many fun memories, I've only just recovered from the archery tag. I go nuts for the Super Resi"

**GRIFF ROSTRON**  
YOUTH COUNCILLOR

## SUPER RESI 2024



### OLDHAM YOUTH VOICE FAMILY: SUPER RESI AT MOUNT COOK

In August, 50 young people from Oldham's Youth Voice Family, including Oldham Youth Council Youth Councillors, embarked on their annual Super Resi at the Mount Cook Adventure Centre. Over three days and two nights, participants immersed themselves in various outdoor education activities such as Archery Tag, a High Ropes course, and engaging problem-solving tasks.

This year's residential specifically aimed to enhance personal communication and presentation skills. While the young people were already proficient at delivering presentations to groups, it was identified that focused skill-building was needed for one-on-one interactions, particularly when communicating with adults and decision-makers. The Super Resi provided a valuable opportunity to develop these crucial interpersonal skills.



# ANNUAL REVIEW

EACH YEAR THE YOUTH COUNCIL SURVEYS ITS MEMBERS TO SEE WHAT SHOULD BE AND CAN BE IMPROVED

100%

YES

I AM PROUD TO BE A MEMBER OF OYC

85%

YES

15%

NO

OLDHAM YOUTH COUNCIL IS REPRESENTATIVE OF  
OLDHAM'S DIVERSE YOUTH POPULATION

67%

YES

33%

NO

OLDHAM YOUTH COUNCIL HAS CLEAR  
ACCOUNTABILITY TO OLDHAM'S YOUNG PEOPLE

95%

YES

5%

NO

OYC HAS INFLUENCE

92%

YES

7%

NO

WE HAVE A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH SENIOR  
DECISION MAKERS AND LEADERS IN OLDHAM

100%

YES

I FEEL MY VOICE IS LISTENED TO AND ACTED UPON  
AT OYC



# ANNUAL REVIEW

EACH YEAR YOUTH COUNCIL SURVEYS ITS MEMBERS TO SEE  
WHAT SHOULD BE AND CAN BE IMPROVED

100%

YES

I FEEL VALUED AND RESPECTED AT OLDHAM YOUTH COUNCIL

100%

YES

OLDHAM YOUTH COUNCIL IS INCLUSIVE TO ALL

100%

YES

I FEEL MY NEEDS AND THE NEEDS OF OTHERS ARE WELL MET AT OYC

100%

YES

OYC PROVIDES EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR IS MEMBERS

100%

YES

I FEEL MY SAFETY AND WELL BEING ARE WELL SUPPORTED OYC

100%

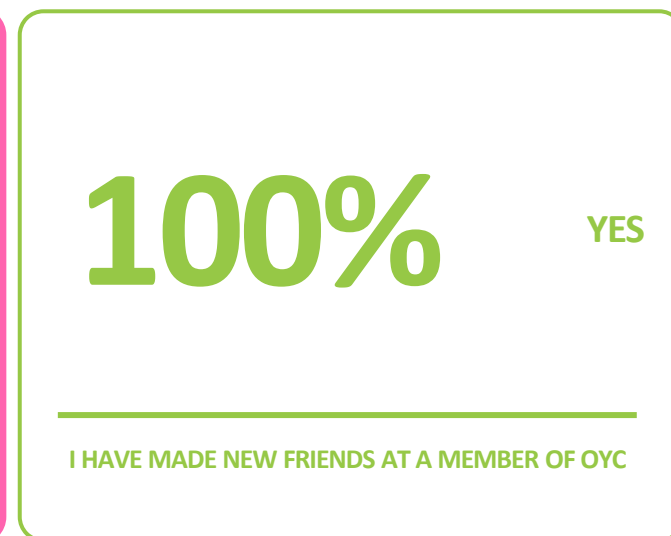
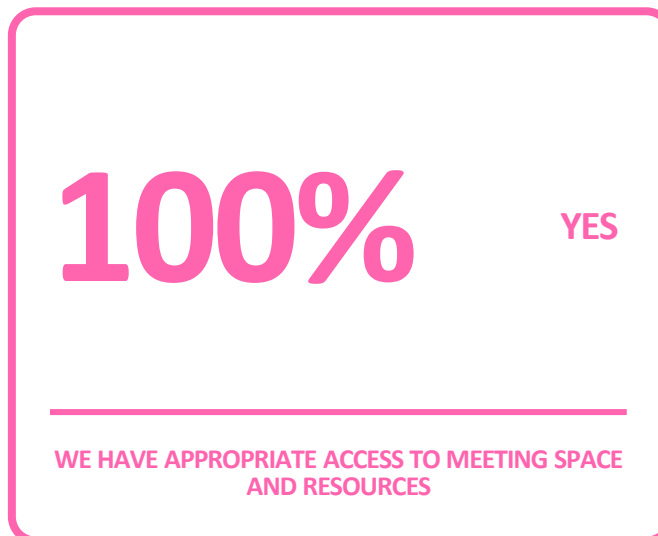
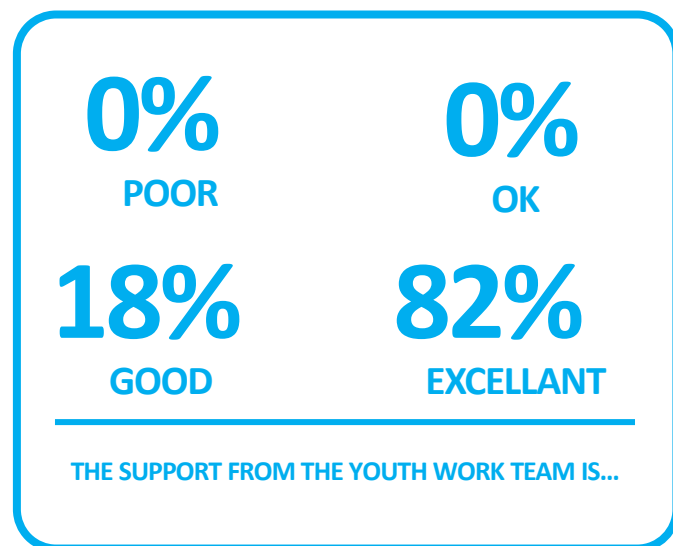
YES

I FEEL THERE IS A YOUTH WORKER I TRUST AND CAN TALK TO ABOUT ANY ISSUES AT OYC



# ANNUAL REVIEW

EACH YEAR YOUTH COUNCIL SURVEYS ITS MEMBERS TO SEE  
WHAT SHOULD BE AND CAN BE IMPROVED





# ANNUAL REVIEW

EACH YEAR, THE YOUTH COUNCIL SURVEYS ITS MEMBERS TO SEE WHAT SHOULD BE AND CAN BE IMPROVED

100%

YES

BEING A MEMBER OF OYC IS FUN AND ENJOYABLE

100%

YES

AS A MEMBER OF OYC I MAKE A DIFFERENCE

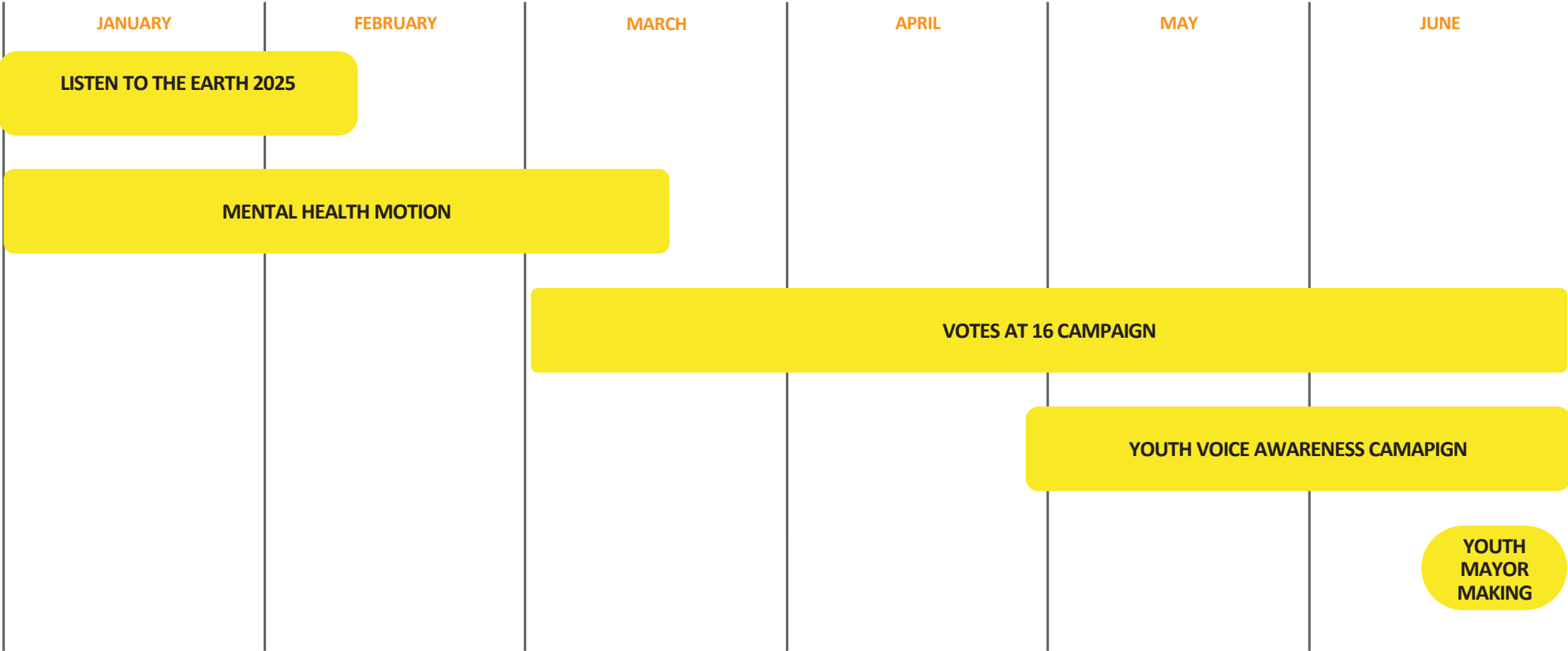
full of opportunities  
excellant  
tasty  
great opportunities  
amazing  
difference  
friendly  
valuable  
change  
fun  
lovely  
inclusive  
action  
formal  
fan  
community  
confidence  
good  
encouraging  
opportunities  
comedy  
changing

WHAT 3 WORDS WOULD YOU USE TO DESCRIBE OYC



# WHAT'S NEXT?

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025



# WHAT'S NEXT?

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025





# HERE'S TO 2025!



**2024 WAS A YEAR OF GROWTH, LEARNING, AND  
ACHIEVEMENT. WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED A LOT  
TOGETHER.**

**THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF OUR JOURNEY.**

**LET'S MAKE 2025 EVEN MORE AMAZING TOGETHER!**

