

NEWS IN BRIEF

National

UKYP's importance recognised in the Community Empowerment White Paper

The Department for Community and Local Government's Community Empowerment White Paper – launched at the end of July – showcased the Government's vision for re-connecting people with decision making. In the youth section, UKYP was singled out as an important way to revitalise local democracy. UKYP Chief Executive Andy Hamflett said, "It's really important to recognise the vital role that MYPs – and all young people – play in improving communities. Adult structures can learn so much from the passion of young people and the fantastic skills and commitment of the youth workers who support them."

South West

MYPs visit the European Parliament

On 13th July, current and former MYPs, DMYPs and PG Reps from the South West along with the Youth Representatives on the South West Regional Assembly visited Brussels to get a taste of

European decision making. They toured the European Parliament and learnt about how it was set up as well as its different regulations and procedures such as how MEPs are elected and their term of office. Whilst they were there MYPs had the chance to attend different committee meetings to see how the European Parliament worked first hand.



South West representatives Josh McTaggart and Lydia Cheyne get into the European spirit!

National

Charity awards celebrate UKYP's campaigning expertise

UKYP has been shortlisted for a major national award, for its

youth-led campaign on Sex and Relationships Education. The Annual Charity Times Awards recognise excellence within the voluntary sector, and UKYP has been shortlisted as Campaign Team of the Year. UKYP Chief Executive Andy Hamflett said, "This is fantastic recognition of the efforts of every young person and adult who helped make the campaign such a success over many months." The overall winner will be announced on September 18th.

West Midlands

"See the Good Behind the Hood" website launched

MYPs in the West Midlands have been working to try and improve the image of young people in the press. They have just launched their regional website: www.good-hood.co.uk. Working with the campaign leads, media reps and regional co-ordinator, they hope their website will show young people in a positive light.

East of England

MYPs campaign for better youth provision

MYPs in the East of England have been focusing on their regional campaign - improving youth

provision. Some areas have developed surveys to take into schools and youth clubs, whilst others are completing general research to find out what there is (and what variety there is) for young people to do. For more information on this campaign please contact Sally Palmer on 01603 485 999.

National

UKYP website hits the heights

Usage for the UK Youth Parliament website has been rocketing recently, in line with the organisation's growing profile everywhere. The site now receives 160,000 unique visitors each month, and over 600,000 page views. On top of that, the UKYP forums – packed full of interesting debate – have over 1,700 members, who between them make over 14,000 postings each month. The most visited areas of the site are the forums, followed by 'UKYP in your area', 'MYP Profiles', 'About us' and 'Get involved'. Check out the website at www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk to see what all the fuss is about!

West Midlands

MYP calls time on substance misuse

Joe Sullivan, MYP for Staffordshire, is campaigning to get a shocking video diary of a heroin addicts' desperate final attempts to kick drugs, shown to millions of schoolchildren. Joe has been awarded just over £5,000 to create education packs to compliment the DVD. Joe said: "The DVD is an honest and a true account of one person's

struggle with drugs. I hope that it will be used as a teaching resource across the country. We as young people need to know the truth about drug addiction. If only one person is saved from going down that road it will be well worth the effort"



Media Reps generate press coverage at the UKYP event at the House of Lords in May

National

UKYP press coverage hits record high

Figures just out reveal that the UK Youth Parliament received a staggering 1,000 mentions in the press in the last six months. MYPs hit every kind of press imaginable – from national television, through to local papers and regional radio. The phenomenal coverage reached an average audience of 14 million per month! Coverage was particularly outstanding in the South West and the West Midlands, and the two most covered issues were MYP elections and the historic House of Lords event. For further information please contact the UK Youth Parliament Press Office on 020 7553 9894.

East Midlands

Takeover Day in Leicester

Leicester City are planning a takeover day and conference in November where young people all around Leicester will shadow professionals and see exactly what they do. Companies like Connexions will also be involved, as will a few others and of course Leicester City Council and the Children and Young Peoples services. For more information please contact Leicester Youth Service on 0116 299 5792.

National

UKYP has new home

After three years of being based at the National Children's Bureau in Wakley Street, the UKYP Central Office has upped sticks and moved to a new bigger office (with fewer stairs!) in Farringdon, London. Our new address is 15 Clerkenwell Green, London, EC1R 0DP. The new office telephone number is: 020 7553 9890.

For more news, views and information from the world of UKYP please visit www.ukyp.org.uk

