

# Youth Voice: Positive Stories

April 2012





# Youth Voice: Positive Stories

**A report by youth representatives and the workers that support them  
April 2012**

Throughout April 2012 we invited youth representatives, including Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs), Deputy Members of Youth Parliament (DMYPs), Youth Councillors, Young Mayors and Deputy Young Mayors, to share their stories of the positive activities they have been engaging in recently.

We also gave workers the opportunity to update us on the activities of the youth groups they work with and support. The British Youth Council will share this report regionally and nationally, with local councillors and MPs, in order to raise the profile of the fantastic local work that we know is happening every day.

This is the first report of its kind that the British Youth Council has produced. It shares stories from September 2011 up to and including April 2012. **Over 100 case studies and stories of the work of young people in their local communities were submitted and are reproduced here in their own words.**

Over the past three months the majority of youth elections have been held, and for those recently elected we find out what made them want to stand for election, which issues they campaigned for in the run up to their election and what they have been up to since.

The online survey will now remain open and over the next year we will produce a report similar to this one, once a month, providing young people the opportunity to shout about the great work they have been doing in their local areas during the previous month.

The British Youth Council would like to thank all the workers and young people who took the time to promote and complete April's survey and we look forward to hearing more from everyone over the coming months.



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# East Midlands

## Lincolnshire

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### Luke Thompson

Deputy Young Mayor - elected into position since September 2011

#### What made you want to stand for election?

I am very interested in politics. I study it at A level and I will be studying it at university. Added on to this, I understand and value to power on the young voice. WE are the future and I want to play my part in making my town a better place for future generations and for my great grandchildren. I also felt that I could provide stability to the council.

#### During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?

Well with my youth council, it has only been running a couple of months now. One thing I promised was to make the youth council sustainable for future generations and I think I could of provided this. I also wanted to improve the facilities for young people in our town, but most importantly I wanted to make sure that the youth council engages with a broad society of young people in our town. To do this we are doing a survey to make sure a lot of views are heard and put across.

#### What positive experiences have you had since being elected?

One thing that is exciting for us is the amount of people who turned up. Everyone is excited rather than a small number of people. We have also had a lot of media coverage, in local papers, county papers and international websites. We are hopefully planning a community concert to show off the local talent in the town.



**Daniel Evans**

Youth Councillor

**What have you been doing since September 2011 in your role representing young people in your area?**

I have been a youth councillor since March and so far we have had two meetings the first one being an introduction and the second one on the business so far my ideas have been passed e.g. free to use public toilets and a youth concert.

**No information submitted up to April 2012**

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Derby  
Derbyshire  
Leicester  
Leicestershire  
Northamptonshire  
Nottingham  
Nottinghamshire  
Rutland



# East of England

## Bedford

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**Emma Sparrow**  
Support Worker

**Please tell us about the positive stories and activities that the young people you work with have been engaged in since January 2012.**

Short film made by young people with disabilities for school transport escorts with their top tips

## Central Bedfordshire

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**Max Hurst**  
Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011

**What made you want to stand for election?**

I wanted to get involved in activities in my local area and speak for all my peers, this would allow me to carry their opinion forwards, and get the things that young people want.

**During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?**

Improve public transport cost. Improve recreational facilities. Attempted to stop the stereotypical image of young people.

**What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**

I have worked on a questionnaire to identify the main things people want us to change in our local community. I have also been elected to be a UKYP to help push the ideas on a more national scale. Had successful first meeting with Central Beds MYPs and attended the UKYP induction meeting.



## Hertfordshire

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### Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011

#### What have you been doing since September 2011 in your role representing young people in your area?

I was elected in February 2012. I have met with Richard Harrington MP to discuss issues that young people face with him. I am also part of the Herts1125 group which creates the manifesto for young people, and have been collecting information for this.

**Mrs Alex Ferguson**  
Support Worker

#### Please tell us about the positive stories and activities that the young people you work with have been engaged in since January 2012.

1. Herts UKYP led on evolving the election process for 2012 to include voters being able to indicate their top issue from a list of ten to enable new MYPs to have a consultation document to work on. As voted for in the January elections, the top priority issues were:

- Child fares on public transport for all those under 18
- Review Sex and Relationship Education in schools
- Protect young people's services: sports, drama, youth projects, etc.
- Wider range of learning opportunities in schools
- Support for young runaways and homeless

2. Herts UKYP 2011 together with the newly elected MYPs planned and organised the first Herts1125 meeting inviting young people from across Herts aged 11 – 25 who live work or are educated in the County to attend. At this meeting, Manifesto statements were agreed and work continues via social networking sites, etc to gain evidence for the Manifesto to be presented to HCC in October.

3. April secured O2 funding last year which enabled her to plan and organise a Political Education day in school with the local MP attending. She has since gathered the evaluation and will be sending out a template to local schools to see if they are able to hold a similar event in their specific schools to increase awareness around politics and how it affects young people.



## Youth Voice: Positive Stories

4. Xav, Elliott and Ailish have put together a questionnaire via Survey Monkey around the issue of Transport to link in with the Top Five Priority which will be circulated to 1125 members and wider afield within the next 7 days.
5. Megan, Laura, April & Ije have been working on a questionnaire via Survey Monkey on Reviewing Sex education which will be circulated as point 4 above.
6. Rory, Megan & Tinashe met with the local MP Mike Penning to discuss the Top five priorities and have had the article published in the local newspapers.
7. Nine of the MYPs have participated in the NCB Children & Young People's Health Outcomes Strategy - Consultations with children and young people
8. Eight MYPs are currently feeding back on the Consultation on Draft Revised Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities on Services and Activities to Improve Young People's Wellbeing
9. Herts UKYP Facebook is gaining new members having increased by 200 in the last eight months and a Twitter page is now up and running being led by an MYP.
10. Megan, Laura, April, Ailish & Ije are meeting with the teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator for HCC to discuss the Top Five Priority re reviewing Sex Education.
11. Armaan & Michael are meeting with their local Connexions PA to look at the Top Five Priority Wider learning opportunities in school
12. Ije, also part of Watford Youth Council, helped to organise, and attended, a YouthFest Day at the new Watford YouthPoint to showcase activities for young people on offer in Watford.
13. Ailish is meeting with a local organisation HertsAid to discuss Priority Reviewing Sex Education.
14. Alex is holding bi-monthly surgeries in school and has arranged to hold sessions with Year 9's around his roles & responsibilities as an MYP.
15. All have fed back on new logo for Herts1125 and are considering the benefits separate social networking sites for the group as well as their time management around monitoring.
16. Xav is designing a rolling PowerPoint presentation to be screened in school with a weekly discussion/topic and relevant links.
17. All are feeding into the development on Herts UKYP and Herts1125 pages on channelmogo.org to make them more appealing and informative.





18. All have been allocated specific Districts within Herts and are developing their 1125 contact base and distribute survey links and questionnaires as well as gaining case studies for the Manifesto.

## Norfolk

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### Lisa Lewczenko

Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011

#### What made you want to stand for election?

I wanted to help young people and make changes which would benefit them.

#### During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?

Cheaper transport, more activities for young people such as youth councils, etc.

#### What positive experiences have you had since being elected?

I was really pleased to meet the other MYPs in Norfolk, and other MYPs at the regional induction. Also I helped Norfolk libraries to elect community workers which was good fun.

### Izzy Pitman

Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011

#### What have you been doing since September 2011 in your role representing young people in your area?

I was elected in March and since then I have met with various people to discuss transport. The Norfolk MYPs have also been to Cambridge for a regional meeting and I have been involved with my local YAB.

## Suffolk

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### Matthew Percy

Member of Youth Parliament

#### What have you been doing since September 2011 in your role representing young people in your area?



- Have been re-elected as MYP for Suffolk for a further 2 years
- Have taken part in consultations and spoken at scrutiny committee meetings in favour of re-instating the Explore Card (a travel discount card for young people that was scrapped in April 2011)
- Have been interviewed live on BBC Radio Suffolk by Rob Dunger where I spoke in favour of Votes at 16 and the Explore Card, and gave my views on the news of the day
- Have been elected as a Trustee of charity SPARK (Sport, Amenities, and Recreation in Kesgrave)
- Have collected signatures for a petition on Votes at 16
- Have met with the Leader of Suffolk County Council and the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People
- I am also: Church of England Youth Council Representative for the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, National ENVOY (Enthusiastic National Voice of Youth - The Youth Forum of the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services (NCVYS)) Member (NEM) for the East of England, Member of the Kesgrave and District Youth Forum, Trustee of charity SPARK (Sport, Amenities, and Recreation in Kesgrave)

### **Ollie**

**Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011**

#### **What made you want to stand for election?**

My Head of community at school recommended it.

#### **During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?**

Things will change.

#### **What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**

We have just had our first induction day and for us Suffolk lot that was the first time we all met up.

**Member of Youth Parliament (MYP) - elected into position since September 2011**

#### **What made you want to stand for election?**

I wanted to be involved in making changes in my community and putting my views across.



**During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?**

I wanted political education and preservation of youth services.

**What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**

I meet everybody for the first time which was a great experience for me to meet like minded young people.

**Marco Anderson**

Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011

**What made you want to stand for election?**

I wanted to represent the view of young people.

**During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?**

Set up a youth council in Suffolk.

**What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**

I have only attended an induction day so far but I intend to meet up with the Suffolk MYPs soon.

**No information submitted up to April 2012.**

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Cambridgeshire  
Essex  
Luton  
Peterborough  
Southend-on-Sea  
Thurrock

**District, borough, parish and town councils**

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Welwyn Hatfield



**Joe Reason**

**Youth Councillor**

**What have you been doing since September 2011 in your role representing young people in your area?**

The Welwyn Hatfield Youth Council have had many projects since September. We held our annual youth conference for the second year which was hugely successful and the debate session at the end was really enjoyable as the young people got passionate about their issues which are being taken forward. We are also developing our website more (wuzzup.co.uk) which has been running for nearly a year now and has reached over 8000 unique visitors. We also helped out with a local music competition called 3Music which will be having its final in July 2012. We are currently helping to run a campaign for a Skate Park in Hatfield along with some councillors and will be helping to get young people's voices heard on the matter. We have helped to publicise some local music nights such as Grounded (at the Forum) and Music at the Manor (Breaks Manor). We have helped out at an E.D.G.E. gaming night which is run by the police and is so successful that this was its second time in 6 months. We have attended at Welwyn Hatfield Youth Surgery along with other organisations to hear what young people want us to be working on this year. We have helped out with the annual Sports Awards in the borough by helping to decide on winners as well as helping on the night. We have started to have contact with Herts1125 by attending their first meeting and filling in case studies for them. We helped out with a community fun day by publicising it and attending the day for support. This was well attended and well enjoyed by young people in the borough.

For more information on what the Welwyn Hatfield Youth Council are up to, visit:  
[www.wuzzup.co.uk](http://www.wuzzup.co.uk)



# London

## London Borough of Barnet

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### Sogand Shaker

Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011

#### What made you want to stand for election?

As a member of my local youth board, I have recognised over the years of living in Barnet that there are a number of flaws within the area, including the lack of job opportunities and work experience placements for youth, the negative portrayal of youth in the media and also the flawed and the ineffectiveness of school councils within schools in the Borough. I'm also interested in debating and deeply enjoy working with people both younger and older than myself, to solve real problems we face in our daily lives.

#### During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?

- 1) Find a logical and practical solution to aid the rehabilitation of Barnet's youth who have been/are involved in crime
- 2) Improve the image of young people in the media, rewarding those who attempt to improve their own lives and recognising positive aspects of Barnet's youth
- 3) Create and raise awareness of job opportunities for the youth of Barnet, both paid work and voluntary experience

#### What positive experiences have you had since being elected?

The UKYP residential trip in March was a great experience; it gave me a detailed insight into what is expected of a good MYP, the experiences of previous members and a good idea of how to get started. We recently began our detailed research into what is already available for the 'Young offenders' of our Borough, and found that the problem is not a lack of support, but the failure to publicize this support and make it widely available. We have also realised that as young representatives, we should make it our primary motive to help restore and improve the lives of those already involved in Crime, to enable them to get back into education and give them hope of a brighter future; our age and power would be best suited to this approach, rather than crime-prevention; as it seems the local authorities already have this aspect of the problem covered.



## London Borough of Brent

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**Eve Baker**

Support worker - Enfield Youth Parliament

**Please tell us about the positive stories and activities that the young people you work with have been engaged in since January 2012.**

The Brent Youth Parliament project is short of staff at the moment and while we are recruiting, members of the executive committee have come in after school in order to prepare for the next two Brent Youth Parliament sessions. They have been in the office up to 9.00 p.m. at night on several occasions and when you consider that a BYP session can have up to 70 members along with councillors and other professionals it is not an easy task. Well done to the Executive Committee, particularly as they all have exams to study for.

## London Borough of Croydon

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**Lola Mustapha**

Deputy Member of Youth Parliament

**What have you been doing since September 2011 in your role representing young people in your area?**

What I have been up to... There has been a newly elected Youth Council in Croydon who we have been welcoming to. They are now focussing on their five priority issues based on the every child matters outcomes. We are looking for ways that this can feed into the UK Youth Parliaments on going campaigns. Myself: I have been proactive within my role & had the opportunity to be a Judging panel of the "Loud & Proud" public speaking competition hosted by Soroptimist International. It took place during international women's week, all the contestants were female and from year 6. It was great to be take part in something that not only gives a voice to young people, but also aims to empower young women. All contestants were phenomenal and it was very hard to judge. I also attended the UKYP residential in March, and I got to meet all the new DMYPs, which was exciting. I participated in workshops such as public speaking & campaigning which were very beneficial. I have feedback the skills I learnt back to my Youth Council. On the residential we also had the opportunity to have a #pledge of our own. Which was what we aim to do this year, for example one of my main areas that I wanted to tackle was raising awes of unemployment



especially amongst young people and how to tackle youth image in regards to crime. I am now in the process of doing this now. As a DMYP we have been working on young people opinions within our borough and are pleased to be holding a debate where young people in Croydon can argue for or against a motion put to them. This is something we are all very excited about as it can give participants more confidence in public speaking and raise their self-esteem. Letters have been sent out to schools & judges, hopefully we will get Malcolm Wicks and Gavin Barwell two of our local MPs for Croydon. We are also hoping to get lots of media coverage so it can show members of the community that we are young people & we are passionate about what we believe in. In addition to this, in order for me to fulfil my pledge in tackling the youth image in regards to crime I have been successful in becoming a Safer London Foundation Ambassador. This is a great opportunity for me to not only help those from within my borough but work as a team to tackle the image of young people from across London!

In the future I am looking forward to going out and doing some grass root street campaigning, to collect opinions of young people in my borough, in preparation for "Youth unemployment & my local area" debate in the House of Parliament on the 21st May!

## London Borough of Enfield

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**Sam Morris**

Support worker - Enfield Youth Parliament

**Please tell us about the positive stories and activities that the young people you work with have been engaged in since January 2012.**

Enfield Youth Parliament (EYP) members attended a residential weekend in January 2012. Through a series of team building activities the EYP were able to bond as a group and agree their constitution going forward. Most importantly the EYP set their priorities for 2012 and agreed how they were going to address them. In February Enfield elected two MYPs and two Deputy MYPs. Area Youth Forum and Enfield Youth Parliament members came together for a UKYP election event at Millfield Theatre in Edmonton. The Secondary Say It Event, organised by the Children's Trust on behalf of Cllr Ayfer Orhan took place on the 22 March 2012 at the Dugdale Centre in Enfield town. 41 school council representatives from 7 secondary schools across the borough took the opportunity to meet each other, learn about youth democracy in Enfield and participate in a knife and gang crime debate. They also





learnt about the Residents Priority Fund, considered how extra funding could help their local school/community and how to go back to their school and follow through with an application.

## London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham

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### Fred Gill

Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011

#### What made you want to stand for election?

I wanted to stand for election so that I could make a difference and actually push a project forward so that instead of just helping other projects, I wanted to produce something that will definitely help young people not in my Borough but all over the UK.

#### During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?

I promised on a local scale to draw more attention to youth activities and to try and organise for community support officers to, instead of sending young people of the streets, to instead tell them about projects going on that they can get involved with. Also I wanted to campaign on making sure that the current government won't pass a law that will skew the funding for schools so that they are unevenly distributed. Finally after the make your mark survey I saw that young people were wanting more information about their future prospects so I wanted to make an information pack to help young people.

#### What positive experiences have you had since being elected?

I have set up meeting with several decision makers as well as the local Facebook page which I will use to find out the views of young people.

To follow what I am doing, what YOUR MYP is doing you can follow me on twitter for regular updates on my projects: @Gillfr1996

## London Borough of Harrow

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### Samuel Botchey

Support worker - Harrow Youth Parliament





**Please tell us about the positive stories and activities that the young people you work with have been engaged in since January 2012.**

Harrow Youth Parliament is leading a Scrutiny Review of how the Council engages young people. The review committee consists of councillors, community leaders and senior managers, and is sponsored by the Director of Children Services. Youth Parliament has elected 10 officers including 2 MYPs and 2 DMYP at their AGM last month. The Deputy Chief Executive of Harrow Council, the Leader of Harrow Council, the Borough Commander of Police, Portfolio Holders for Children Services, Schools and Colleges and the Assembly Member for Harrow and Brent attended the official opening of the Youth Parliament. HYP has 77 members after a record 12,305 votes in the youth elections in February.

## London Borough of Hillingdon

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### Soila Apparicio

Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011

#### What made you want to stand for election?

I saw issues with the way young people are treated by the media and by our government. I'm not old enough to vote but I wanted a way in which my voice and the voices of other young people could be listened to. I disagree with educational cuts as I believe this is the most important factor in young people's lives. With it we can teach doctors, lawyers, and linguists. Without it we fail young people and they can fall into crime with no aspirations and no hope of a future. This deeply worry's me and I want to do everything I can to ensure we create a positive, opportunistic, and aspirational future for our young people and for our country.

#### During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?

My three biggest issues are:

1. Fighting against Tuition Fees and Education Cuts. Fighting for Job Prospects and Opportunities.
2. Breaking the stereotype of 'anti-social' youths in the media.
3. Representation of young people's voices, ideas and opinions in Hillingdon. We deserve the right to speak up for a decent education. You deserve the right to be fairly represented in the media and in the political system.



**What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**

I've been on a residential with other London MYPs where we have discovered similar issues and problems. We can work within our local communities to combat these issues on a small scale which can build momentum to a national campaign. I've enjoyed it because I've met brilliant young people from areas I saw as troubled in London, in particular in East London and they have broken my presumptions of them. I've been in contact with two of the three MPs in my borough (the third unfortunately doesn't respond to me) and been discussing ways in which the Youth Council can raise their concerns with MPs. I am also working with the Youth Council to hold a job fair for young people in our borough so that they have ideas and aspirations for their future.

## London Borough of Islington

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**Support worker**

Islington Youth Council

**Please tell us about the positive stories and activities that the young people you work with have been engaged in since January 2012.**

Since being elected on 9 February Islington's first ever youth council (8 youth councillors) have started their first major piece of work, being an integral part to Islington's youth strategy review. They will influence how the budget for youth services will be spent and what the new model for delivering youth services will look like. The youth council have also set their priorities:

- 1) Youth provision
- 2) Youth employment
- 3) Equality and fairness
- 4) Crime and safety.

## London Borough of Redbridge

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**Raina Gee**

Support worker - Redbridge Youth Council

**Please tell us about the positive stories and activities that the young people you work with have been engaged in since January 2012.**





Redbridge Youth Council litter pick

The Redbridge Youth Council have been working on their In Youth We Trust Campaign. The campaign was launched with a Youth Appreciation Fortnight from March 19 - 30. The campaign consisted of posting random acts of kindness on the Redbridge Youth Council Facebook page, a planned act of kindness which was a litter pick in a local park (just prior to the Queen's Visit) and a Red Accessory Day where students wore 1 red item and donated the

money £540 to a local children's charity - Haven House. The campaign will continue with other planned acts of kindness and positive activities from Youth of Redbridge

## London Borough of Sutton

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### Anna Mullaney

Deputy Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011

#### What made you want to stand for election?

I wanted to stand for election because I have been involved with the young group Sutton Young Advisors and have worked with Sutton Council for a while now. I decided that I wanted to take on a role that would allow me the ability to make more of a difference in my area, based on the ideas I had gained during various experiences. Personally I have lived in Sutton all of my life and have always enjoyed politics as a general interest. It interests me that Youth Parliament can make a difference and I am excited by the opportunity I have been given to represent young people.

#### During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?

During my election campaign, one of the vital things I wanted to do was to make Sutton Youth Parliament more of a recognisable name in Sutton. I felt, and continue to feel, that it is vital that young people know that the opportunity to make a difference in their local area does exist and can be utilised. The work of Sutton Youth Parliament needs to be generally



more well-known and we plan to use schools to try and accomplish this. Additionally, as the daughter of a police officer myself, I feel as a whole that relationships with the police in Sutton and young people need to be improved. Each of the two groups need to become more tolerant of the other and respect each other as people and not just labels. In general, I promised to give young people an active and responsible representative and to give a voice to every area of young people.

**What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**

Following the decision for transport to be the main campaign for UKYP, Sutton Youth Parliament have conducted a survey across a variety of young people to gain their opinion on transport in Sutton. We did this by going to various youth centres and surveying the young people in participation as well as online Google docs surveys. This gave us the opportunity to further publicise Sutton Youth Parliament as active in the community and to approach young people in these youth centres that might not have been so aware of Youth Parliament. Out of these surveys we have gained a general impression of an important issue regarding relationships and prejudices with and around bus drivers. To change this we have applied for funding from O2 Think Big and are hoping to gain a considerable amount of money to fund an event to improve these relationships. We also wish to conduct a general campaign surround this idea, with posters and other publicity. Recently one of our members attended a Transport Liaison meeting with bus drivers and other important figures in transport and found them enthusiastic about these ideas. Regarding original hopes to create connections with the police in Sutton, I have contacted and again received a very enthusiastic reply about young people going out on police operations with police officers. Sutton Youth Parliament have also been invited for a tour of the police station which we hope to participate in at some point in summer. I have personally experienced attending one of these police operations in the past and have found it an extremely fulfilling experience which I am quite excited about. Another of our campaigns that we are hoping to run is the building of a Schools Partnership Scheme. We hope to get schools more involved with Sutton Youth Parliament through various methods. These include attending school council meetings, assemblies, talking to headteachers and publicising around schools such as plasma screens. There is also talk of creating Sutton Youth Parliament wristbands to further enhance awareness and we hope to apply for further funding as this could be quite an effective method. Overall, we have a strong group of Sutton Youth Parliament members who are enthusiastic and hard-working for our local area. With the introduction of more social media such as twitter and YouTube, we hope to raise awareness and get an even bigger range of young people involved.



## London Borough of Wandsworth

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**Marc Dataro**

Youth Councillor

### **What have you been doing since September 2011 in your role representing young people in your area?**

We have:

1. Given out £100,000 of grant funding to young people through the Wandsworth Youth Opportunity Fund.
2. Set up and started a regular Police Youth Think Tank with Police Officers and young people. The Police have agreed to be trained by young people on how to social media more effectively and how to talk to young people on the street.
3. Started a Young Inspectors programme to look at access to Adventure playgrounds for young people in Wandsworth.
4. Currently designing a Youth Momentum conference, for 200 young people in Wandsworth in July. The aims are for 200 young people to:
  - o Take part in creative themed workshops
  - o 200 young people will consult with other young people on how their voice should be represented in Wandsworth, London and nationally
  - o Question key Councillors and decision makers on service design, delivery and development
  - o Be the experts and be empowered to influence decisions and decision makers

We are VERY busy!!!!!!

## **No information submitted up to April 2012.**

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City of London

London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

London Borough of Bexley

London Borough of Bromley

London Borough of Camden

London Borough of Ealing

London Borough of Greenwich

London Borough of Hackney



## Youth Voice: Positive Stories

London Borough of Haringey  
London Borough of Havering  
London Borough of Hounslow  
London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea  
London Borough of Kingston upon Thames  
London Borough of Lambeth  
London Borough of Lewisham  
London Borough of Merton  
London Borough of Newham  
London Borough of Richmond upon Thames  
London Borough of Southwark  
London Borough of Tower Hamlets  
London Borough of Waltham Forest  
London Borough of Westminster



# North East

## Middlesbrough

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### Ben Rowden

Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011

#### What made you want to stand for election?

My passion for politics and giving my voice, but also my passion to see young people's voices heard and action to be taken on them, and for every young person to be represented in a meaningful and effective way. To see the lives of young people improved and the opportunities of them to widen.

#### During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?

I fought the election on three key principles which are to be developed into a new manifesto post election, these were; ensuring young people have youth facilities and somewhere to go; and working with local businesses, entrepreneurs and industry to secure apprenticeships and job opportunities for young people. All of these policies were designed to be as effective both economically and in action and to be fair and realistic.

#### What positive experiences have you had since being elected?

I was elected only recently, but I have still been making great strides in networking/making connections and developing a town wide two year plan of action. From working on projects to bring an indoor skate-park to Middlesbrough, to setting up a youth forum for UKYP to increase youth participation in politics and decision making. From visiting youth centres and consulting young people on a hard hitting budget, to working with the national citizen service to improve opportunities for young people in Middlesbrough; huge amounts of productive and positive work has been accomplished.





## **No information submitted up to April 2012.**

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County Durham  
Darlington  
Gateshead  
Hartlepool  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
North Tyneside  
Northumberland  
Redcar and Cleveland  
South Tyneside  
Stockton-on-Tees  
Sunderland





# North West

## Bury

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### Asma Younus

Deputy Member of Youth Parliament (DMYP)

I am part of youth cabinet, our local youth council.

## Cheshire West and Chester

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### Jessica Colston

Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011

#### What made you want to stand for election?

I wanted to stand for election because for the previous two years I'd been a DMYP for my area, and really enjoyed campaigning on young people's issues and seeing the difference we could make. While I really enjoyed this I was keen to stand for the full role of Member of the Youth Parliament as I wanted to take what I'd already done further and also attend national events like the National Sitting.

#### During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?

During my election campaign I promised to tackle places to go, job opportunities and transport. I also promised to try to change negative views about young people and try to listen to all young people's views in my area.

#### What positive experiences have you had since being elected?

Since being elected in at the end of February the Youth Parliament team in Cheshire West has managed to quite a lot. The main issues from a ballot we carried out alongside the election were: Transport, Job Opportunities, 'Places to chill' and Sports Facilities. We have decided to tackle transport by working on the national campaign from UKYP, and Job Opportunities is our regional campaign for the North West. We haven't firmly decided how to tackle the last 2 issues yet, but the idea of opening a youth café has been considered.



We have met a few times as a group, also meeting councillors and important people connected to young people – from the Children’s Trust for example. Following a recent restructure of youth services in Cheshire West we have been consulted on the future provision of youth services in the area. I also sit on the council’s Children and Education Scrutiny committee as a full co-optee. We’ve been involved in deciding details for a Chairman’s Award Ceremony for Young People, which came from a recommendation on a report UKYP put together last year on Young Peoples Image. Also coming from that report was a £10 000 grant for intergenerational projects and we’ve been involved in judging bids and presenting money from this. One other role of being in Youth Parliament is attending regional meetings for the North West. Our regional youth forum is called Youthforia and involves lots of young people from different organisations such as UKYP. Personally I have been elected ‘Regional Lead’ for the North West which means I help coordinate UKYP in the region by being on the Leadership Committee planning meetings. I travel into Manchester about once a month to do this. So far this year in Youthforia we’ve decided on our regional campaign on Job Opportunities and held a citizens jury to ask experts what they thought could be done about it. Since then we have launched our petition calling on the Minister for Employment to address the issue- a link to sign it can be found on our Facebook page.

There are a few notable things UKYP in Cheshire West has achieved over the last 2 years that you might be interested, mainly the very successful report we presented to the councils Overview and Scrutiny Committee last year, where the fund and awards ceremony I mentioned above were recommendations along with a proposal for press training, a reduction of red tape and a place on scrutiny committees for UKYP - all of which were taken up! Regionally, at our annual residential last year we formed an Alternative Spending Plan showing where we’d prefer money to be spent and cuts made. We’ve had a great response to it, with many MPs including Danny Alexander Chief Secretary of State to the Treasury replying to letters written at the residential and the Guardian newspaper retweeting our link! Also, we have set up a comprehensive social media network. Our Facebook page is ‘Cheshire West Youth Parliament’ or my account is ‘Jess Colston MYP’. Cheshire West UKYP can be contacted through [cheshirewestyouthparliament@gmail.com](mailto:cheshirewestyouthparliament@gmail.com).

### **Rebecca Annells**

**Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011**

#### **What made you want to stand for election?**

I believe that young people should be involved in their own future. I wanted to do something to make the changes I want, instead of just complaining about them and doing nothing!



**During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?**

I focused on the idea that I would represent everyone in my area, not just myself and my friends. In general I said I would be: Listening to their views and putting them across, regardless of my own views. Making sure their views are heard and action relating to them is taken. Campaigning and working towards issues they outlined as important to them, such as transport.

**What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**

After the election in February, our team set to work. We outlined the basis of our main campaigns during a day at Cheshire West and Chester Headquarters and started making links with other people. We hope to address a range of topics under the umbrella heading of "Relationships". We want to focus on raising awareness about 'taboo subjects', like self harm, abuse, sex and alcohol, instead of just preaching about what not to do! In March, the team attended a YouthForia North West event, where we were introduced to all the other UK Youth Parliament and British Youth Council representatives in the North West. The group as a whole also decided on the campaigns it will focus on for this year. Following on from our work during the CWaC UKYP meeting in February, I joined our youth worker, Ron Davies and former MYP, Daniel Palmer, for a meeting with the Director of Children's Services. Here we made good progress communicating what young people actually want from the services and what the services can offer. I felt that this day was especially valuable because it highlighted some major flaws in communication between young people and the services supposedly provided for, which can subsequently be corrected! In April the CWaC UKYP team met again, also with the company of both former MYPs: Rose Proudfoot and Daniel Palmer. We spent the day developing our campaign ideas and building on relationships with other contacts, such as Council Leader Mike Jones. At the moment, it is a lot of work, but I feel like it will be worth it, especially when results start to show.

**Ciarán O'Shea**

**Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011**

**What made you want to stand for election?**

I felt that a lot of young people in my area were not getting enough of a say on the matters concerning them, so I thought that someone should allow them to air their views. As a DMYP I felt that I would be more able to do this than most others, and so I decided to stand. Additionally, I felt that the way that some disadvantaged children were being treated in school was counter-productive, let alone mentally scarring in cases, and I felt that this was not being dealt with effectively.



**During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?**

I promised to campaign for lower transport costs in the UK for under 18s in general; a fairer treatment of children with different abilities and circumstances; a better employment system in place for young people as I felt that many teenagers were being blatantly ignored in their quests to find a job; and a better way of dealing with unruly and violent teenagers in rural areas and cities alike.

**What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**

Our election results were announced in the Winsford Council Chamber by the Lord Mayor of Chester, during the Budget meeting - which is arguably the most important of the year - that was an honour in itself. Since then, I have taken part in meetings with my co-members and our organiser, Ron Davies, and I have recently attended my first meeting of the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee, which I joined due to my interest in the treatment of children in school. I feel that a child's experience of school is vastly influenced by those around them, and at the moment more and more children are being bullied or prejudiced in a place that they should feel safe.

Youthforia, the North West's regional young people's forum, have chosen Job Opportunities and Health as their two campaigns for this year - the BYC are already campaigning for cheaper public transport, which we had considered campaigning for.

## Lancashire

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**Jack Cooke**

**Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011**

**What made you want to stand for election?**

I wished to stand for the elections as I wanted to represent my area and to get young people's voices heard.

**During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?**

The main thing I said in my speech was 'I am ready to lead, but also to learn' I will learn about my role and I will discover the needs, views and thoughts of young people, once I find out their wishes I will place this forward to the people who make a change. Who stand to represent the area and people as a whole. I am here to represent their views not mine. I will



also place their needs and views before my own and this was a main focus during the campaign.

**What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**

Well the fact that everyone was very warm, helpful and welcoming at the start helped. I was new to the Youth Council and so it was a surprise that people wished for me to represent them. That's the first part. I have had a few closed doors where people have not wished to hear what young people have to say but for the most part that I can speak for they have always shown an interest in what young people are doing.

**Jakob Tynan**

**Member of Youth Parliament & Youth Councillor - elected into position since September 2011**

**What made you want to stand for election?**

I wanted to stand for election mainly because of my drive to make a difference. I've always been fascinated and passionate about politics, but I never knew how to get involved. I then heard about youth council, about decided to stand for election as MYP.

**During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?**

My election manifesto was mainly based around getting young people involved and interested in politics, by bringing political education into the school curriculum and advertising local youth councils.

**What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**

Since being elected, I have attended numerous meeting with Lancashire County Council decision makers at county hall, attended other meetings such as YouthForia, and along with my district youth council, have participated in a number of campaigns, such as our Smile Day in Chorley recently, our positive images of young people campaign, and the YouthForia campaign for the year, which is based around job opportunities and careers advice for young people.

**Clare Smith**

**Support worker - Lancashire Youth Council**

**Please tell us about the positive stories and activities that the young people you work with have been engaged in since January 2012.**



Lancashire Youth Council is the collective group for the 12 Lancashire District Youth Councils. We are supported by the Young People's Service in Lancashire. We operate 3 campaigns and over the Easter break, our Positive Image Campaign were out and about in Chorley, Lancashire smiling at and engaging with local people and promoting a positive image of young people. On April 3rd young people from the campaign group ran their pilot 'Smile Day' in the town centre and spent a very rainy day speaking to local people, gaining their opinions on young people and spreading good messages about the work they and other young people do with the Young People's Service. We spoke to around 180 people over the day and despite the weather, the group really enjoyed this practical side to campaigning! We'll be evaluating how it went, collating the results and looking to run similar days in different parts of the County before the summer break.

## Oldham

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### **Ebony James**

Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011

#### **What made you want to stand for election?**

I wanted to stand for this election because I believe I am able to help make a difference. I love everybody on youth parliament and I really enjoy the work we do.

#### **What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**

I've had great fun at all of the meetings and I really enjoyed the question panel at the last meeting as it was really interesting to listen to their responses.

## Warrington

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### **Steven Atkins**

Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011

#### **What made you want to stand for election?**

Wanting to be the voice for Young People and make a difference in their lives for the better.

**During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?**



More affordable & accessible transport, better careers advice and a better image in the media.

**What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**

Just been elected and meeting council leaders soon on ways to move forward.

**No information submitted up to April 2012.**

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Blackburn with Darwen  
Blackpool  
Bolton  
Cheshire East  
Cumbria  
Halton  
Knowsley  
Liverpool  
Manchester  
Rochdale  
Salford  
Sefton  
St Helens  
Stockport  
Tameside  
Trafford  
Wigan  
Wirral





# South East

## Bracknell Forest

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**Keagan Rastall**

Deputy Member of Youth Parliament

**What have you been doing since September 2011 in your role representing young people in your area?**

I have been researching ways in which I can raise the awareness of Bracknell Forest Youth Council in schools so that young people can be elected to join the Youth Council. As I just joined up and was not elected to join the Youth Council, I feel the need to get more young people involved in the elections... Hopefully I will succeed and will be able to get a new system running each year.

## Brighton and Hove

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**Grace Sorrell, Deputy Member of Youth Parliament (DMYP), elected into position since September 2011**

**What made you want to stand for election?**

I am really passionate about gathering young people's views on how we can better not only our community, but the country as a whole. I feel that these opinions will enable us to make a difference, to make things happen that would be beneficial to us.

**During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?**

Tackling bullying in schools and improving transport.

**What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**

I have been working with Brighton and Hove Youth Council and Brighton's other DYMP and MYP to start our anti-bullying campaign. We have divided ourselves into groups including, a student/teacher advice group and a publicity group. I am working in the publicity group and in the last meeting we discussed possibly distributing a leaflet, creating a PowerPoint and





we are working on a logo. Brighton's other DYMP, MYP and I have also arranged a meeting with the Labour shadow transport secretary Maria Eagle to discuss ways to improve transport and to identify issues that are facing young people to do with transport.

## Buckinghamshire

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### **Kavita Sharma**

**Deputy Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011**

#### **What have you been doing since September 2011 in your role representing young people in your area?**

I was elected in March 2012. Since then I have been elected I have started a campaign on a Greener constituency. I am working on a survey which I will release in a couple weeks time, which asks for young people's views on issues in the area e.g. graffiti etc. Another campaign I am working on is to increase the awareness of Politics within schools in Buckinghamshire as well as raising awareness of UKYP. I think that young people should realize what is affecting the country and what could affect their future. At the moment I have met with UKYP members across the South East and have been in contact with many across the whole country. Although I have only been elected for two months, I have been in contact with MPs and asked for their support and views. Many young people have also given me feedback on Twitter for the campaigns I am currently working on and I just hope my campaigns work out!

I am planning on visiting youth centres and schools, to communicate with people within my area.

### **Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011**

#### **What made you want to stand for election?**

I wanted to benefit the wider community, by campaigning on issues which are close to my heart, and supporting the views of young people in my local area.

#### **During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?**

- Reform of the Grammar School selection procedure.
- Greater support towards university funding.



- Better information on financial support available for young people.

**What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**

- Attended the UKYP SE residential weekend, which allowed me to enhance my skills and make connections with fellow D/MYPs.
- Spoken to a number of local representatives, including our MP and county and district councillors.
- Have established myself on social networking sites.
- Have begun a countywide UKYP campaign to raise the profile of the organisation.
- Have visited my town's Youth Council/Cabinet.
- Taken up an opportunity to meet with the Minister for Children, Young People and Families in Whitehall next month, on the issue of school transport.

## East Sussex

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### Solomon Curtis

Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011

**What made you want to stand for election?**

I wanted to make a real difference for young people in my area. I felt young people didn't know who their D/MYPs were therefore I wanted to change this. I also wanted to have a say in the issues that affect young people in my area and nationally.

**During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?**

I wanted to campaign for Votes at 16. I wanted more events for young people and I wanted to lower tuition and education fees.

**What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**

I attended a Hastings Youth Council meeting to meet with young people who are already working hard for our community. I visited Respond Academy, a local youth organisation who do fantastic work for young people in arts. I visited the phoenix flyers cheerleading group to find out what changes they wanted to see in the town. I did a radio interview with arrow FM and have since been in contact with many young people in my constituency who I will be visiting and speaking to you. In July, I will be visiting nearly every school in my constituency to speak to groups of students regarding our campaigns.



## Hampshire

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### Benjamin Farnes

Member of Youth Parliament (MYP)

#### What have you been doing since September 2011 in your role representing young people in your area?

I have been an MYP for just over a year and after consulting with my constituency took on transport as my campaign. I have looked at specific routes on evenings and Sundays for young people to get to and from work and to return home after taking part in after-school activities. I met with the lead and deputy Cllrs for Children's Services who are arranging for me to meet with the lead member for Environment and Transport to take this forward. I have also been elected as the South East's representative on the UKYP National Transport Select Committee. This group will make recommendations to the government. I have also been appointed as a governor on Hampshire NHS Trust Foundation board representing young people.

## Milton Keynes

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### Elizabeth Beale

Member of Youth Parliament (MYP)

#### What have you been doing since September 2011 in your role representing young people in your area?

In Milton Keynes I have been a part of two local campaigns. These have been creating a jobs website for young people and bringing political education to secondary schools. We have also met many councillors and the local MPs to gain support on what we are doing. I also set up and ran The Big MK Youth Debate back in October 2011 which aimed to empower the voices of young people. It was a great event and hearing the panel make pledges based on what they had heard made it really worthwhile.

## Portsmouth

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### Kay Sutherland

Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011



**What made you want to stand for election?**

I really wanted to make a change in the city and get more involved spreading youth voice

**During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?**

To get young voice heard more and polling to build park shelters and a music event

**What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**

Having very productive meetings with the children trust board and the youth parliament and everyone knowing about me and wanting interviews. At the moment I'm applying for different grants to improve the social life of young people

**Kat Jenkinson**

Support worker - Portsmouth Youth Parliament

**Please tell us about the positive stories and activities that the young people you work with have been engaged in since January 2012.**

A group of young people both from the Portsmouth Youth Parliament and previous UKYP representatives have been successful in gaining O2Think Bigger grant and have been working on putting on events for young people in Portsmouth and the surrounding areas. They have put on 2 events so far which aimed at connecting young people with decision makers in a Question Time style event. They are called Question Me UK. Members of the Portsmouth Youth Parliament (PYP) are seeking funding to put on a cultural event for the young people of Portsmouth. This is due to the results of their annual consultation where young people expressed the need for more cultural activities in the city. PYP have been consulted by various organisations to put forward the youth view on areas including Drug / alcohol misuse locally, recycling, Hampshire constabulary on ASB, National Citizen Service delivery, local social networking project called Pegonu. Young people from PYP have done some outreach work with young carers to gain their opinions and views on a range of subjects. Members of the PYP are organising the city's Pupil Oscars for the summer 2012.

## West Sussex

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**Shagass Pam**

Deputy Member of Youth Parliament



**What have you been doing since September 2011 in your role representing young people in your area?**

We have been getting support for our campaign on mental health.

**No information submitted up to April 2012**

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Isle of Wight  
Kent  
Medway  
Oxfordshire Reading  
Slough  
Southampton  
Surrey  
West Berkshire  
Windsor and Maidenhead  
Wokingham



# South West

## Bath and North East Somerset

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### William Bridges

Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011

#### What made you want to stand for election?

I wanted to be the representative of young people in North East Somerset. Politicians often overlook young people and I wanted to endeavour to make our voice heard.

#### During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?

Four things that I promised to look at were: Investment in broadband, to reduce youth unemployment, to improve the youth service and to get fair bus fares for young people.

#### What positive experiences have you had since being elected?

Since being elected in February I have been in contact with the head of policy at the Countryside Alliance to gain support and backing with my campaigns and to highlight areas where we could potentially work together to implement my ideas in the future. I have also been working with local councillors to set up a film club that is open to 13-19 year olds to view recent releases at a reduced fee. This is in its final stages and it's first running in imminent. I am also in contact with my local MP and hope to be meeting with him in Westminster shortly. I have also participated in a debate at the Bath Literature festival regarding the unfair representation of youth in society in general today and how common misconceptions about young people negatively affect us all.

## Bristol

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### Alex Nunns

Member of Youth Parliament (MYP)

#### What have you been doing since September 2011 in your role representing young people in your area?



I have talked to Maria Eagle MP about transport, helped organise an equalities conference at Bristol Zoo, started work on a DVD about disabled young people, been to area forums for North Bristol, started shadowing Bristol councillors (Gus Hoyt and David Willingham) as part of the councillor shadowing scheme, been involved with the Children in Care council as a CiC champion (so I take their issues back to the Bristol Youth Select Committee) and been part of a debate day. I have also been to two BYSC residential and one UKYP residential where I received campaigning, public speaking, debating and media training. As a note for the below question about photos, I think our participation team (Martin James and Rachel Beatty) have most of the photos.

### **Maria Neary**

**Deputy Member of Youth Parliament**

#### **What have you been doing since September 2011 in your role representing young people in your area?**

During my second year, I've been working a lot with the Council, particularly the Children Services Scrutiny Commission. I co-chaired an enquiry day, about raising aspirations with two Scrutiny Commissions from the Council which was a chance for young people to contribute directly to the Council's work. Young people were engaged at both the planning and executing stages of the day, and I'm looking forward to seeing the report about the findings. I have also been involved in the Local Councillor Shadowing Scheme which has been valuable experience of how the Council works and has established a link between many young people and Councillors. In the North of Bristol I've continued to work with the area youth forum to talk about how the new Bristol Youth Links restructuring of services will affect young people. In Bristol we have also been working on our campaign issues; we continue to work on a campaign about transport and I am working with the Listening Partnership to finish a DVD about the challenges young disabled people in Bristol face, for our Equal People campaign.

### **Shafka Nazeem**

**Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011**

#### **What made you want to stand for election?**

I stood for this election because it was a real route of experiencing the stuff I want to get into in the near future. I am a confident person and want to be a really good speaker and I thought this would be just appropriate for me to do and do something with the skills I have.



**During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?**

I will be the voice for young people and help their views and opinions be heard by higher level people I will help sort of the transport in Bristol. I will sort out discrimination and immigration and unfairness in Bristol.

**What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**

Well right this moment I am shadowing Mr Faruk Choudry which has given me lot of opportunities for me to chair meeting and get close with other people who would be really interested in having a young people involved in their decisions. I have presented a BME campaign presentation to Nick Bachelor and head teachers of college and Fairfield high school about what we need from adults to help us change the view of BME people. I have been to forums to listen to young people and forward these opinions to my select meeting so that the young people representing young people in Bristol understand what they need to change.

## Cornwall

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**Chloe**

Member of Youth Parliament

**What have you been doing since September 2011 in your role representing young people in your area?**

I only joined UKYP in Feb this year and I haven't made any progress on a campaign yet, but I attended the UK regional residential and found out more information on my role as a MYP.

## Devon

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**Daniel Smith**

Member of Youth Parliament

**What have you been doing since September 2011 in your role representing young people in your area?**

- I had an issue raised to me from a village in my Youth Parliament area about the lights in the local park not working. I got onto the Council and they were soon on it and it's all fixed now. They were very grateful I had done so and they were apologetic for not noticing sooner.





- A local radio station was bought out by a large national company and young people brought this as an issue to us. They said they had nothing they could really connect with. We began to plan and take an online radio station, run by young people for young people, into its first step when we heard about a similar project starting up. We have joined with this project and are now working on it with them.
- Collecting issues and doing surveys via survey monkey.
- A local BMX track had fallen into disrepair. We found a contact in the council and got on the case. It is now much more ride-able and enjoyable.

## Dorset

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### Deputy Member of Youth Parliament

#### What have you been doing since September 2011 in your role representing young people in your area?

So far I have been attending our Youth County Council meetings, which have been very successful, with the launching of several new campaigns including: a youth magazine and an improvement in the local transport service. I have also attended a County wide transport conference in which a huge amount of valuable information was gained from both Dorset County Council and the operators of the local bus companies. Which proved very helpful in relaying the news to people about our public transport service in the future. And recently I have taken part in the first round of our Youth Opportunity Fund process. In which we delegating over £40,000 to many of the bids presented to us from throughout the county. I also hope to take part in the second round later this year.

### Jake Carroll

#### Deputy Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011

#### What made you want to stand for election?

I thought that I could represent young people's voices well, as well as having -what I think- good manifesto points

#### During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?

1. Cleaner environment
2. Cheaper transport for young people



3. More international links between schools.

**What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**

I have started a project to do with my third manifesto point. I am relating a booklet, to go out to schools in Dorset, which will help them to start the school twinning process. I have started getting information from different organisations to put in the booklet, I have spoken to someone from BBC World about my project. The project is going ok and I think that the project will be completed soon.

**Natasha Glendening**

Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011

**What made you want to stand for election?**

I wanted to stand as a Member of Youth Parliament because I really wanted to make a change for young people, because I currently live in an area where the demographics heavily favour that of the elder generation and thus young people don't necessarily get a say generally in decision making. I wanted to make a stand at be a voice for young people in such an area.

**During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?**

I campaigned on the idea of furthering links between Young People and Town Councillors via Youth Advisory schemes or to at least investigate other avenues. I also campaigned to investigate and support schools to instigate international links with schools or organisations around the world to create cultural experiences for its students.

**What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**

I continue to attend my Local Town Council's meetings as a Youth Advisor, so I have made progress in initiating a relationship between the voiceless (i.e. young people) and those in power (town councillors). I've also began to create a booklet for Town Councillors across the County (Dorset) to tell them the different ways in which they can involve young people in decision-making. I've aided a fellow MYP to create another booklet for schools to show them the ways of initiating international links with schools abroad.

**Jamie Edge**

Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011

**What made you want to stand for election?**

Because I wanted to help young people in my area



**During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?**

Better range of clubs. Awareness of opportunities . Things for 16-18 year olds to do.

**What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**

Great meetings and a good induction residential.

**Imogen Barnard**

**Deputy Member of Youth Parliament**

**What have you been doing since September 2011 in your role representing young people in your area?**

I have been working on a south west regional project called Young Carers Awareness. Young Carers Awareness is funded and supported by the O2 Think Big Project. This project was made to create a fact sheet and badges to boost awareness between young people in the south west. This was completed recently at the South West Regional Residential. In November I was also shortlisted in the 'Turning your life around' category in the Hearing Unheard Voices Campaign Awards, for my work with the community. This was at St James' Palace and was AMAZING! I am currently trying to speak to a woman called Mary Harper to discuss creating an informative leaflet about young people's accreditation awareness. If you would like to find out more about my young carers project please visit my cloud:

<http://www.o2thinkbig.co.uk/Projects/Project-Home/?clubId=1258>

## Gloucestershire

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**Yahya Pandor**

**Member of Youth Parliament**

**What have you been doing since September 2011 in your role representing young people in your area?**

Previously we had contacted our local bus service provider, Stagecoach, and had meetings with their directors concerning transport routes and prices. We have also worked with the NHS on numerous projects and consultations which have relevance to young people or need an alternative perspective. Alongside this we have carried out consultations with young people regarding changes to the youth service and how they are reacting to them.

North Somerset



### **Peter Davies, Member of Youth Parliament (MYP)**

#### **What have you been doing since September 2011 in your role representing young people in your area?**

I have organised a young people's question time which over 100 people attended. Among the panel were top professionals within North Somerset. Also I have attended many council meetings to get young people's view across. Created a questionnaire for young people in North Somerset in which around 1200 filled in. These will be analysed and used in future documents.

## **Plymouth**

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### **Jacob Bishop**

Deputy Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011

#### **What made you want to stand for election?**

I had an interest in politics and promoting opportunities and services for the youth in my area.

#### **During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?**

Cheaper opportunities and more places for young people to go.

#### **What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**

I had a positive experience on the Dorset residential where I obtained valuable skills to employ when campaigning. I have started an anti-smoking campaign in school council.

### **Claudia Marshall**

Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011

#### **What have you been doing since September 2011 in your role representing young people in your area?**

Successful meeting and conversation with Alison Seabeck and Nicky Williams about young people and problems like work experience and work opportunities. Chance to have free first aid courses put into a Summer Mix programme within Plymouth for young people.



## Emily Carter

Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011

### What made you want to stand for election?

I felt strongly about something and wanted to make a difference for it this is my second year being elected as an MYP

### During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?

Bring awareness that mental health is good and bad not just bad get rid of the stigma and sort out the problems with waiting lists for councillors.

### What positive experiences have you had since being elected?

People noticed my campaign as an issue CAMHs made every person on their waiting list get seen for further help , I also have had stalls an O2 grant and set up a Facebook page which is going well people have noticed my campaign and quoted what I say "everyone has mental health whether good or bad"

## Poole

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## Jack Matthews

Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011



Jack with the Mayor of Poole

### What made you want to stand for election?

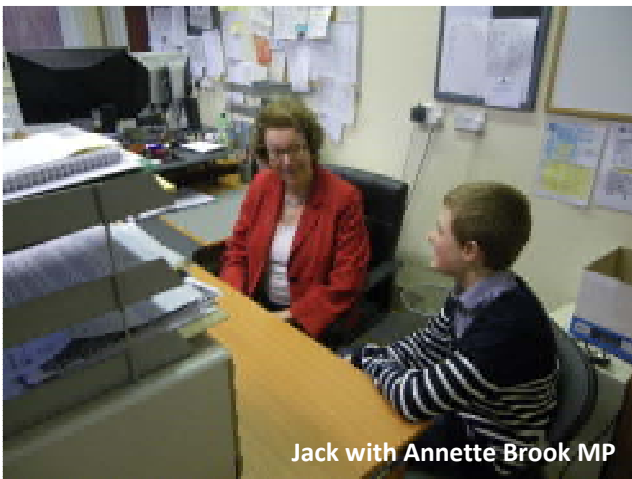
I wanted to stand for election because I wanted to do something positive in my community. I really wanted to be more able to influence local decisions regarding young people. But most of all I wanted to positively represent the youth of Poole by listening to and voicing their concerns and ideas. I also thought it would be good for my confidence and develop my people skills.



**During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?**

I said that if I was elected, I would work collaboratively with everyone who has a stake in improving the lives of young people in Poole. I promised to work with the town's decision-makers to increase young people's power to influence. By getting our voice heard, we can inform local decisions on youth issues. I said that we must continue to tackle bullying, and that I would work earnestly in the coming year with the Council, schools and Poole Anti-Bullying Alliance to help make a real difference. I promised to work with the Council and local employers to develop more youth volunteering opportunities, so that we are more able to secure employment in the future. I also promised to make more people aware that there's a lack of leisure facilities and affordable activities for young people in Poole. Raising the profile of this issue would hopefully bring about improvements.

**What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**



Jack with Annette Brook MP

Representing the young people of my community as their MYP is an honour. It's a role I take seriously, but it has also been lots of fun! I've met loads of new people and everyone has been very supportive of the things I'm trying to do. I'm learning lots and becoming less nervous when talking to influential and important people. Here are some of the things I've been doing (in conjunction with Poole's DMYP) since being elected: - Met Annette Brooke, MP for Mid Dorset and North Poole and discussed our priorities; - Met Conor

Burns, MP for Bournemouth West and discussed our priorities; - Met Robert Syms, MP for Poole to discuss our priorities; - Spoke at Poole's Full Council Meeting (February), introducing myself and our priorities to the Councillors; - Attended Poole Council's Children and Young People's Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting; - Attended Poole Council's Shadow Board Residential; - Assisted in the promotion of my school's Anti-Bullying Alliance; - Met the Officer in charge of Volunteering at Poole Council to discuss our youth volunteering priority; - Met the Officer in charge of Leisure Services at Poole Council to discuss our more affordable leisure priority; - Attended the Official Opening of Poole's Twin Sails Bridge.



## **Benjamin Howard**

Deputy Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011

### **What made you want to stand for election?**

I wanted to stand for election so that I could represent the youth of Poole in a positive way. Also I wanted to focus on the problems facing the youth of today and do my best to aid them through these turbulent times.

### **During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?**

I focused on anti bullying , youth unemployment / volunteering and more opportunities for the youth of Poole.

### **What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**

Since being elected me and Jack Matthews (MYP) have had meetings with three of our local MPs Annette Brooke, Conor Burns and Robert Syms. From these meetings we were able to put forward the views of young people in Poole and also put forward our three priorities. I have also been lucky enough to be a special guest at the community twins sails bridge opening day and both me and jack were given tickets to the opening ceremony. We have also spoken in a full council meeting and attended overview and scrutiny meetings. We have also had meetings with the Coordinators of volunteering and leisure services in Poole to help us with our three priorities.

## **Somerset**

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### **Jake Pitt**

Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011

### **What made you want to stand for election?**

I wanted to make a positive impact on young people and provide a voice for young people's concerns.

### **During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?**

Increase the positive press for young people, and reduce the negative stereotypes of young





people in the media. Campaign on transport related issues, particularly the cost and accessibility. Stand up for our youth clubs and lobby councillors to reduce cuts to youth services.

**What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**

I am in the process of launching Somerset Young People's Newspaper, a newspaper for young people by young people in Somerset. I have also written some articles published in the Somerset Standard and had press releases published in the Wells Journal as well as the Somerset Standard. See: <http://www.thisissomerset.co.uk/Youth-cuts-debate/story-15793475-detail/story.html>  
<http://www.thisissomerset.co.uk/Youth-Parliament-meets-course/story-15726868-detail/story.html>  
<http://www.thisissomerset.co.uk/Compulsory-sex-education-help-cut-STI-rate/story-15522432-detail/story.html>

**Deputy Member of Youth Parliament**

I have attended regular Regional meetings when we have presented what we have done as a constituency and individually. I have attended a scrutiny meeting about the cuts to youth services with my member of youth parliament and we put so many good points forward that we were asked to go to a full council meeting and get a letter of thanks and a small gift of thanks. I attended the Regional residential and learnt lots more about media training and debating. My MYP and I published a survey to head teachers and students about their schools bullying policies and are currently receiving replies.

**Sam Foulder-Hughes**

**Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011**

**What made you want to stand for election?**

I love politics, being a Member of Youth Parliament allows me to exercise my passion whilst also fighting for the rights of other young people in my area.

**During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?**

To improve public transport and to make the roads more safe for cyclists.

**What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**

I've attended meetings with the county council, been to a consultation with First Transport and attended the debate at the House of Commons. Over the course of the next year I'm going to have a column in the Western Gazette. I am heavily involved in my school council and recently put together a manifesto with a foreword from Tessa Munt.



## Swindon

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### Naheda Miah

Deputy Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011

#### What made you want to stand for election?

The main reason I wanted to stand is to make a change for the youth in Swindon.

#### During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?

During my election campaign, what I promised to do in my area, was to focus on the creative side of Swindon. Music Festivals (promoting local musicians) which are affordable and have a variety of local musicians on a local radio station/college radios. So, we can embrace the talent we have!

#### What positive experiences have you had since being elected?

Since being elected, I've contacted two people from the Arts Council, and have arranged to be part of a focus group and to have meetings with them regularly.

## Torbay

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### Olivia Bushell

Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011

#### What made you want to stand for election?

I stood for election as I felt that more could be done for young people locally and after facing issues such as lack of adequate sex and relationship education, I wanted to implement a more successful education scheme so other students would benefit from better quality teaching in this subject. I also felt that being a member of Youth Parliament would be beneficial to my application to university, allowing me to push forward young people's views further.

#### During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?

The main points in my manifesto were as follows: To bridge the gap between the younger



and older generation. To improve the quality of sex and relationship education within schools. To speak out for those who are bullied and ensure more effective schemes are implemented to tackle the problem within schools.

**What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**

I organised and led with other MYPs in Torbay our annual 'Your Bay, Your Say' event which included a sexual health seminar (organised by me by getting local guest speakers and applying for grants to produce merchandise such as wristbands) and the launch of an anti-bullying campaign followed by a panel discussion with influential people in Torbay such as councillors. We have organised and had a meeting with a local councillor regarding increasing employment for young people in the bay. We are currently working on producing a political e-book which will be sent to the schools in the bay. This will include information on each political party. We are also working on delivering an anti-bullying assembly to all the schools in the bay which will consist of a drama production, speech, etc.

**Chelsea Louise Rose Burrows**

**Deputy Member of Youth Parliament**

**What have you been doing in your role representing young people in your area since being elected?**

Since elected in January 2011 I have taken part and organised in many crucial UKYP that has benefited my self and the Member's of Youth Parliament and the young people of Torbay. OCTOBER 2011; I organised the 'YourBayYourSay' event in which I held an anti-bullying workshop for the young people who attended, from our local secondary schools, highlighting to them the effects of bullying and how we can stop it as a community and a voice. DECEMBER 2011-FEBRUARY 2012; I participated in the organisation of our yearly elections, helping to organise the celebrations and election setup enabling all young people of Torbay the opportunity to vote and those who were nominated and elected the chance to celebrate their achievements. MARCH 2012-APRIL 2012; as a group, following my achievements from the YBYS event, we wanted to continue with the issue of anti-bullying and create our own campaign for Torbay. I take a lead on this as it is personally my main aim and aspect to change within the bay. We hope to go into schools performing drama workshops and assemblies to the young people.

During the elections I re-joined a Youth Bank called TOFFY (Torbay Opportunities Fund For Youth) and help them to distribute money across the bay in order to help other groups within the bay to succeed in projects in which they were working on, benefiting them to gain skills and understanding of different subjects. Furthermore, I also applied for funding in order to help myself and the other MYPs succeed in our aims to create an anti-bullying



campaign. With this funding we hope to help the young people of Torbay feel safer within their school environments and home communities by tackling bullying.

### **Poppy Disney**

Deputy Member of Youth Parliament

#### **What have you been doing in your role representing young people in your area since being elected?**

As a group of young people we have arranged and attended meeting with Cllr Matt James, a Champion for Youth Provisions in our area, who is helping the group secure more meetings with other Council members etc We have secured approximately £3600 through applying for funding from a council organisation to help further the anti bullying campaign and political education eBook.

### **Ivan Slipper**

Deputy Member of Youth Parliament (DMYP)

#### **What have you been doing in your role representing young people in your area since being elected?**

October 2011: YourBayYourSay Event (UKYP-run), bringing young people and local decision makers together for a day.

December-February: Elections. Arranging the elections so that four people can be elected to serve as shadows this year and D/MYPs next year.

February, March and April: Meeting local councillors and other decision makers, including the people funding all Youth work in our area. Started work on the e-book to aid political education in Torbay.

### **Henry Chisholm**

Deputy Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011

#### **What made you want to stand for election?**

The opportunity to help young people in my constituency, and improve things for them.

#### **During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?**

Establish a young people's press service, link student councils in schools with youth parliament, work to reduce transport fares.



**What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**

I've had a meeting with the councillor Matt James, champion of youth provision, in my constituency. I have helped to establish the key aims for the forthcoming year of youth parliament in my constituency, and helped plan a teambuilding exercise.

## Wiltshire

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**Ellie Vesey-Thompson**

**Member of Youth Parliament (MYP)**

**What have you been doing in your role representing young people in your area since being elected?**

Attending local meetings for various different groups (Town Council, Area Boards etc) representing young people.  
Attending Wiltshire Assembly of Youth and Youth Parliament meetings and residential, to discuss various issues affecting young people.  
Part of the Youth Strategy Commissioning Advisory/Implementation Group, putting together and monitoring the implementation of the new youth strategy in Wiltshire.  
Planning and holding the "Be Kind to Your Mind" Mental Health Conference for young people in Devizes, as part of our ongoing work on mental health.  
Attended Radio 1's first ever Big Conversation on 13th September, and the Teen Awards later on as part of that.  
Attended Youth Parliament House of Commons Debate, as a Media Rep, and did various radio interviews as part of this, as well as sending out press releases.  
Shadowed my MP in Westminster for International Women's Day (8th March).

**Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011**

**What made you want to stand for election?**

To make sure youth have their voices heard.

**During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?**

Ensured their voices are heard and do what I can to bring down transport prices.

**What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**

In our local constituency we had a mental health conference to try and write a charter for schools.



**Ellie Pullen**

Deputy Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011

**What made you want to stand for election?**

I stood for election because I wanted to see difference on a local and national level. I want young people to become more engaged in politics and to reach 18 feeling that they can make an educated and well informed vote.

**During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?**

To improve accessibility to mental health services. Continue my work towards cheaper, fairer and accessible transport for all. Positive press for young people. Improved relationships between the police and young people.

**What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**

I received an O2 grant towards my local youth centres multi media room which has now been completed. I have received correspondence from my MP regarding transport. I attended the South West UKYP residential and also the Wiltshire Assembly of Youth residential. I have attended my youth centres CAYPIGS (community area young people's issues group) and also my local councils area board meetings.

**No information submitted up to April 2012**

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Bournemouth  
Isles of Scilly  
South Gloucestershire



# West Midlands

## Birmingham

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### Aisha Cabdi

Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011

#### What made you want to stand for election?

I stood for the election because I wanted to see positive changes in my area.

#### During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?

I promised to clean up the area & listen to what people wanted so I could campaign for the main issues affecting them.

#### What positive experiences have you had since being elected?

Because I've only been in Youth Parliament for a while, the highlights have meeting new people & training. I am enjoying myself working in UKYP and I look forward to future events.

### Will Gregory

Deputy Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011

#### What made you want to stand for election?

I decided to stand for election for two main reasons. Firstly, I believe that in order to make democracy work in any society, political participation by everyone is key; decisions makers cannot be expected to know what to do unless people communicate with them. Youth Parliament gave me a perfect way for me to make a meaningful participation in our democracy and influence people who make decisions which will impact on my life and the lives of those around me. Secondly, Youth Parliament seemed like a perfect extra-curricular activity to complement my Politics A-Level, therefore I thought in terms of preparing myself for the future it was a very beneficial thing to be involved in and so I went for it.

#### During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?





Due to the fact that the young people were the ones choosing the issues to campaign on, I couldn't really be very specific on what I would actually do. Instead, I just told people about issues which mattered to me and that I'd like to make a change with. For example, the steep increase in tuition fees. Also, I just promised that I would do my best to represent young people and their best interests - just be a generally good representative.

**What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**

From the beginning, even before becoming elected, it was great to meet and discuss issues and common interests with other young people that lived in my city. Since being elected, I feel I have become a lot more informed and open minded about the mixture of culture and different communities that exist within the city of Birmingham. In terms of campaign progress, so far we have only just started. However, the Birmingham team have already come up with some key ideas on how we are going to use the media to get our messages out to young people and decision-makers. Also, we have begun exploring what sort of root causes we have to tackle to work towards achieving our campaign aims: stopping violence in our community and solving the issue of educational pressure. Currently, I am working on a questionnaire to be distributed to my constituents trying to track down what it is about education today which causes the most stress. From this I hope to reflect with my colleagues and come up with some kind of idea of where to go next with this issue. Other activities I have been involved with so far have been attending public events such as a mayoral debate over whether Birmingham should have an elected mayor, chatting with various representatives such as my local MP, a local candidate for the council elections, the leader of the Respect Party and a possible mayoral candidate. As well as this, I have attended a meeting in which some Dutch nurses wanted to find out from young representatives how they could better engage their communities. Me and all my colleagues managed to give a lot of input regarding the issues they were concerned about in the Netherlands at the moment and hopefully we have helped them to come up with some ideas on how they could better tackle issues in their communities. Also, me and my colleague from my constituency have sent e-mails to our local MPs informing them on the fact we were recently elected, and the campaign issues we are hoping to work on for the duration of our term.

## Shropshire

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**Ellis Snookes**

Member of Youth Parliament



**What have you been doing since September 2011 in your role representing young people in your area?**

So far we, at Telford, have: Met with Shropshire's members, been to one regional meeting, discussed in great detail on what we want to do locally and been to our local youth representative group.

**Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011**

**What made you want to stand for election?**

I stood for Youth Parliament because I wanted a fairer representation for Young people.

**During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?**

My election was based on: \*Improving Transport \*Improving Secondary Education  
\*Lowering the Voting age to 16 \*Larger places for Students to congregate in and around Shrewsbury \*Improving Children's play facilities and getting more equipment for 16-18year olds.

**What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**

I have attended several council meetings and begun to fairly represent young people and speak for the majority of young people living around Shropshire. I have also had people coming to me to ask me to represent them at different community meetings/events and also come to me for advice and information.

## Solihull

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**Alex Jenner**

**Deputy Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011**

**What made you want to stand for election?**

I really wanted to make a difference to young people. I am interested in politics and I thought it would be good to get some experience in the youth parliament.

**During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?**

I promised to listen to my young people and bring forward any ideas that they had. The issues I felt strongly about was bullying in and around school.



### **What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**

I have spoken to lots of young people since being elected. They have spoken to me about lots of issues that I hope to raise. My best activity was when we went to the West Midlands induction day. It was fun but very informative.

## **Staffordshire**

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**Darren Foley**

**Support worker - Staffordshire Youth Action Council**

The Youth Action Council (YAK) recently took part in an induction residential at Whitemoor Lakes in Staffordshire. The group took part in teambuilding activities including problem solving and high ropes activities. In addition they participated in a range of workshops that will help them in their role as young representatives such as public speaking and debating. To gain recognition for the work they will be involved with over the next year members began working towards their Youth Voice Awards. Talking about the induction residential young people said:

'I have really enjoyed my introduction to YAK - getting to know everyone and learning new skills.'

'I now feel equipped with the skills to carry forward our work in 2012.'

## **Telford and Wrekin**

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**Coral Brookes**

**Deputy Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011**

### **What made you want to stand for election?**

Opportunity to support people in the local community, gain confidence, develop new schemes and put forward and gather ideas.

### **During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?**

New cultural and art activities. Opportunity to give our voice.



**What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**

Started attending a young people's forum. I have discussed my aims after announcing the results of the election at my school/sixth form. I have started to work on the campaign for this year and looked into our focuses and next steps. I went to the regional meeting. I am currently a representative in the extended school leadership team specific to volunteering in the sixth form which integrates my role into my school. I hope to develop volunteer work and reward young people who are volunteering.

## Walsall

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**Thomas Evans**

Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011

**What made you want to stand for election?**

I have an interest in politics and I am concerned about how I can help the Youth of Walsall to receive their full potential. I thought it would be a great opportunity for me to develop my skills and represent Walsall to the best of my ability.

**During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?**

I promised to look at the areas of bullying and how it can be improved. My slogan was I would be the voice of those who thought they could not be heard.

**What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**

Everybody was very pleased when I became elected. I have attended my first meeting where I have been given the opportunity to look at the areas of bullying and how to address these issues and to examine the national campaign which is looking at transport.

**Zak Hems**

Deputy Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011

**What made you want to stand for election?**

I wanted to stand for election because I wanted to make a difference for young people in my area and make a change.

**During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?**



I promised to be a good listener, reliable, punctual, trust worthy, determined, passionate person who actually cares about young people's views and is resolute at getting them across, no matter whether I agree or not.

**What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**

I have been to my first regional meeting in Birmingham which was where I met other young people who are in the same role as me and learnt what was expected of me in my next year of office. I also attended my first local meeting where we discussed what topics we would have individually, my topic assigned to me is drugs and alcohol.

## Warwickshire

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**Lukas Colledge**

Deputy Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011

**What made you want to stand for election?**

I wanted to stand up for youths and I wanted to get young people's voices heard.

**During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?**

I promised to always be there to listen to peoples issues and I promised I would do my best to affect how the older generation see youths.

**What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**

I have only been elected since February but since then I have been on a very enjoyable residential and had various successful meetings and conferences. In these meetings my fellow youth parliament members and I have begun on a stereotyping campaign. It is very enjoyable and will be beneficial for the community.

**Zain Khan**

Deputy Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011

**What made you want to stand for election?**

My ultimate ambition is to become a person who brings a change in the world, for better.

**During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?**



I promised to work to attain more economic power for young people for a better future. Job opportunities, training, further education, and physical and mental well-being.

**What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**

Since I have been elected, I have learned more about young people in the UK. I have also learned how well I can work with these people and as a result more about myself. 19th April I met and worked with the campaign team for "stereotypes of young people". I learned more about how to manage a campaign and at the end of the meeting had a better understanding of my role as a DMYP as well as what we need to do to run a successful campaign. I look forward to the new experiences UKYP had to offer.

Right now we (MYP and VOX) aim to represent all the people who voted for the elected YP of Warwickshire. To do this we are speaking to youth councils and schools in our constituency to get their views on our campaigns (chosen by young people) and what the goals of those campaigns are. We intend to discuss these matters at the next monthly meeting to move forward.

**Hannah Flower**

Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011

**What made you want to stand for election?**

I have always been passionate about standing up for what I believe and I feel that voicing the opinion of young citizens is important and the more voices that are heard can create a bigger impact. Before the election I was particularly interested in rising youth unemployment and career opportunities for young people and I felt if I was elected I could help to raise awareness.

**During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?**

In my campaign, I described my most issue as youth unemployment and career opportunities for young people. I promised to try to raise awareness and speak to professionals and councillors as well as young people to try to produce action which will help the problem. I also promised to listen to any young people's concerns and issues and voice them to people who can make change.

**What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**

Since being elected, I have attend my first regional meeting where I met other DMYPs from different regions. There I learnt more about my role and responsibilities as an MYP and how I can effectively voice the opinions of young people. Following this I have attended a local council meeting where I was elected as campaign leader for the youth underemployment



campaign in Warwickshire. For this campaign I have worked with other MYPs to produce a questionnaire about what career opportunities they have and what they would like for now/ in the future. We have also done research about unemployment figures and charities which arrange work experience. We have also invited some local councillors to talk to us about their role and opinions and how they think we can make a difference.

### **Rebecca Urosevic**

**Member of Youth Parliament & Youth Councillor - elected into position since September 2011**

#### **What made you want to stand for election?**

I wanted to make a positive difference that benefitted every single young person. I hear so many people complaining about problems in the local area but they never want to do anything about it. Therefore I wanted to take that step and make changes.

#### **During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?**

I said that I would represent every young person and that has been my basis of what I have been doing. Also my campaign subject was public transport and the various issues that relate to this. Again, so many people complain and I wanted to change that.

#### **What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**

1. 23rd - 25th March I went on a Warwickshire residential with the VOX representatives and fellow D/MYPs. We got to know each other and did several workshops involving the use of the Warwickshire Voice for Youth website, email system and Twitter account. We also highlighted our key campaign (bullying) and discussed many other problems in our local area. The three prominent ones were 'stereotyping of young people', 'bereavement services for young people' and 'youth unemployment'.
2. 24th March The first regional (West Midlands) meeting was held in Birmingham. We did many team-building workshops including 'The Sun Always Shines On...' and drawing a mindmap of what makes a good D/MYP. We got into our county groups and started to discuss what the issues were in the county from the eyes of us as D/MYPs. We used a sheet with a table on to decide for each issue who we needed to speak to, what about, who would be involved in taking the action and when it would need to be done. Finally, we signed the Code of Conduct making us official MYPs.
3. 19th April. The MYP/VOX members had our first meeting. After evaluating the residential we chose our groups of either 'stereotyping of young people', 'bereavement services for





young people' and 'youth unemployment'. I chose to join the 'stereotyping of young people' group as I knew many of my peers were experiencing this and it was an issue I could do more research about in the area. The group discussions were productive, and we decided that stereotyping in the media was something we definitely needed to work to change. We talked about contacting our local newspapers to see how they write their articles.

4. 12th April. Two fellow Rugby Youth Council members and I went to a Scrutiny Committee meeting at Rugby Council. We discussed issues involving public transport and offered alternatives of either cheap bus fares/prices, or to promote cycling. The councillors loved our presentation and after answering a few questions they agreed to put it forward to contacts that they had.

5. Pre-May 10th: Recently I have been offered the opportunity to travel to Westminster to meet Tim Loughton to discuss school transport. This is an amazing opportunity and I cannot wait to go. In preparation of this, I have sent out a survey in my school's registers about issues related to school transport, and I plan to also distribute this to other schools in Rugby and the surrounding area in the coming weeks.

## Wolverhampton

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### Hannah Scragg

Member of Youth Parliament and Youth Councillor

#### What have you been doing since September 2011 in your role representing young people in your area?

Youth DMPs were elected in March in Wolverhampton and so far we have had some great ideas and some successful meetings. The Youth MPs held their first local meeting in which we got to know each other more by discussing our hobbies and interests. We then looked at the UKYP manifesto and discussed details of the current campaigns that were running in Wolverhampton, and previous campaigns by the last Youth MPs. This gave us inspiration to decide on our future campaigns in which we intend to choose after consulting young people within our local communities. We have also attended the UKYP induction session in Birmingham, and met with the other Youth MPs from across the West Midlands - it was great to see so many different campaigns and hear about successful previous campaigns. Recently Youth MPs have been continuing to work on the 16-19 Bursary Consultation which is also the focus of the work by Wolverhampton City Youth Council. This involves consulting young people across the City, to get their opinions about the recent changes to the EMA



system and decide if it is working effectively in Wolverhampton. As a result of this we are producing a report which outlines the concerns that young people have raised. As well as this. The Youth MPs will also present this report at the Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny Panel to a large group of local councillors, in which we will also outline various recommendations to the Council. The Youth MPs have also continued work to further influence decisions in the City, and this includes campaigning for voting rights in the Scrutiny process within the City. All of the Youth MPs are really excited about the year ahead and are driven by a desire to ensure that young people's voices are heard!

## Worcestershire

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**Kirsty Fraser**

Support worker (content written by young people)

**Please tell us about the positive stories and activities that you have been engaged in since January 2012:**

January 2012: We had a meeting with the majority of the MPs for Worcestershire. We voiced to them what issues face Children and Young People and asked them if there was anything they could do to help us. We gained a relationship with the MPs, we are going to meet the MPs once a year to talk to them about any new issues and what they are doing for Children and Young People. We met with the Shenstone Group and voiced through the DVD that we'd made what our issues were. We split into tables and debated certain issues. We then came together as a group and fed back what the issues were that we talked about and what we thought. We also helped the Shenstone group decide on what their first issue would be for their 25 year plan of Worcestershire. We have also been invited to nominate one member to take a seat on the Shenstone Group.

February 2012: We were told that we had been given the opportunity to have a new Youth Worker on the team. We were part of the Interview process. We had one member sit on the adult panel and then we had a Young People Panel. The Young People Panel ran a Dragon Den style workshop where the person being interview pitched an idea and were evaluated on the brief that was given out before the interview date. We met with the University Lecturer about doing the lecture we did the previous year again. We decided that we would run a Dragons Den style lecture. We also were asked if we would be happy to help with the re-structuring of the course. We said we would be happy to help. After the Shenstone Group we were told that the Editor of a few local papers who is a member wanted us to help them run a feature over a set period of time. We met with a journalist and gave them



an overview of the issues that we brought up at the Shenstone meeting. We had an Elections Announcement/Celebration Event. This year was different to every other year as we only invited friends and family along. The event was completely run and organised by the Youth Cabinet. The event saw a good turnout. We also saw a large intake of new members and the event ran smoothly.

March 2012 : We had another Residential where we got to know the new members. There was a larger amount of workshops run by members and mentors. We also did a team building challenge that got everyone working together. The residential went really well.

April 2012: A 7 week feature in the local press raising youth issues that we said were important were printed in the paper. We came up with a training session for Councillors about how to work with young people, the sessions went really well, the councillors said they really enjoyed it and so did we. Two of us went to present an idea to Trish Haines (Chief Executive of the Council) and other high up managers about how Worcestershire County Council could make sure that young people have more of a say. This went really well, we got good feedback and we think that some of our ideas will definitely be used.

## **No information submitted up to April 2012.**

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Coventry  
Dudley  
Herefordshire  
Sandwell  
Stoke-on-Trent



# Yorkshire and the Humber

## Calderdale

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**Lydia Rawson**

Member of Youth Parliament

**What have you been doing since September 2011 in your role representing young people in your area?**

I was elected in January 2012. I have been to a meeting with my fellow MYP and DMYPs where the various Youth Representatives from our Calderdale region showed us what projects they had been working on over the previous year. Particularly heartening is the news of good progress on the Orange Box, a new Youth Centre that is currently being developed by the Orange Box Youth board, which I believe one of our DYMPs resides on. I have been on the Yorkshire and the Humber weekend way trip where we discuss presentations and how to deliver effective speeches etc. We also decided as a local campaign in Calderdale, against homophobic bullying. I am looking forward to more meetings and am excited about the new ways I can continue to represent the youth of our area.

## North Yorkshire

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**James Parkes**

Support worker -North Yorkshire Youth Council



Young people supporting Ride around for a £1

**Please tell us about the positive stories and activities that the young people you work with have been engaged in since January 2012:**

North Yorkshire Youth Council have been campaigning for fare fares in the county. Last year craven youth council created Ride around for a £1 during the month of August and it was a great success and NYYC wanted to role this out across the rest of the county. Follow a meeting the a council officer and councillor the County



Council has approached NYYC saying that they would like to roll it out across the whole county over the summer holiday... which is a massive achievement for NYYC. The youth council are working with the county council to roll this out and will be helping to promote this over the next few months

### **Liam Cutler**

**Member of Youth Parliament (MYP)**

#### **What have you been doing since September 2011 in your role representing young people in your area?**

UKYP North Yorkshire decided to run a transport campaign, in collaboration with North Yorkshire Youth Council (NYYC). Last year, Craven Youth Council ran a scheme where u-19s could travel for £1 on any (participating) bus, throughout August. The scheme was highly effective with 6/7 bus operators making increased revenue and bus usage by u-19s rose sharply. UKYP and NYYC have now decided to continue this. After 4 months of consulting, N.Yorks County Council has given permission for the scheme to run again, but this time throughout North Yorkshire. This is a huge success for us as it means all throughout the summer holidays in North Yorkshire, young people can enjoy £1 bus fares on all participating bus operators! This is a significant price reduction.

## **Rotherham**

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### **Nina Rasuli**

**Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011**

#### **What made you want to stand for election?**

I wanted to bring young people together, from every background, and to put forward their ideas so that their voices could be heard.

#### **During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?**

- create more places for young people to meet e.g. places like the Peace Gardens in Sheffield - lower the cost of public transport for young people and try to increase its efficiency - find a way of allowing young people to have more opportunities to get work experience

#### **What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**



I have been in contact with people who are responsible for changing Rotherham Town Centre, so that young people can get involved and input their ideas into improving the town centre and making it more young people friendly. We (fellow D/MYPs) are also going to have a meeting with them shortly to discuss our ideas in more detail. We have also made progress on our Young Carers Card and I have helped to design it and we are getting in touch with people to try and put it into use.

## Wakefield

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### Grace Dobson

Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011

#### What made you want to stand for election?

My head of year showed me the application form and I thought straight away that I wanted to do it, to have a voice for youth.

#### During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?

I wanted to make it easier for people to know what job they want before they take their choices for GCSE. To get employees into schools to talk to the kids to tell them about them, their job and the choices they made for it. They would not be the army or the RAF because most schools have them come in anyway, but shop keepers or bakers, zoo keepers to midwives.

#### What positive experiences have you had since being elected?

Firstly, I went on a residential and met lots of new people that I will be working with for the two years I am elected. Secondly I have been involved in the design of a new building being built in Airdale. I have had a say on what the inside will look like. I have enjoyed everything I have done since February and look forward to the next two years. I like the fact I have a say in new clubs where I am representing.

Deputy Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011

#### What made you want to stand for election?

It made me want to make a stand for young people in our area.



**During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?**

Try to lower bus fares and university fees.

**What positive experiences have you had since being elected?**

We have weekly meetings.

**No information submitted up to April 2012**

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Barnsley  
Bradford  
Doncaster  
East Riding of Yorkshire  
Kingston upon Hull  
Kirklees  
Leeds  
North East Lincolnshire  
North Lincolnshire  
Sheffield  
The City of York Council





# Northern Ireland

## Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011

### What made you want to stand for election?

I wanted to change things for the youth in my area and Belfast.

### During your election campaign, what were the main things you promised to do for young people in your area?

Take in all the ideas and try to fulfil them.

**What positive experiences have you had since being elected? I have only been elected** recently but have participated in workshops and the recent Translink Summit which was a great experience. It has been an overall great experience and can't wait for what's to come.

## Matthew Morrison

## Deputy Member of Youth Parliament - elected into position since September 2011

### What have you been doing since September 2011 in your role representing young people in your area?

I have only been in the position since the end of February 2012. So far I have had one meeting with other MYPs and DMYPs where we discussed the main aims for the year ahead. This was successful and together we have mapped out our plan for the rest of the year. I am currently in the process of creating a questionnaire in order to discover young people's attitudes towards politics and will be passing on a copy of the results to my local MLA.



# Scotland

## **Margaret Mitchell MSP is putting the following motion forward in the Scottish Parliament about the work of Motherwell Youth Voice**

That the Scottish Parliament recognises the on-going work of Motherwell Youth Voice; notes that Motherwell Youth Voice was established in 2009 as one of six youth forums in North Lanarkshire and aims to improve the perception of young people and improve the local community for their benefit; acknowledges that the group has participated in numerous local activities including the re-design of Motherwell Library's teen section; further notes that Motherwell Youth Voice organised their own awards evening 'Truth About Youth' which saw young people acknowledged for the involvement in their local community and that last year it co-ordinated the 'Youth Be Heard' event which brought together a decision makers from North Lanarkshire Council and Youth People with young people; further recognises that as a direct result of this event and the efforts of Motherwell Youth Voice, young people in North Lanarkshire undertaking their Duke of Edinburgh Awards were given free access for one hour a week for twelve weeks at North Lanarkshire Leisure facilities in order to allow them to complete the physical requirement of the DofE award; believes that Motherwell Youth Voice do excellent work representing and building a better community for the young people of Motherwell and wishes them all the best for the future.



# Wales



Youth Select Committee members with John Bercow MP

**James Humphry, member of Cardiff Youth Forum and the Welsh Youth Parliament, is one of 11 young people to sit on the new Youth Select Committee**

The Youth Select Committee mirrors the UK Parliament Select Committee structure and gives young people the opportunity to

scrutinise and hold enquiries in to topics they're interested in. The group's first inquiry, in July, will look at public transport – as identified as a priority by members of the British Youth Council and UK Youth Parliament in 2011. The terms of reference for the inquiry are: 'to inquire into issues and concerns around safe, affordable and accessible transport for young people and make recommendations to decision makers to address them.'

James, who is also been actively involved in developing a new structure of youth forums and services for young people in and around Cardiff, brings a wealth of experience to the group.

