

The UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) enables young people to use their energy and passion to change the world for the better. Run by young people for young people, UKYP gives the young people of the UK, between the age of 11 and 18 a voice, which is heard and listened to by local and national government, providers of services for young people and other agencies who have an interest in the views and needs of young people.

Elections are held in Plymouth every January where the members are voted in by their peer group. Plymouth has two Members of Youth Parliament (MYP) and two Deputy Members of Youth Parliament (DMYP). Once elected they commit to between 2 and 5 hours a week working on their campaigns and representing the young people of Plymouth with issues that affect their lives.

The Plymouth Youth Cabinet is made of 12 young people aged between 13 and 19. Their aim is to support the Plymouth Members of Youth Parliament (MYP) and Deputy Members of Youth Parliament (DMYP) in achieving their goals as set out in their local, regional, and national manifestos.



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Guide for UK Youth Parliament and Plymouth Youth Cabinet



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LOCAL ISSUES

The Plymouth Youth Cabinet meet weekly on a Wednesday evening between 6pm and 8pm. They support the MYPs and DMYPs with their campaigns and highlight issues that affect young people's lives. The group often meet with representatives of different organisations where they are consulted with about services in Plymouth or where they get to ask some challenging questions. They also sit on interview panels, take part in activities and attend local events. Some examples of recent work includes representing young people's views during the mosquito device scrutiny panel and working on improving sex and relationship education for young people in Plymouth.



Members of the Youth Cabinet with the former Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress

REGIONAL ISSUES

The two elected Members of Youth Parliament (MYP) and two elected Deputy Members of Youth Parliament (DMYP) will work on regional issues as well as local ones. This is achieved at the South West Regional Residential and Regional Meetings. The three day residential is over a long weekend in March. All of the MYPs and DMYPs from the whole of the South West meet up to discuss their regional manifesto and engage in a variety of activities. This is a great opportunity to build friendships.

Regional residential at Skern Lodge, North Devon, March 2009



Regional meetings occur six times a year in Taunton, normally during school holidays. This is a chance to update other elected members from the south west region on what Plymouth has achieved. It is also used for consultations and training. All the transport costs are covered and lunch and snacks are provided.



Regional meeting in Taunton

NATIONAL ISSUES

The two elected Members of Youth Parliament (MYP) work on national issues as well regional and local ones. This is mainly carried out at the Annual Sitting which is a four day residential which happens at the start of the summer holidays in July each year. The MYPs from across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland meet up and agree the manifesto for the year as well as having the opportunity to take part in debates, training sessions and key note speeches. It's not all hard work though, there are activities in the evenings. The annual sitting is held in a different part of the UK every year. This will be paid for by a local pot of money and will be no cost to yourselves.

Please note that the young people are accompanied on all regional and national trips by a youth worker.



Annual Sitting 2009 at the University of Kent in Canterbury

