



CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON

YOUTH
COUNCIL

City of Wolverhampton Youth Council Annual Report 2017

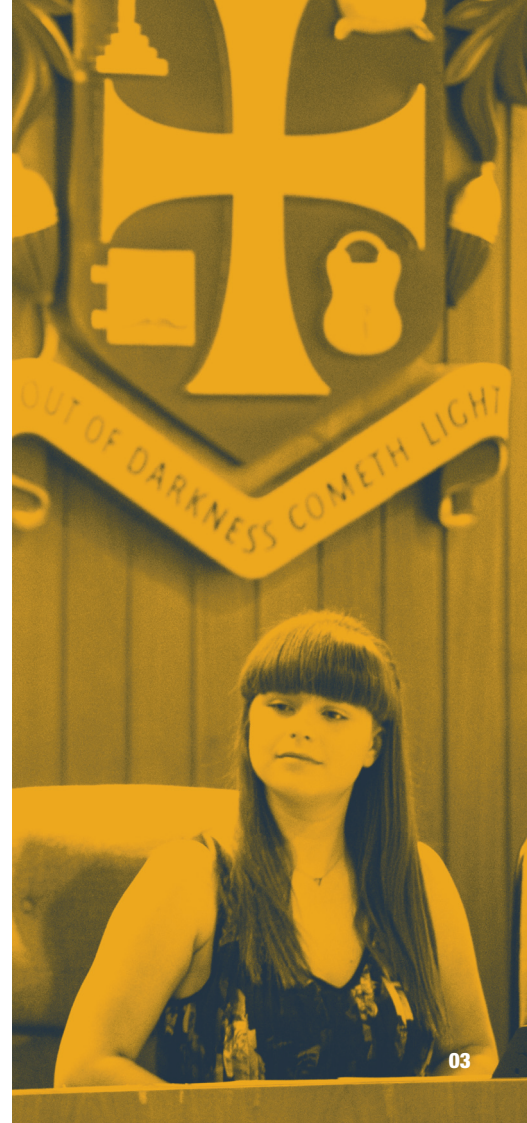
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OUTGOING CHAIR'S STATEMENT

As last year's chair, I'd first like to say how immensely proud I am of the members of the City of Wolverhampton Youth Council; it has been such a rewarding experience to lead a group of such passionate and dedicated young people, who really want to make a change to not only the city, but the whole country. I've been a member of Youth Council for five years, and the opportunities that it brings are unique and invaluable; seeing change take place, and being able to have an impact on vital decisions is a wonderful thing. I look forward to seeing the continued work of the group this year, and know that, with the council's staunch support and the vigor of the newly elected Youth Council representatives, there will be a lot to look forward to.

Isabel Ricketts

Outgoing Chair





Amias Perry, Incoming Chair

INCOMING CHAIR'S FOREWORD

I am pleased to present this year's Annual Youth Council Report. I would like to start my time as Youth Council Chair by saying how excited and enthusiastic I am for the year we have ahead of us. I would like to give a big thank you to all those Youth Councillors who are departing to pursue other things, for all their hard work and dedication representing the young people of Wolverhampton, we wish them all the best with whatever they go on to do. I look forward to working with the New Youth Councillors, of which we now have a record number. 44 Young People were Elected in 2017's Youth Elections, bringing in fresh ideas and opinions to the Youth Council. The Make Your Mark Vote has given the Youth of Wolverhampton a

chance to say what's important to them, and this will inform our priorities for the upcoming year, these results also influenced the Youth Parliament House of Commons Debate, which I was privileged to take part in as an Member of Youth Parliament for Wolverhampton, speaking from the frontbench. We continue to make our voices heard on a Local and National Level at events such as the British Youth Council Conventions and Police Crime Commissioner Youth Summit. We also achieved our aim of forming valuable links with other groups in the city, such as B-Safe and the Children in Care Council. I am confident that the Youth Council will continue with its successes and achievements this year.

Amias Perry

Incoming Chair

INTRODUCTION

City of Wolverhampton Youth Council is an organisation run by young people for young people. We aim to represent the views of young people, challenge negative stereotypes and promote diversity. We work with other organisations in Wolverhampton, develop campaigns and act as a platform for young people to express their views to decision makers. We meet at least once a month.

This is our annual report which covers our key achievements for the past year, as well as looking forward to and considering our aims for the following year.

Following the successful 2016 elections, we adopted the same style of recruitment in November 2017, allowing schools and voluntary sector groups to elect two representatives. This resulted in representation from 18 secondary schools and 5 youth groups across the city. The Youth Councillors have been taking part in an induction at the end of 2017 which included a Get to know the Council's Budget with Councillor Andrew Johnson, Cabinet Member for Resources and Claire Nye, Director of Finance.



REPRESENTATION

	Youth Councillors	Youth Comm'r Reps.	Youth Comms. Officer	Youth Council Chair	Youth Council Vice Chair	Youth Council Secretary
Aldersley High School	● ●	● ●				
Colton Hills School	● ●					
Coppice High School	● ●					
Wolverhampton Girls' High School	● ●		●			
Wolverhampton Grammar School	● ●					
Heath Park High School	● ●					
Highfields	● ●					
Kings' School Wolverhampton	● ●			●		●
Moreton School	● ●					
Moseley Park School	● ●					
The Royal School	●					
Smestow School	● ●				●	

The City of Wolverhampton Youth Council is proud to have representatives from eighteen schools and five Youth Groups across the city.

	Youth Councillors	Youth Comm'r Reps.	Youth Comms. Officer	Youth Council Chair	Youth Council Vice Chair	Youth Council Secretary
Ormiston NEW Academy	● ●					
Ormiston South Wolverhampton Bilston Academy	●					
St Edmund's School	● ●					
St Matthias School	● ●					
St Peter's School	●					
Wednesfield High School	● ●					
B-Safe Team	●					
Children in Care Council	●					
One Eighty Youth Club	●					
The Key Team	●					
Hope Family Centre	●					

WARDS OF THE CITY REPRESENTED

Ward	Number of Young People
Bilston East	–
Bilston North	● ●
Blakenhall	● ● ●
Bushbury North	● ●
Bushbury South and Low Hill	● ●
East Park	● ● ● ●
Ettingshall	● ● ●
Fallings Park	●
Graiseley	● ●
Heath Town	● ● ● ● ●
Merry Hill	●
Oxley	● ● ● ●
Park	●

Ward	Number of Young People
Penn	● ●
Spring Vale	–
St Peter's	● ●
Tettenhall Regis	● ● ●
Tettenhall Wightwick	●
Wednesfield North	●
Wednesfield South	–
Others	● ● ● ● ●
Willenhall	● ●
Coseley	●
Wombourne	●
Princes End	●



JANUARY – DECEMBER 2017 ACHIEVEMENT

- Youth Council continued to engage in the City Council's scrutiny process, attending every meeting for the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel and contributing to the Members Away Day. We have met with the Scrutiny Board to discuss the Youth Council's work and presented the Wolverhampton Make Your Mark result with the agreement that follow up work will take place with the council's scrutiny process regarding the top three issues from Wolverhampton in early 2018.
- Contributed to the Good outcome of the Councils Children Services Ofsted report with a reference made to the work that the Youth Council does with Scrutiny. The Youth Council also played a role in the council's equalities inspection and are keen to support the City Council further in this work.
- The Youth Council has continued to engage with other groups by attending their meetings and meeting their members. These groups include The Way Youth Zone, the B-Safe team and the Children in Care Council. We have developed our relationship with HeadStart and contributed to their work, ensuring that the work we have done nationally has been fed into the work locally.



- Youth Councillors were involved with the Children's Commissioner's 'Takeover Day'; where members had the opportunity to be involved in a range of experiences with decision makers from the City Council this included a meeting with the Director of People as well as a meeting with key figures from the council's Children's and Young People's services and West Midlands Police.
- The B-Safe Team, Children in Care Council and Youth Council attended a joint residential in August at Woodlands Adventure camp in Walsall and held a conference to feedback on areas of work and discuss issues.
- The Youth Council have been attending the Community Cohesion Forum to ensure young people's voices are being listened to at this important meeting for community and faith groups in the city.
- The Youth Council have developed a relationship with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and have been working with the Children's Clinical Commissioner as part of this involvement we have inputted into the CAHMS strategy.
- The Youth Council have been involved in the interview and recruitment process of key council positions including the Director of Education post.



AGENDA

During our monthly meetings we have discussed the following:

- Discussions on fly tipping as part of the council's consultation on waste strategy and the methods that the council currently uses to address this.
- Met with Director of Education and discussed the vision 2030 document.
- Met with Cllr Gakhal to discuss the views of the Youth Council on Apprenticeships to feed into the Apprenticeships Scrutiny Review.
- Met with the Cheryl Graver the Chief Executive of the WAY Youth Zone to discuss the development of the provision.
- Met with Officers from the Council to discuss the transformation of the City Council's Library Service including a tour of the Central Library this included opening times and a development of a new to a citywide learning offer.
- Contributed to the work of Head Start and were involved in Mental Health Week.
- Members of the group contributed to the development of the new PSHE and Sexual Health Curriculum for schools by helping to produce short videos to highlight the services available for young people in the city.
- The Youth Council showed their support to the Orange Wolves Campaign during November 2017.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL WORK

- Youth Council supported the annual Youth Parliament Make Your Mark ballot with a record 8713 ballots cast by young people from 22 schools and youth groups. Wolverhampton had the highest percentage turn out in the Midlands
- Wolverhampton's two Youth MPs attended the annual Youth Takeover at the House of Commons chamber where Amias Perry was debate lead. He spoke from the dispatch box on the Protect LGBT issue. Millie Betteridge also spoke during the Curriculum for Life debate.
- Youth MPs attended regional meetings with Youth Councils from the West Midlands and continued to engage with British Youth Council's scheme of work.
- Youth Council elected two Youth Police and Crime Commissioners the theme of work for 2017 is Young People who are Victims of crime. Members of the Youth Council attended the annual police event for young people across the West Midlands where we meet with senior officers from West Midlands Police.



- The city's Youth MPs worked on the Votes at 16 campaign with UK Youth Parliament. We wrote to Councillor Val Gibson asking for her support regarding the campaign. Councillor Val Gibson presented a motion at Full Council which received backing of the council for City of Wolverhampton Youth Council to formally back the campaign for Votes at 16.
- Emma Curran was one of 10 young people that contributed to the BYC Select Committee report on Body Image which was published in November 2017.



AIMS FOR 2018

- To carry out mini reviews with Council leaders on the three main issue raised from last year's Make Your Mark on work experience hubs, transport and mental health and ensure that the opinions of young people are highlighted as part of developments in these areas.
- Hold Youth Elections in schools and voluntary groups during UK Parliament Week and carry out an induction for these new members. Aim to further increase the participation of Secondary Schools and Voluntary Sector
- Engage further with city councillors and widen the scale of work the group performs.

- Collect as many Make Your Mark ballots as possible to amplify our national voice further.
- Continue to consult with young people and present their views at scrutiny meetings, and develop engagement with Councillors by inviting more to our meetings.
- Continue to develop links with the council and other organisations for young people, such as The Way and Children in Care Council.
- Support Wolverhampton HeadStart and develop closer links with HeadStart and B-Safe.
- Develop our publicity further with the development of a Youth Council website, with Facebook & Twitter pages being explored further.
- Continue to engage with as many schools as possible, developing effective feedback with school councils, following exemplar practice from group members.
- To continue to be a member of Youth Organisations Wolverhampton (YOW) and promote any opportunities we have to YOW members.



This information can be made available
in a range of languages and formats

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