

VOICE INFLUENCE ACTION



YOU WHISPER WE SHOUT!



Harrow Youth Parliament: The Official Voice of Young People

Harrow Youth Parliament (HYP)

The members are from diverse background usually from the ages of 12 – 19, with an interest in their community and the desire to make a difference. These members are selected from schools, youth groups, and voluntary sector youth organisations.

HYP has four sub groups reflecting the council's priorities. The subgroups work with council officers, agencies, service providers and councillors in planning, delivering and evaluating services provided for young people. This is done through consultations, meetings, workshop, outreach work, projects, conferences and debates.



There are 10 elected officers:

- 1 Chair person
- 1 Deputy Chair person
- 2 Secretaries
- 2 Press officers
- 2 members of UK Youth Parliament
- 2 Deputy members of UK Youth Parliament

Mission Statement:

- To enable young people in Harrow to VOICE out freely matters concerning them, and to be able to INFLUENCE decisions on issues affecting them.
- To ensure that decision and policy makers ACT on the outcome of consultations and discussions.

The Aim:

- To reach out to all young to people across the borough who live, study or work in Harrow, including those from ethnic minority backgrounds, children missing



school, young offenders, refugees, disabled and children looked after.

- To ensure young people in Harrow form a collective group to address issues that affect them.
- To work in partnership with Councillors, Managers, Decision Markers, Safer Neighbourhood Groups, Health Professionals and other community Groups to initiate change.
- To develop and raise the profile of young people in Harrow through positive representation in the media.



The Youth Parliament supports the elected members of UK Youth Parliament

The UKYP aims to give the young people of the UK, between the age of 11 and 18, a voice which will be heard and listened to by local and national government, providers of services for young people and other agencies that have an interest in the views and needs of young people. It is a national body of democratically elected young people aged from 11 to 18, which has the support of the three major Political Parties.

Harrow has three successful general elections. These elections are organised by the Harrow Youth Parliament with the support of Harrow's Electoral Services. A record number of young people have

participated in 3 general youth elections. In the 3rd UK Youth Parliament election in the borough in 2009/2010 as many as 7500 young people voted at 25 polling stations across Harrow. There was an increase of 70% over the first election in 2006/2007.

In February this year, 12,305 young people voted in 77 representatives to the new parliament.

The Harrow constituency has 2 elected Members of Youth Parliament (MYP) and 2 Deputies with yearly term of office.

If you are interested to stand as a member of Youth Parliament for Harrow contact the Youth Development.



Membership

Young people aged 12 to 19 are elected as representative from their school, college, youth group or youth committee usually with diverse interests and from different backgrounds to constitute the membership of the Youth Parliament. Terms of reference and the constitution of the Youth Parliament is available on the Harrow Council website. www.harrow.gov.uk/harrowyouthparliament

Anyone who wants to consult with the Youth Parliament must complete a consultation application form, available at the Youth Development Team's office.

Frequency of meetings

Youth Parliament meetings are held once a week at the Harrow Civic Centre usually between 6pm to 9pm. The elected officers, Youth MPs and Sub committee leaders meet in between the meetings.

The executive officers meet the Corporate Director of Children Services 4 times annually and meet the Harrow Council cabinet 3 times a year.

Harrow Youth Parliament have worked locally, nationally and internationally to discuss and find some solutions to issues affecting young people.

Locally we have been involved in the following:

- Helped to shape the Children Services Transformation by attending Stake holders Reference Group meetings and being part of the consultation process
- Given our views and discussed with the Chief Executive, Leader of the House,



councillors, directors and senior council officers on the council's spending during Harrow's budget consultation.

- We held a question time debate about Academies, which was joint chaired by HYP chairperson and the chief executive.
- We have had inputs in the introduction of a new range of services for children at Northwick Park and Central Middlesex hospitals through consultations



- We have met 2 local MPs to discuss cuts to Youth Services and Academies, and also met 2 professionals from Harrow Council to discuss Discretionary Allowance/Bursaries as replacement for EMA





- We have questioned the Senior Library Officer about improvements to services at Harrow Libraries for young people
- We met with the Borough Commander and his officers after the London riots to discuss ways of improving youth and police relationships



- We organised social projects; setting up Harrow Youth Café, and raising money for charity through car wash



Nationally we accomplished the following:

- Debated at the House of Commons with all other Youth MPs from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland chaired by the speaker of the commons and attended by ministers, MPs and shadow ministers



- Joined over 250 youth from England to lobby the government at House of Commons on cuts to Youth Services



- Went to Downing Street as part of Children Rights Alliance England to ask the Prime Minister to support Children's rights as part of the year of action for UN Convention for Rights of the Child

- We have been involved with London Region Scrutiny Commission Report, developed and created based on consultation data through interviews, consultations and meetings with service providers and young people who use the services. The issues investigated which are most pressing for young Londoners are Crime and Safety, Cuts to Youth Activities and Cuts to Education and support services.





Cedars Youth and Community Centre:

2 young people are represented on the Cedars Youth and Community board to ensure that young people are at the centre of any decision made that will affect them especially with regards to service provision at the centre.

Past Involvement

Took part in the Mayor's debate on improving crime and safety in London.

Harrow Young Planners

Internationally we were selected to represent England to share our best practice in youth participation at San Sebastian, Spain. We joined by 3 other countries; Belgium, Italy, and Spain to explore the participation of European young people in active citizenship, community cohesion, culture and their involvement in decision making and political processes at local, national, and European levels. The findings of the 3 day seminar were then presented to European Parliament in Brussels.

Our next steps

- We are organising Youth Election to elect new members to join the Youth Parliament and then elect officers to a 2 year term to manage youth Parliament action plans.
- Have more meetings with Harrow Council cabinet, councillors, local MPs, Directors, Senior Managers and other service providers to discuss issues raised by Children, Young People and their families.
- Form a new youth inspectors and complaint service group to ensure that Children and Young people receive quality services from providers.
- To be central to the new government Health watch to ensure that young people's voices are heard in providing health services
- Develop a young people's version of Lets talk to reach out to the community
- Support the Youth MPs in their national and internal campaigns
- Do more work the police to improve relationships between youth and the police.
- Participate and encourage other youth in volunteering and organising social action projects to raise funds for charities
- Help to improve the image of young people by publicising good images and good work of young people in the media.

Met with Portfolio Holder before our walk about in Harrow and met with Land Securities to Influence debate on Kodak site and will be presenting to Major Development Panel



- Awarded the Princess Diana Anti Bullying Award for HYP work in 2010 in raising the awareness of bullying in Harrow.
- Worked with the Local Safeguarding Children Board and partners to host an awareness event for Safer Internet Day and launched the ABC Charter, schools have been invited to sign this charter.



Healthy Eating – Smooth Youth was a campaign introduced to advice youth in Harrow to take to healthy eating. Practical sessions were held at events such as Under One Sky (over 500 smoothies served), Youth Achievements events (200 smoothies served)

Practical sessions at Wealdstone Youth Club and at Harrow Recreational park (300 smoothies were served)



Youth Parliament and UK Youth Parliament training day

65 young people attended the Youth Parliament and UK Youth Parliament training day. The training programme included topics around citizenship, democracy, representation, running campaigns and local issues around knife crime. Former members of Harrow Youth Parliament and Children in Care Council facilitated the meeting. Members of Beyond Limits participated in the training.



The Diana Award - recognising those who act as a force for good



Harrow and UK Youth Parliament Training Day



HYP Executive members 2012 with Bill Stephenson, Council Leader



The current members of Youth Parliament 2012



Harrow's MYP with Children's Commissioner for England, Maggie Atkinson

Harrow's Young People elected into UK Youth Parliament

Harrow Youth Parliament elected two of their members into the UK Youth Parliament at their Annual General Meeting. The Youth Parliament now has 77 registered members after the youth elections in February, which recorded 12,305 votes.

The new Youth Parliament was officially opened by the Deputy Chief Executive, Mr Tom Whiting, he said "what a fabulous event, it was a pleasure to have the opportunity to attend and thank all of the Youth Parliament for the huge contribution they have made in the last year and to welcome the successfully elected new officers into their posts"

Brain Gate, Portfolio holder for Schools and Colleges said, "I was privileged to attend the AGM of Harrow Youth Parliament. I was most impressed by the organisation of the meeting and the high quality of all of the candidates in the hustings. The questions from the HYP members to the candidates were also well thought out and challenging. I am certain that these young people will go on to be Councillors and Members of Parliament later in life. It is reassuring that the future of democracy in

Harrow is in very safe hands".

Bill Stephenson, Leader of Harrow Council attended the event and said "I would like to congratulate everyone who was elected into office. I was so impressed by the standard of leadership shown by Harrow's Youth Parliament. I felt like I was sitting amongst our future leaders. The Youth Parliament gives young people a real voice in the political debate and invites them to help find solutions to the issues which matter most to them. It's the place for the next generation of decision-makers to get real experience and influence."

Ladan Dirie, newly elected MYP, said "I'm so happy that I was elected to be an MYP and I'm really looking forward to speaking nationally about issues that I'm passionate about. It's so important that the voices of our youth are heard."

Full List of elected members:

MYPs's
Ladan Dirie
Robert Walmsley

Deputy MYPs's
Oliver Hurcum
Edward Hardy

Chair
Hannah Nathanson

Deputies
Robert Rowatt
Lana Redmonds

Secretaries
Ashna Khagram
Alex Teh

Press Officers
Ellie Tauben
Amrit Walia





Young people from **Harrow** have come together to form a **Youth Parliament**. We are **working** for safer streets, more youth clubs, better sexual health advice, more discounts **for** facilities and more things to do for **YOU**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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