

Councillors Briefing Note

No. 353

Service: Commissioning and Joint Planning
Further Enquiries to: Judy Edwards
Date Prepared: 01/05/2018
Direct Line: 01225 713712

1. UK Youth Parliament 2018 elections and activity

UK Youth Parliament provides opportunities for 11-18 year olds to use their elected voice to bring about social change through meaningful representation and campaigning. Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs) are elected annually in every part of the UK. There are currently 349 MYPs. MYPs are encouraged to meet with MPs and local councillors, organise events, run campaigns, make speeches, hold debates and ensure that the views of young people are listened to by decision makers. The most important aspect of any MYP's job is to make sure they represent the views of the young people in their constituency. Wiltshire has three seats on the UK Youth Parliament, with the term of office commencing on 1 March. Information about Wiltshire's MYPs for 2018/19 can be found [here](#).



Karl Smithson
(Wiltshire North)

Maisy Humphrey
(Wiltshire West)

Joel Mutagayika
(Wiltshire East)

The role of the MYP is increasingly being recognised at a local and national level. UK Youth Parliament seeks opportunities for MYPs to meet regularly with government ministers, members of the opposition and civil servants. UK Youth Parliament also works to promote the role and influence of MYPs to service providers, e.g. the transport industry and health services.

2. Youth Parliament programme

MYPs come together for an Annual Conference each July at which they debate manifesto points and vote on **ten** issues to take to a national [Mark Your Mark campaign](#). Schools and youth groups are encouraged to register to take part in debate and discussion about these 10 issues, and then vote for those which are most pertinent to them. Almost 1m ballots are cast each year. The top **five** issues are then taken to a debate in the [House of Commons](#) which is chaired by the Speaker of the House. Following these debates, MYPs vote to decide which **two** issues should become the UK Youth Parliament's priority campaigns for the year ahead.

3. 2018 campaigns

The two priority campaigns for 2018 are: i) [Votes at 16 in all public elections](#) and ii) [A curriculum for life](#).

Wiltshire's MYPs have also agreed a set of their own local priorities which they would like to progress in partnership with elected members:

- Bus passes for those under 18
- Whole county litter picking days to include all Wiltshire schools
- Railway station in Devizes
- Use of new materials for road repairs – plastic roads
- Increase special school provision
- Revisit youth centre provision

4. Wiltshire Assembly of Youth

MYPs are expected to take a leading role in the Wiltshire Assembly of Youth (WAY). WAY is a forum for young people in Wiltshire to express their experience of the needs of children and young people, give their views on services, and offer consultation over policy.

5. Meet your MYP

Councillors are encouraged to contact their MYP, to introduce them to the work of the Council, discuss how the 2018 campaigns can be supported, and encourage wider debate and discussion with young people at Area Board and Full Council level. To make contact and for more information please contact: judy.edwards@wiltshire.gov.uk, 07900 759830.