

# Sparks Youth Initiative

*Founding Charter — Adopted 2026*

*“A youth’s future shouldn’t depend on the postcode they were born into.”*

## Our Mission

To stand alongside young people in Thurrock and across Essex — offering safe homes, steady mentors and real opportunities — so every young person has the chance to thrive on their own terms.

## Our Values

**Grounded.** We meet young people where they are, not where systems expect them to be.

**Honest.** We tell the truth about what we can and can’t do, and we don’t promise miracles.

**Long-haul.** Twelve months minimum, often years. Real change takes real time.

## Our Guidelines

**Safeguarding first.** Every staff member, mentor and volunteer is DBS-checked and trained in trauma-informed practice.

**Youth voice leads.** No decision about young people is made without young people in the room.

**Confidential and non-judgemental.** What is shared with us stays with us, unless safety requires otherwise.

**Inclusive by design.** We welcome every background, faith, identity and ability. Discrimination has no place here.

## Our Commitment

We commit to showing up — consistently, honestly and for the long haul. To listening before we act. To celebrating progress over perfection. And to making sure no young person in Essex feels like they have to face what’s next on their own.

Signed on behalf of the founding trustees,

Sparks Youth Initiative — 42 London Road, West Thurrock, Grays, Essex RM17