



SUCCESS IN TORBAY WITH 'YOUR BAY 2DAY'

By Daniel Olaiya, 16, MYP for Torbay

As it was my first few months being involved in UKYP, I really had (and still do have) an overly-enthusiastic attitude about what I wanted to do - get the young people of Torbay heard and let them see what services and opportunities are out there for them.

Being so inexperienced in the job, me and my fellow MYP, William Bowles, contacted our MP and talked about what we could do. To be honest the MP wasn't a great help, so I realised that if I wanted to produce something or make a change, I had to do it myself. So Will and I put forward an idea of a meeting where young people could discuss problems in Torbay.

This evolved into an idea of a huge event which involved delegates from schools around Torbay attending a conference where they could challenge the local decision makers about issues affecting them, whilst also finding out

about new opportunities and schemes running in Torbay. I came up with the catchy name: "Your Bay 2Day".

We got straight to work, renting a venue and publicising the event on the radio (which was a fantastic experience), getting posters in every school and youth club and inviting decision makers. In fact we had many uninvited councillors asking to attend the conference.

The day of the conference came and it turned out to be a total success. All the delegates from schools around Torbay had been enriched and had a chance to finally have their say in the running of Torbay. The main issue seemed to be transport fares, and following a heated debate involving the local MP and the Mayor, it was agreed that something must be done about the unacceptable fares.



Sir Adam McGuinness (one of Torbay's Councillors) said: "I have always believed that the young people of Torbay or any area for that matter should have a say in how things are run and "Your Bay 2 Day" was a fantastic opportunity for the young people of Torbay to really get their voices heard, and could be the beginning of many changes to come."

"Your Bay 2Day" was one of the biggest events to hit the young people of Torbay and there will definitely be a repeat next year as requested!