



Hammersmith and Fulham Youth Council

Manifesto

2018-2019

What is the H&F Youth Council?

We are an elected group of youth representatives (aged 13-19)¹, who live, go to school in, or are looked after by Hammersmith and Fulham. As the voice of the young people in the borough, we create innovative ways to get their views and present them to decision makers. We also give our opinion on policies, activities and services and are involved in the recruitment of Children's Services staff.

Every year Youth Council Members, decide whether to stand as candidates in borough wide UK Youth Parliament Elections and for the first time this year- the Youth Mayor Elections. The Member of Youth Parliament and Youth Mayor and their Deputies (Elected in March 2018), have formed a Youth Cabinet to lead the Youth Council and drive this manifesto forward and to represent the views of young people of Hammersmith and Fulham, locally, regionally, and nationally.

Our aims

- To ensure that young people have a 'voice' that is listened to by decision makers and can contribute to the decisions that affect them.
- To improve our representation of all young people, especially those who are more vulnerable and who are not represented in our diverse Youth Council so that they are considered in our projects and have a voice.
- To ensure that young people are well informed about the opportunities, activities, and services available to them.
- Be more visible- get out and speak to young people on the streets, at community venues and through targeted services.

¹ Youth Council Members have been elected by their peers to represent their schools, colleges and community projects.

Our values:

We believe in:

- **Fair Representation:** (Young residents should have equal access to information and be given opportunities to impact local decision making.)
- **Honesty and openness:** (We always strive to improve situations for young residents, this may take a long period but when we cannot we will explain why certain changes cannot be made.)
- **Understanding of local issues:** (We aim to develop a good understanding of local issues and the concerns of young people so that we can help them to the best of our ability as a youth council.)
- **Best start in life for every young person:** (We want to ensure positive outcomes and lots of opportunities for young people in our borough. We want them to be ready for the world of work and independence and be easily able to access support when they need it).
- **A positive image of young people:** (We want to create a better image and challenge the negative stereotypes of young people).

What does the Youth Council do?

- We meet every fortnight² to update and plan future projects.
- Set the agenda, chair and minute take our own meetings.
- Design ways to get young people's views (e.g. consultation events, videos, social media, questionnaires) and feed them back to decision makers.
- Scrutinise and give our opinion on services, activities, and information for young people.

-
- ² Youth Council Meetings are alternate Tuesday Evenings from 5-7pm at Hammersmith Town Hall.
 - Youth Cabinet comprises the Member of Youth Parliament and Deputy and the Youth Mayor and Deputy.

- Promote opportunities and services to other young people.
- Research and campaign on issues that affect young people locally and nationally.
- Help interview and select professionals to work with young people.

What young people are telling us:

Every year, the elected Member of Youth Parliament leads the 'Make Your Mark' consultation to identify the top issues for young people in the borough. The top issues identified locally become the focus for the Youth Council and the top issues identified nationally, are debated in the House of Commons by all MYP's from across the UK.

Young people in Hammersmith & Fulham completed 3000 Consultations, in October 2017.

The top 3 issues were as follows:

- 1.**A Curriculum to prepare us for life
- 2.** Work Experience hubs for 11-18 year olds
- 3.**Mental Health

These issues will be an integral part of our manifesto, as well as the elected issues from our Youth Cabinet.

What do we want to achieve?

H&F Youth Council's Manifesto Pledges 2018/19:

1) To support young people in finding and engaging in meaningful work experience

We want to:

- Build on previous discussions with the local authority to support more opportunities for young people as well as a central system for helping young people to look for work experience.
- Work with schools and local employers to strengthen arrangements for work experience and to develop more opportunities- Steering group
- Help to support any local careers fairs and promote across schools and youth groups within the borough.

2) Tackle the Stigma of Mental health amongst young people and engage in community awareness

We want to:

- Collect the opinions of local young people on their experiences of mental health support and service access.
- Promote mental health champions within schools and youth groups
- Work with organisations such as MIND, Re-Think to promote services

3) To tackle gender, race and disability discrimination:

We want to:

- Help raise awareness of discrimination and minority rights by celebrating diversity, engaging young people in events and through social media and through peer education projects.
- Review PSHE curriculum and its promotion of the above issues
- Look at Equality provisions for young from minority backgrounds, LGBT, disabilities.

How can you work with us?

We have developed an application form for those wishing to consult with us, to support you to think through the practicalities of the consultation, including being clear on the purpose, how the feedback will be used and how you will feedback the impact of young people's involvement and so on. We can then decide whether we are interested and want to be involved. (See the attached application)



Application to consult
with the Youth Council

For more information about the Youth Council and UK Youth
Parliament:

See the 'H&F Youth Involved' Facebook page

www.lbhf.gov.uk/youthinvolvement

www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk