

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

WHAT IS THE UK YOUTH PARLIAMENT?

The UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) gives the young people of the UK between the ages of 11 and 18 a voice, which will be heard and listened to by local and national government, providers of services for young people and other agencies who have an interest in the views and needs of young people. It is an independent, national charity, which has a rolling programme of activities across the year. This includes an Annual Sitting, Regional Meetings, regular dialogue with Ministers, including the Prime Minister and Opposition spokespeople and inputs to policy and programme development.

WHO DOES IT AIM TO REPRESENT?

Every young person resident in the UK up to the age of 18 years old (inclusive). Those aged between 11 and 18 can stand for election to UKYP, and have the right to vote for an MYP. In 2007, 54% of UKYP's MYPs were female and 46% were male, 5% had disabilities and 21% were from black and minority ethnic groups (compared to 8% of the total population, using 2001 census statistics).

WHAT DOES UKYP DO?

Once elected MYPs work with their MPs, councillors and local youth groups on the issues of greatest concern to their constituents.

UKYP also regularly brings together its MYPs at a regional level, to exchange best practice and identify common issues of concern.

UKYP then links to Regional Government Offices, Assemblies and Development Agencies to ensure young people’s views are heard and acted upon regionally.

Nationally, the views of young people are represented in the UKYP Manifesto, which contains statements on the issues MYPs think are most important. To view the UKYP Manifesto, please go to www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk.

MYPs are working across the country to give young people a voice – listening to marginalised groups, organising events, making films, meeting MPs and appearing in the media, all to amplify the views of their peers.

HOW DOES UKYP ENSURE THAT IT ISN'T TAKEN OVER BY POLITICAL PARTIES AND/OR PRESSURE GROUPS?

UKYP has a clear Code of Conduct for young people becoming MYPs which emphasises UKYP’s independence from political parties and pressure groups, whilst stressing that it is the responsibility of the MYP to represent the views of all their constituents.

HOW ARE MYPs ELECTED?

Each Local Authority in England represents a UKYP constituency. There are varying numbers of MYPs in each constituency depending upon the number of young people who live in that area. The minimum number of MYPs an authority can have is one, whilst the maximum number is seven. Separate arrangements are in place for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

UKYP elections are held between November and January each year. Elected MYPs serve a one year term of office which commences on 1st February. In the past two years nearly 750,000 young people have voted in UKYP elections.

HOW IS UKYP RUN?

UKYP is an organisation which is run by young people for young people.

UKYP has a Board of Trustees who have legal and financial responsibility for the organisation. At least 51% of the members of the Board are made up of young people aged between 18 and 25. Young Trustees are elected by the regional groups of MYPs and the three UK nations to represent their region's views on the Board.

UKYP also has a Procedures Group, made up of two MYPs from each English region and the three devolved nations, which is responsible for overseeing the organisation's day to day growth and development, e.g. the Procedures Group determine the itinerary for the UKYP's Annual Sitting and how the event should be run.

UKYP employs members of staff to support the MYPs and their work, undertake the day to day administrative duties associated with running a national organisation, and organise events and meetings as determined by the MYPs.

WHAT IS THE ANNUAL SITTING?

UKYP holds an Annual Sitting in late July each year. For four days, MYPs come together from across the UK to address the issues which are important to them and their constituents. MYPs take part in workshops, debates, and develop the national campaigns for the year ahead. MYPs also get the opportunity to vote on issues which determine how UKYP is run.

WHAT ARE E-GROUPS?

E-groups are used by MYPs, DMYPs, PG Reps, Regional Co-ordinators and UKYP staff to communicate with each other

electronically. By being a member of your regional e-group you will receive information about meetings, events, national opportunities and much more! To be added to your regional e-group please contact your Regional Co-ordinator or send an email to mail@ukyouthparliament.org.uk

HOW CAN I GET IN CONTACT?

Visit the UK Youth Parliament website at:

- www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk

Or send an email to:

- info@ukyouthparliament.org.uk

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