

# CAMPAIGNS UPDATE

## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The issue of concessionary transport has been consistently discussed in the Commons, a good sign that it is at the top of many MPs' agendas. MP Norman Baker challenged the Prime Minister about the growing cost of public transport, whilst MPs Kerry McCarthy and Clive Betts both referred to UKYP's transport work in a Commons debate. Addressing the Minister for Transport, Rosie Winterton, Betts stated;

"The Youth Parliament did an excellent survey in Sheffield which assessed young people's attitude towards public transport."

On 1st April, over 60-year-olds became the first group to be entitled to free off-peak travel on local buses anywhere in England. This led MP David Chaytor to argue:

"Does the Minister agree that exactly the same arguments that supported the case for a national concessionary fares scheme for the over-60s also support the case for such a scheme for the under-18s?"

Meanwhile the results of our Fares Fair survey are soon to be revealed in a UKYP transport report. With help from MYPs and youth workers across the UK, the report will highlight the problems with public transport for young people. The report will be launched at the UKYP Annual Sitting in July.

Finally, there's still time to film your virtual signatures for UKYP's video petition - see the website for details - if we want this to be memorable we need everyone's support!

[www.ukyp.org.uk/faresfair](http://www.ukyp.org.uk/faresfair)

**To find out the UK Youth Parliament's UK-wide campaign priorities for 2008/09 turn to page 4**

## VOTES @ 16

The Votes @ 16 campaign took a while to gather momentum but the Government finally announced the chair of the Youth Citizenship Commission in February along with a forward plan looking into the role of citizenship and young people - including whether the voting age should be lowered to 16. This is a significant development and the next couple of years look positive with regards to the Government's commitment to political youth engagement.

The Private Members Bill (PMB) will be getting a second reading on the 6th June; a chance for MPs to discuss the lowering of the voting age in greater detail - a great way of keeping the profile of the campaign on the agenda whilst the Commission's review gets underway.

On 4th June Julie Morgan MP will be hosting an event and discussion alongside MYPs to launch the second reading of the PMB. This event is to provide an opportunity for young people and MPs to voice their opinion before the Parliamentary debate on the 6th June. If you're interested in attending, contact [kajal@ukyp.org.uk](mailto:kajal@ukyp.org.uk)

[www.ukyp.org.uk/votesat16](http://www.ukyp.org.uk/votesat16)

## SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION (SRE)

The Sex and Relationships Education campaign saw UKYP making a lot of noise nationally - the DCSF couldn't ignore the facts any longer and announced a full review into SRE in schools - co-chaired by a member of UKYP!

The Review Steering Group will be co-chaired by Schools Minister Jim Knight, Jackie Fisher - Principal of Newcastle College, and our very own MYP, Joshua McTaggart. MYPs Katrina Mather and Robert Sassoon are also on this SRE steering group.

Keep an eye out for a follow-up survey to 2007's 'SRE: Are you getting it?' as part of the review. It will dig deeper in to the flaws in current SRE to identify where improvements need to be made.

[www.ukyp.org.uk/sre](http://www.ukyp.org.uk/sre)