



# LEWISHAM YOUNG MAYOR OVERVIEW

Young Mayor 2017/18, Laurelle Henry and  
Deputy Young Mayor, Edafese Erhenede



**What We Do and Why We Do It.**

Malcolm Ball and Katy Brown, Advisors  
to the Young Mayor

May 2018

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*Young Advisors at the House of Lords*



## Introduction

“By giving young people a real say and genuine decision-making power within the borough, we believe we can make Lewisham a better place to live in, not just for young people, but for everyone” (Sir Steve Bullock, Mayor of Lewisham 2006)

As a key priority for the Mayor and Council, the programme has provided a range of opportunities for children and young people to become engaged and it has ensured that young people have been consulted on the development and delivery of public services.

The Young Mayor Programme makes an important contribution to the objectives set out in *Shaping our Future – Lewisham’s Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2020*. Of specific relevance are the priorities:

*‘Empowered and responsible – where people are actively involved in their local area and contribute to supportive communities.’*, and;

*“Ambitious and achieving – to Inspire our young people to achieve their full potential”*.

Corporate priorities: *“Community Leadership and empowerment: developing opportunities for the active participation and engagement of people in the community”*

The programme enables young people, politicians, council officers and partners to work together to develop ideas, while also addressing issues of concern and interest. In doing so, young people’s active and effective participation in democratic processes and local governance is genuinely enhanced. The Young Mayor’s Team continues to play an active role in helping to develop community solidarity and cohesion particularly necessary in an era of austerity and retrenchment. As this period slowly comes to an end it becomes even more important to remind ourselves and young people that other ways of doing things and being in the world are both possible and viable through our active engagement with each other and the world around us.

The activity and work of the Young Mayor and Young Advisors are ways of pursuing these ideas and aspirations. Hopefully enabling young people to become who they want to be in a world which they’ve actively shaped, learning the necessity of principled compromise, working respectfully with difference and differences. This learning by definition is both practical and educational, experiencing critical dialogue the way others view the world and the challenges of taking the risk and responsibility of being involved as a creator.

The following page *Young Mayor and Young Advisors Work Areas* is an extract from the budget paper showing the work of the Young Mayor and Young Advisors for the year 2016/17 which was presented to Mayor and Cabinet in February 2018. The Young Mayor presents their budget at the end of their term as a report of work done and future priorities having consulted others throughout their year in office.

## Young Mayor and Young Advisors Work Areas: October 2016 - October 2017

Organisation / Project / Work area etc.	Activity
Young Advisor's Meetings	Regular meeting time for young people to plan and organise their activities and for partners/ colleagues/ peers to consult and discuss issues with the group. Thirty nine Young Advisor meetings were held during 2016/17.
Social Justice and Diversity	<p>Participating in debates and panels on social justice and diversity.</p> <p>Young Advisors created and presented an Equalities timeline presentation at full Council recognising the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Race Relations Act.</p> <p>Supporting and participating in events at the Stephen Lawrence Centre; policing and the voluntary sector. Young people's voices and opinions being heard and shared with other community members and professionals such as the police and others, to help create change and influence policy making.</p> <p>Representing young people at LGBTQ events including launch of LGBTQ Month and full council. Discussion about the prejudices they can face and how it's possible to better support young people.</p> <p>SEND Young People's Forum with Special Needs Schools. Young People from SEN schools meet together with Young Advisors and adults to look at what their needs/interests are and involve organisations who provide activities or can plan activities to meet the needs/interests of the group.</p> <p>Discussion about the Poverty Commission with Cllr Dromey and participating in the community wide event, contributing young people's experiences of poverty.</p> <p>Working with SACRE – RE curriculum, reading, discussing and providing ideas on the review of the RE curriculum for all key stages, so it better meets the needs/interests of young people in Lewisham.</p> <p>Participating in the Serious Youth Violence Conference, preparing and gaining views at</p>

	<p>People's Day and presenting to a conference of community members.</p> <p>"13 Dead Nothing Said" Workshop for schools, helping facilitate a day at Goldsmiths with Lewisham Schools exploring the exhibition, the New Cross Fire and their local history.</p>
Civic Events	<p>Young People from the Young Mayor Team attend events to show solidarity and recognise the importance for the wider community of events with important historical roots.</p> <p>Recognising achievements and being involved in and learning about other civic institutions.</p> <p>As elected representatives this is part of the role and is important both for them to attend and for others to see they recognise and take these responsibilities seriously.</p> <p>Primary school council and Mayor Meetings.</p> <p>Holocaust Memorial Day event.</p> <p>House of Lords Visit with Chair of Council and dignitaries.</p> <p>Supporting citizenship ceremonies.</p> <p>Council AGM / Full council Meetings Visit to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.</p>
Intergenerational Activities	<p>Working together with older people to build understanding through intergenerational projects.</p> <p>Attending Positive Aging Council meetings.</p> <p>Quiz with Positive Aging Council.</p> <p>Supporting the POSAC <i>Tammy whynot</i> event.</p>
Health	<p>Responding to consultation on the Public Health proposals for a new Young Peoples' Service, and being part of the commissioning group for the new service</p> <p>Regular update with the CCG about local developments.</p>

	<p>Meeting with Brook about the sexual Health Services they provide for Young People.</p> <p>Liam continues to work on the National NHS Youth Forum, working with young people across UK on campaigns School Nurse Consultation; contributing views on the effectiveness of school nurses.</p> <p>Dementia Friendly workshop to understand the experience of others and be able to recommend others get involved.</p>
Employment and Enterprise	<p>Supporting opportunities for young people, activities, jobs and training through sharing on Facebook and through informal networks.</p> <p>Work experience students from 7 schools plus 10 students on work experience doing a two week Voter Registration campaign.</p>
Working with Children and Young People Directorate including Lewisham Youth Service/Youth First	<p>Organising showcases and other events at the TNG, for Lewisham Live, an open Mic night.</p> <p>Update and discussion on progress of Youth First.</p> <p>Budget consultations at some youth clubs and centres. Talking to young people about the Young Mayor's budget and what it should be spent on.</p> <p>Post 16 conference at Goldsmiths College.</p> <p>Contributing to the CYP Autism review.</p> <p>Meeting with CYP Select Committee and Cllr Moore to identify in depth review: contributing to the in depth review on Transitions from Primary to Secondary school.</p>
B-involved Website and Facebook	<p>Promoting opportunities for young people, raising issues of interest and maintaining social media contact with peers. Work experience students in particular support the site and social media.</p>
Community Safety, Policing and Youth Justice	<p>Roundtable events with the Tutu Foundation and the police; role play and frank discussion about the experiences of young people and the police to increase understanding.</p>

	<p>Workshop around stop and search with Y Stop –understanding your rights and being able to talk to others about rights and responsibilities.</p> <p>BBC programme on serious Youth Violence with Vicky Foxcroft MP.</p> <p>Participating in the Youth Violence Commission with Vicky Foxcroft MP.</p> <p>Developing knowledge of and supporting young people involved in the Youth Justice System, through the YOS engagement group.</p> <p>Hate Crime Awareness week supporting the White Ribbon Campaign, awareness building in the community and for young people.</p>
Regeneration and Housing	<p>Contributing to the consultation with Team Catford including a discussion on affordable housing.</p> <p>Speaking at Housing Away day about work of the Young Mayor and priorities.</p>
Working with Schools and Colleges	<p>Visits to primary, secondary schools and colleges: campaigning, raising awareness, budget consultations and feedback through assemblies, citizenship days and school councils. Supporting peers at exhibitions, achievement events and activities.</p> <p>School visits to the civic suite including, school council meetings and primary school visits with the Mayor.</p> <p>Termly School Council Meetings at the Civic Suite: hosted by the Young Mayor and Young Advisors with school council representatives.</p> <p>Masters Student on placement from Goldsmiths College, working with Young Advisors.</p> <p>Young Mayor Budget consultations, talking to students about priorities for the budget, getting their views and ideas.</p>
Community Events and Organisations	<p>Attending community events representing young people, recognising achievement, encouraging participation, cohesion and volunteering, for example:</p>

	<p>Smashfest; Young Lewisham Project AGM, Blackheath Fireworks; Preschool Alliance Community Event; Sedgemoor Summer Sizzler; Supporting Love to Dance.</p> <p>Participating in Lewisham Youth Conference as inspirational speakers.</p> <p>Supporting the development of the “What’s the Story” project for young people with Lewisham Library and Goldsmiths College.</p> <p>National Citizenship Service professional visits and Dragons Den events.</p> <p>Participating with European guests at St Mungo’s on the Young People’s gardening project.</p> <p>Young Mayor Funding pot process engaging with local groups and supporting projects young people have identified.</p> <p>Consultation and participation in Lewisham Local including initial young people’s volunteering day at Ladywell Adventure playground. To be an ongoing programme of days encouraging young people to volunteer in different ways.</p> <p>Consultation and participating in developing the Borough of Culture bid.</p>
Sports and Arts	<p>Open Mic night as part of Lewisham Live with Phoenix housing Young Makers Group.</p> <p>Supporting People’s Day and young people’s performance opportunities.</p> <p>Peoples Day work experience programme with European visitors as part of an Erasmus+ project.</p> <p>Working with Fusion to promote opportunities for young people in their leisure centres.</p> <p>Supporting local football tournaments.</p>
Visits to Westminster, meeting politicians and supporting voter registration events.	<p>Young people developing knowledge and understanding of party politics and democratic engagement which can then be shared with their peers.</p>



	<p>Visit to the House of Lords and meeting with Lords, developing an understanding of how decision making process work.</p> <p>2 weeks of voter registration campaign with 10 work experience students. Students developing their understanding of democratic processes and reasons to vote. Students visiting different areas of Lewisham (leisure centres/ market/ libraries etc.) and encouraging people to vote. Visits to all Lewisham sixth forms and colleges to register young people to vote with presentations and publicity, tablets to register people there and then.</p> <p>Meeting with Councillors around housing, refugees, select committees, food bank, serious youth violence, mental health and wellbeing, youth services, poverty commission.</p>
UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) and British Youth Council (BYC) and other Regional and National work.	<p>Engagement with the national Youth Voice Strategies and meeting other young people who are representing their areas.</p> <p>Representing Lewisham at House of Commons UKYP Annual Sitting.</p> <p>Participating in the Peer Outreach Project – GLA Peer Outreach Team.</p> <p>Attending BYC conventions and meeting other young people who are active in their communities across London and the South East.</p> <p>Understanding the regional opportunities for young people and how to get involved in and influence policy making across London.</p>
European visits / visitors	<p>Erasmus+: Youth in Action Projects (European funded projects) with youth groups in Alingsas near Gothenburg, Sweden. Prague 7, Czech Republic, Santa Maria da Feira, Portugal.</p> <p>With the aid of Erasmus+ grants we visited Alingsas outside Gothenburg to find out about how they work with young people who are NEET, and training and enterprise initiatives.</p> <p>One young advisor was invited to share his interest and knowledge of robotics with our colleagues in Portugal at a European Trade Fair. Also attended, in a personal capacity by</p>

	<p>the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Smith. As well as in Schools and Events in Alingsas, Gothenberg.</p> <p>Young people from the three countries came to work with Young Advisors on Peoples Day to gain some experience, Also a visit from our colleagues in Portugal who came to take part in workshops around migration, and to share cultural and other interests with young advisors.</p> <p>Some of the group visited Portugal to continue this discussion and to take part in the Medieval Festival, with their Young Mayor Programme.</p> <p>The aim being to share ideas around citizenship, develop an understanding of what it means to be European, raise aspirations and be part of a wider world.</p> <p>We have partners in Mallorca, Reggio Emilia, Italy, Santa Maria da Feira in Portugal, Prague 7, Bordeaux in Paris who we are developing projects with through the European programme Erasmus + including a Hub to promote young people's mobility, training and work experience.</p> <p>Supported Lewisham Polish Centre and Warsaw University's research into the participation of young people with polish heritage in Lewisham.</p>
Research and Evaluation Projects	<p>Young People taking part in interviews and helping evaluate the Young Mayor Project. Conducting an exit poll for the young mayor's election, interviewing candidates and recording their journey and experiences.</p> <p>Continue to follow candidates and record their experiences, creating a longitudinal study conducted by Dr Kalbir Shukra, Goldsmiths College. Kalbir wrote a paper for the Youth in Policy journal around some of her findings, and submitted evidence to the House of Lords Citizenship and Community Engagement commission.</p> <p>Young Advisors participated in some research with Dr Robert Chaskin, from the University of Chicago writing about young people from marginalised groups engage with civic and political systems.</p>

## **Young Mayor Budget Priorities 2016/17**

### **Curriculum for Life**

To work with others across the borough to develop a curriculum for life, identifying what young people want to learn which is currently outside the mainstream curriculum. This could include things like first aid, mental health and wellbeing, debating and discussion about ethical, social and world issues to help form opinions and build confidence and self-esteem. It could also include practical issues such as knowing about rights in employment, taxation and pensions, an extension of preparing young people for life after/outside school.

Young advisors will visit schools and youth clubs to research and draw up recommendations for the subjects and issues to be covered. They will present these ideas to strategic bodies such as the Head teachers briefing, governors and Secondary Challenge to see where these ideas can be fitted into policy development and school plans, taking into account the pressures that schools are already experiencing.

The budget will be used to pay for activities and sessions which will be piloted in some schools, suggestions include activities such as first aid workshops, debates, and mental health awareness.

The curriculum for life is also one of the campaigns of the UK Youth Parliament and our research will be fed into this national campaign.

**Total: £10,000.00**

### **Curriculum for Enterprise**

To complement the Curriculum for Life is to identify and add to the opportunities young people have to learn about and experience being involved in enterprise culture as a response to changing work places. Working with existing opportunities in Lewisham and feeding into bodies such as the Business Support Providers Forum, Business Advice service, Education Business Partnership and youth organisations like Young Enterprise to strengthen the pathways for young people in to this field.

The budget will be used to potentially pilot projects such as an enterprise summer school and small pot for schools to apply to for support and enterprise project, an identified youth space for enterprise support.

**Total: £15,000.00**

## **Youth Participation and Engagement: why the Young Mayor Model?**

The Young Mayor's Programme began formally with the 2004 Young Mayor Election, which was the culmination of a decade long successful young people's participation project base in what was the Youth Service. It was intended to mirror the political structure of the borough particularly given the change to a directly elected adult Mayor of Lewisham, so that there could be a formal and constitutional recognition of the voice of young people and its need for representation in the borough.

The initial idea of a Young Mayor had been piloted in Middleborough but had only lasted for one year. In developing the Young Mayors programme in Lewisham, a number of key challenge were being addressed – including increasing the participation of young people in the life of the borough through a formal structure that worked centrally and closely with elected politicians. The Lewisham programme, which was also initially on a pilot basis, will be electing the 15th Young Mayor in October 2018.

The programme sits distinctly in the Mayor's Office in Lewisham instead of the Children and Young People's Directorate, as this is key in providing genuine dialogue between the Executive Decision Maker (Directly Elected Mayor) in the council and the Young Mayor and his/her advisors. The programme is part of the constitution and base budget of the Council.

### *The Young Mayor and Election process*

The key components of the project are the elected Young Mayor and the work of the Young Advisors Group. Each October a Young Mayor is elected by young people from across the borough. The elections are promoted and held in every secondary school and college in Lewisham. The school registers are used as they closely resemble an electoral roll for young people.

Provision is also made for postal voting for young people educated outside the borough or not in school for any other reason, and ballot papers are sent to all home-educated young people.

Candidates must either live or attend school/college in Lewisham borough and be aged 13-17 years. To stand for election each candidate must obtain nominations from 50 of their peers and attend a one day training session. The training includes how to write a manifesto and run a campaign and what to expect if you get elected. Candidates are encouraged to set up a "Campaign team" of their peers to support them and they have just over 4 weeks to campaign. The candidates are supported to take part in assemblies and street "hustings", campaigning with leaflets on the street and using social networking to spread their message to their peers. Previous young Mayors and candidates contribute to the campaign training, sharing their experience and knowledge.

On polling day, the Council's electoral services team run the election in exactly the same way they do for the adult elections. Ballot boxes, voting booths and electoral staff are stationed at each secondary school and college in the borough for the

duration of the school day (+half an hour either side). All young people resident or attending a school in the borough aged 11 – 18 can vote.

The count is held the following day, again with the support of electoral staff, and young people assist in this process. The culmination of the process is the results ceremony where the new Young Mayor, Deputy Young Mayor (second place) and UK Youth Parliament Representative (third place) are announced. All candidates and their campaign teams are invited to join the Young Advisors Group.

Elections take place in October each year and Voter registration, for 16-18 year olds, is promoted at the same time. The Young Mayor team also run a voter registration campaigns twice a year visiting sixth forms and colleges in the borough.

*Candidates about to do a school assembly*



*Young Advisor's Group – meet every Monday 5-7pm in the Civic Suite*

The Young Advisors are a group of around 25 young people who act in a similar capacity to a cabinet. There are three main ways that young people become a member of the group, they were a candidate or members of a campaign team in the election, they are member of a school council, youth group or other organisation in the borough, or thirdly any young person who has shown interest in getting involved, keeping the

group open and accessible to as many people as possible. Currently the group comprises of young people from 10 years to 19 years with Young Advisors returning from university or work to take part. Though the Young Mayor term is one year many stay on as Young Advisors for a good few years, as do many of the Young Advisors. In doing so they are able to support others coming in and build their interests, experience and knowledge.

The Young Advisors share the work load of the Young Mayor and deputy Young Mayor, and importantly help in formulating ideas for spending the £25,000 budget. Having identified ideas and consulted with other young people across the borough, the Young Mayors budget is presented to Mayor and Cabinet for approval.

As the project has developed there has been an increase in the demands made upon the Young Mayor. In this regard the Young Advisors have been crucial to the project. This 'collective working' between the Young Mayor and Advisors has enabled the initiative to get involved in a wide range of activities – it has also helped involve more young people in the process. This group meets weekly to support the business of the Young Mayor and to deputise at events where appropriate.

Regionally and nationally Lewisham Young Mayor's Team also works with the Greater London Authority Peer Outreach Team, the British Youth Council, UK Youth Parliament, Partnership for Young London and other authorities.

Over 10 years the Young Mayor Team has built a substantial body of work with European partners through the Erasmus+ funding and the British Council. This has enabled projects and exchanges for the young people with organisations, authorities and young people in the following countries; Czech Republic, Portugal, Norway, Sweden, Italy, France, Croatia, Bulgaria and the young people have contributed to conferences in Sweden, Denmark, and Poland. The work has included developing relationships with politicians and officers in those countries in order to share good practice and develop policy.

#### *School Council Meeting in the Chamber*



## Evaluation

Dr Kalbir Shukra from Goldsmiths' University of London has been carrying out an independent evaluation over the last six years comprising of participant observation/ethnography of candidates, campaign teams and advisors. Based around what they think they are involved in and why they are involved. This has involved interviewing them, observing them formally and informally as well as talking to officers and politicians around the same themes. This is complemented by snapshot exit polls as some of the participating schools. Although small it comprises the only data of its kind in which young people talk about how they voted, why they voted and what influenced them. This is continuing, attached are some samples of impact and findings.

Appendix 1: Comparison of youth and adult participation; Dr Kalbir Shukra 2018

Appendix 2: Youth Participation in Lewisham Young Mayor's Programme; Dr Kalbir Shukra 2018

Appendix 3: Evidence submitted to House of Lords Citizenship and Community Engagement commission; Dr Kalbir Shukra, Malcolm Ball and Katy Brown

## Contact:

Please get in touch with Katy and Mal if you would like to find out more and/or meet with the Young Mayor and Young Advisors.

The Young Mayor and Young Advisor meet Every Monday 5-7pm in the Civic suite, please just let us know if you would like to come and meet them.

[Katy.brown@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:Katy.brown@lewisham.gov.uk) 0208 314 6313      mob: 07957198312  
[Malcolm.ball@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:Malcolm.ball@lewisham.gov.uk) 0208 314 63564      mob: 07957198308

We are currently based on the second floor of the Civic Suite, Catford

# Lewisham Young Mayor Programme

A COMPARISON OF YOUTH AND ADULT  
POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

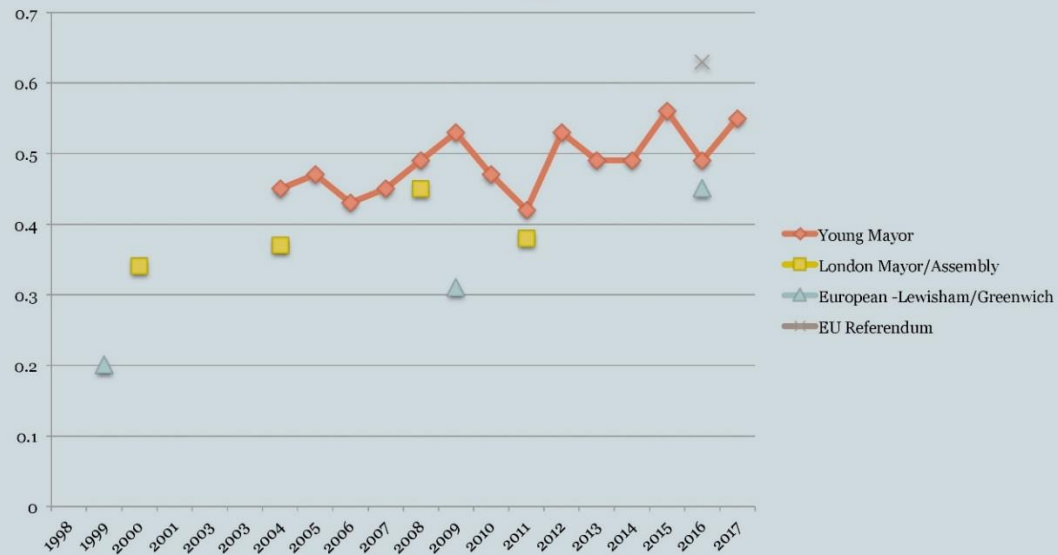
KALBIR SHUKRA  
GOLDSMITHS, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON  
2018

## Turnout for Young Mayor v Adult Mayor Election 2004-17

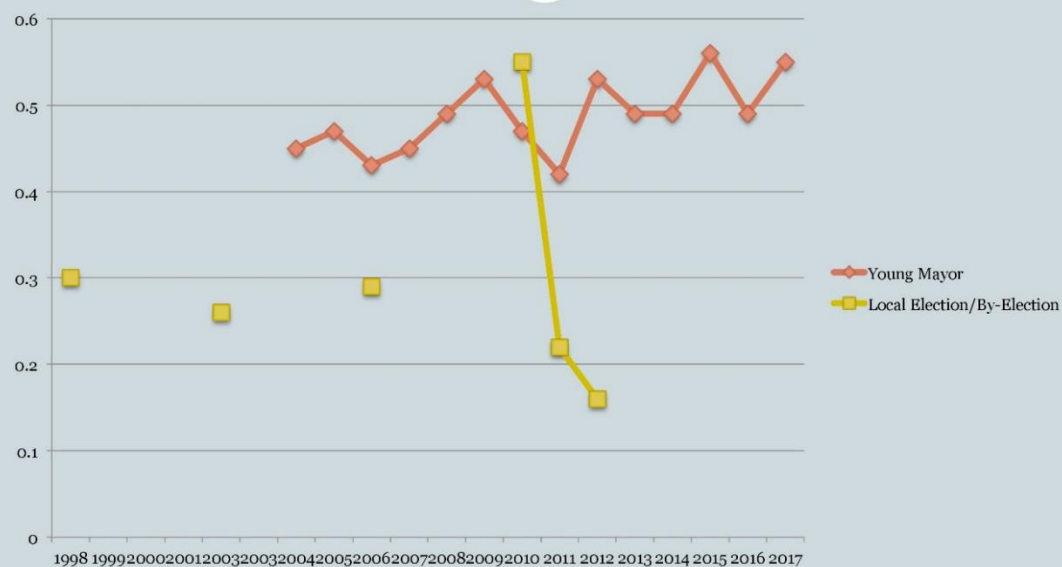




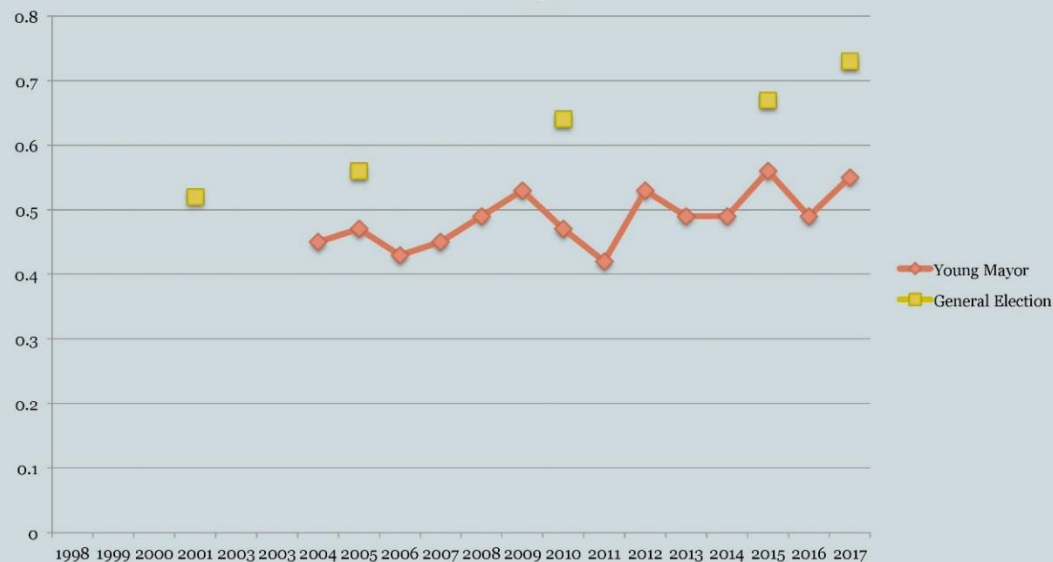
## Turnout Young Mayor v London Mayor and European Elections



## Turnout Young Mayor Elections v Local Elections/By-Elections



## Turnout Young Mayor v General Elections



## Gender Representation

### Barriers to Politics Working Group Report April 2017

- 'a quarter of candidates who stand in local elections are female'
- 'a third of councilors at the time of the 2013 census (of local authority councilors) were female'

### Young Mayor Evaluation Data

- Majority of candidates are young women
- Three of four LYMP elected positions in 2013 were occupied by young women

## BAME Representation



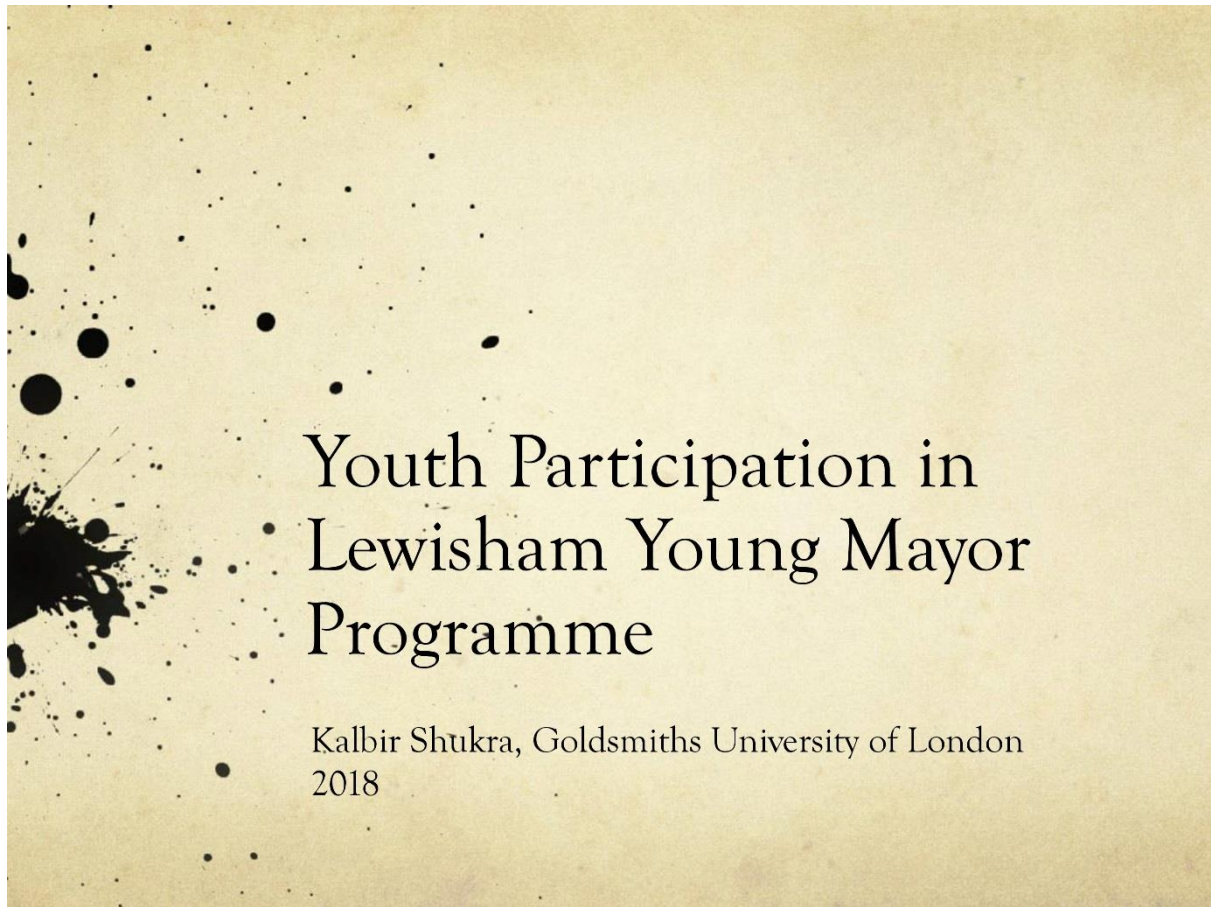
### Adult Elected Officials

<https://www.obv.org.uk/news-blog/colour-power> 20/2/18

- Elected Mayors England 1
- LBL Mayoral candidate 1
- London Mayor 1
- London Borough Leader 4
- UK Ministers 3
- MPs 8%  
(52 out of 650 @ 2017 General election)

### Young Mayors/Candidates

- LBL Young Mayors: 12  
(86%)
- LBL Young Mayor  
candidates over 71%  
(2012-2017 describe themselves as  
'black')



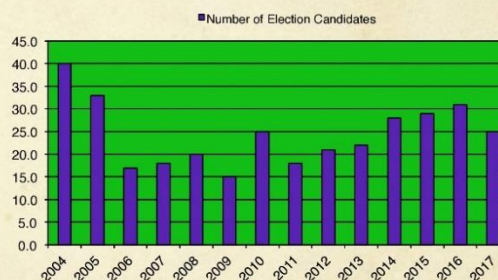


# Lewisham Young Mayor Programme: 2004-2017: who participated

Annual elections, weekly young advisors meetings and 'upcoming events'.

Each candidate mobilised 50 young nominations

342 candidacies over 14 years



Voter turnout range: 42% - 56%

Electorate: up to 20, 000



## 2012-17 Elections

156 Candidates      44% aged 15

57% young women      71% describe themselves as 'black'

Candidate campaign teams generally 2-10 people

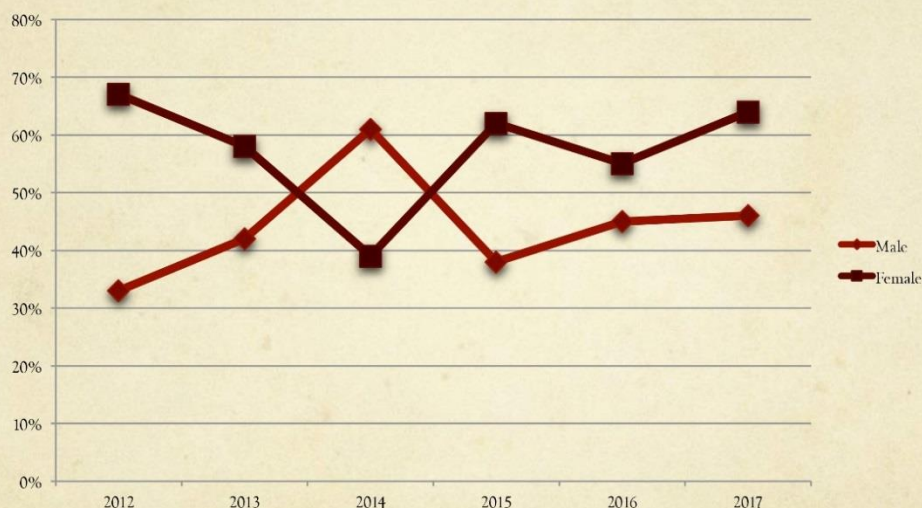
25-30 Young Advisors      School Council Representatives

Alumni network      Votes cast: 7-10 000 each year

Campaigns cascade through youth organisations, schools, community/faith groups, social media and public spaces

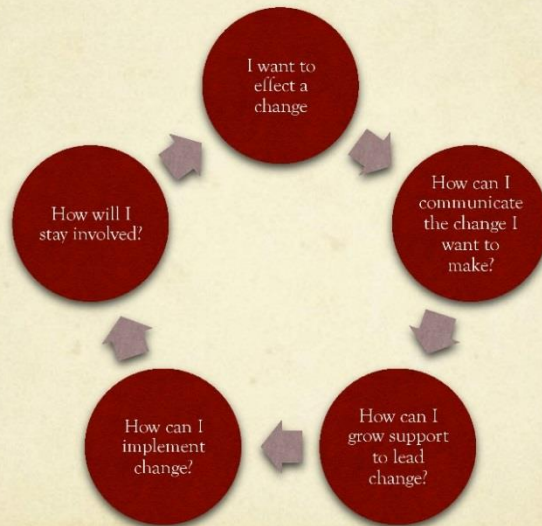
Young people outside Lewisham      International visitors

## 2012-17 Candidates by Gender

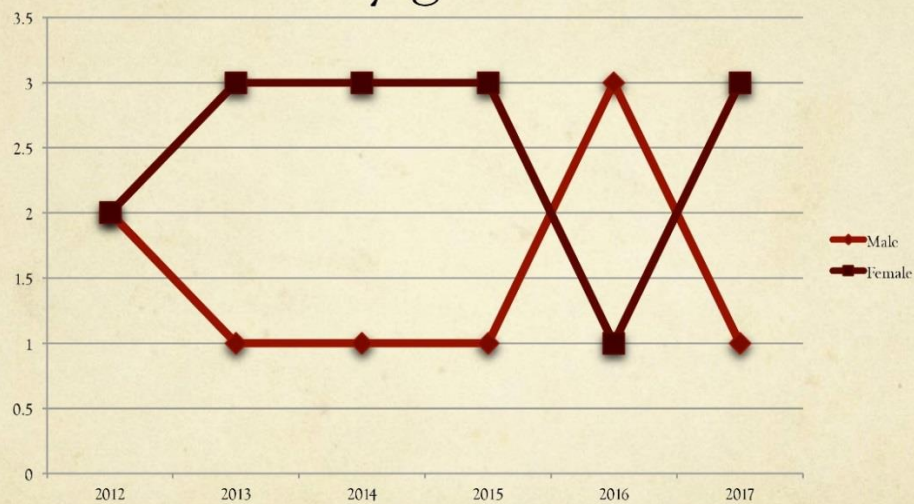




# Making a change



## Who won the top 4 positions by gender



## Motivated by hope for personal development & sense of altruism

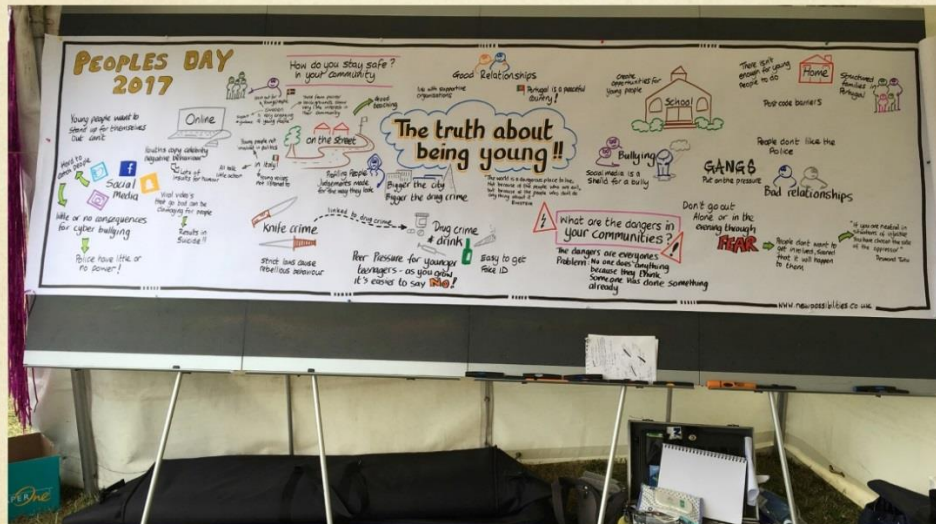
- I want to inspire young people and to gain experience.
- I hope to gain leadership experience
- I am standing as a candidate in this election because i want to be a leader, whether it is in school or outside of school.
- To be running for young mayor of Lewisham will be amazing on my CV and a highlight in my life
- To improve my ideas from last year and come up with with better things for young people
- I'm hoping to make Lewisham a safer place for our young generations. I'll be helping to build apprenticeships for our youths so they have an opportunity to work in the future.
- I'm standing because I want to bring positive activities to Lewisham, give young people a voice to speak and I want to make a difference to the lives of Lewisham young people
- To help change stereotypes
- To put Lewisham on the map; to give children with disabilities better travel; to introduce young mayor sports competition
- I think the young people should be given more responsibility and trust in shaping the world we live in

## Civic Pride: 'Lewisham Young People'

- Active candidates create a personal election machine
- Emphasis on 'Lewisham young people' over other identities
- Campaigning in schools, youth clubs and public spaces
- Social media/YouTube and community radio used to promote campaigns
- Social media use can be transactional or interactive
- Alumni advise candidates



# Lewisham People's Day 2017



## Positive change in participants' lives: increased skills, knowledge and confidence

- It helps me in business today..... I had to be creative when I was campaigning. I had to think hard about how am I going to get people to vote for me. It became a project. I had to become a brand.
- The experience together is transferable... for me it helped me to to become more confident going to college. I was very active, being captain of my football team, more able to deal with people from different cultures, travel and use some of those skills I learned.



## Positive change in participants' lives: an increased capacity to access work opportunities and university places

- *Pretty much every job I had has been more focused on what I did in the Young Mayor Programme than the grades I got.*
- *Its given me the opportunities and jobs and patron-ships I have today. I wouldn't be at university without the young mayor - I failed my exams.*
- *The only reason my university accepted me is because of everything I did with the Young Mayor. Same thing with my intern-ship with parliament, same thing with my trusteeship of xxx Education Trust, the non-executive directorship of xxx lobbying for recognition of people with Autism and Asperger's Syndrome. They only happened because of what I've done with the Young Mayor.*

## Adult Engagement

Political support	Professionals	Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Founded by Elected Mayor, Sir Steve Bullock</li><li>• Constituency MPs/ MEP/Councillor backing</li><li>• Ministerial support under Gordon Brown &amp; Ed Miliband</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Designed by LBL directors working with senior youth officers and the Campaign Company</li><li>• Adult advisors</li><li>• Headteachers</li><li>• School &amp; council staff</li><li>• Public, voluntary sector, international &amp; other partners</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Families &amp; friends</li><li>• Faith groups</li><li>• Local community groups and campaigns</li><li>• National bodies eg British Youth Council/OBV</li><li>• Local enterprises</li></ul>

### Appendix 3: Evidence submitted to House of Lords Citizenship and Community Engagement commission; Dr Kalbir Shukra, Malcolm Ball and Katy Brown

By Dr. Kalbir Shukra, Senior Lecturer, Goldsmiths University of London

**With Malcolm Ball and Katy Brown, Advisors to the Young Mayor of Lewisham**

**– written evidence (CCE0026)**

Democracy notionally assumes equal rights for its citizens, but in practice the right to vote in formal elections, engage in civic structures and participate in civil society has not always been available across the board. Despite historic extensions in suffrage, voting restrictions related to age or nationality continue to prevent many young people and UK residents without British citizenship from voting. Beyond this, there are social groups that do not participate as much as others, and may therefore feel under represented or without voice in decisions. Social and political exclusion can adversely affect social cohesion and perceptions of political legitimacy, reproducing alienation from the mainstream.

Young people are among the social groups that disproportionately engage in formal politics. Concern about the lower proportion of 18-25 year olds voting in elections has led to stronger calls for formal political education in schools as a precursor to lowering the voting age.

During the 2015 General Election, there was a growth in projects and campaigns to teach or train young people in politics. London Borough of Lewisham initiated the longest running youth democracy programme in 2002, formally launching a Young Mayor election in 2003. Since then there have been 13 young mayors elected in Lewisham and each year thousands of young people participate in these formal elections alongside related opportunities for young people across the borough. This programme allows young people to vote for their own representatives and creates opportunities for collaborations in the civic arena across generations. This programme has been emulated in other cities of the UK and interest is growing in the model across the EU.

Our submission relates to citizenship and young people and is based on an ongoing evaluation of Lewisham Young Mayor Programme (LYMP) that began in 2012. The research was conducted using mixed methods:

- a. Base line surveys of each cohort of candidates over five years
- b. An ethnographic study of participation in the annual election campaigns
- c. Interviews with adult stakeholders, programme founders as well as young candidates, alumni and advisors
- d. Exit polls over four years at a sample of schools

LYMP operates in the context of political education being offered in a number of sectors: Schools

- i. Already host formal mechanisms of political education, whether through subject areas like sociology and general studies or 21<sup>st</sup> century citizenship lessons as part of a broader PSCE agenda, prompted by the work of Bernard Crick (1998). Crick had promoted 'political literacy', to enable young people to understand the political world around them and their role within it.
- ii. Some political science academics are calling for compulsory political education
  - iii. Some practitioners who support a reduction in voting age for sixteen and seventeen year olds have called for regulated political education
- a. **National CitizensService**
  - i. a social action programme to inculcate values of volunteering and service as part of citizenship obligations.
  - ii. Now a major provider of one off short term (summer) opportunities for 16 year olds.
  - iii. The NCS message to 16 year olds is that they have citizenship responsibilities. However, only some UK nations permit that age group to vote in elections
  - iv. Votes at 16 campaigners, including Lewisham Young Mayors have pointed out that since under 18s can, engage in NCS, school councils and social action, they can work and pay taxes, but they can't have the right to vote until they are 18.
- b. **Youth work**
  - i. Provides social and political education, typically through informal education and learning.
  - ii. An outcome of austerity has been the dramatic closure of most local authority youth provision.
  - iii. Youth workers are increasingly looking to engage with schools and non traditional sites like hospitals.
- c. **Religious and Faith Groups** Faith groups have always offered youth services. The reduction of local authority provision has turned a variety of religious/faith based institutions into primary providers.
- d. **Community Projects** working on specific issues, with particular disadvantaged groups or localities. In providing specialist advocacy, support or services, these organisations tend to promote equality for social cohesion. These include Operation Black Vote, which has worked to encourage ethnic minorities and young people to register to vote.
- e. **Youth sections** of political parties operate to promote a particular political party. Traditionally, these have not been particularly successful. In 2017, Momentum, a Labour Party group, successfully engaged young people in the general election.

- f. **Youth Democracy/Youth Participation programmes** include Young Advisors, Youth Parliaments and Young Mayors. These have grown and are overseen by the British Youth Council. BYC coordinates sittings of the Youth Parliament, supports the 'Votes and 16' campaign and the Young Mayor Network. European Youth in Action and Erasmus programmes have supported strategic networks and exchanges promoting youth democracy.

#### Restricted suffrage

- a. Many of the educational political literacy projects and ideas outlined above are based on the idea that political issues are really questions of expertise and knowledge.
- b. This approach comes from elite theorists of democracy, such as Edmund Burke - his theory of representative democracy favoured restrictions on suffrage because it placed a premium on the wisdom and superiority of elites who were deemed to have access to a body of reliable political knowledge and political competence. From this perspective, elites are believed to know best, as those with access to key knowledge are considered best placed to represent and choose representatives.

#### Universal Suffrage

- a. An alternative perspective of representative democracy comes from JS Mill, who favoured universal suffrage on the basis that 'It is important that everyone of the governed have a voice in the government,'. (cited in *The Concept of Representation*, H.F. Pitkin, 1972:202)
- b. Mill saw democracy as about the representation of opinions rather than about utilising expert knowledge. From this perspective, political issues are a matter of whim and viewpoint and so subjective opinion based in own life experience trumps scientific knowledge. From this perspective, formal knowledge transmission is not key to political education but learning from lived experience is.
- c. LYMP does not assume that formal transmission of political literacy is a prerequisite to citizenship rights. For LYMP, the challenge is to encourage political participation by encouraging debate, questioning and reflection.

### **The Young Mayor Programme in Lewisham (LYMP)**

- a. A vibrant and internationally renowned civic youth participation programme, launched in 2003 by the first directly elected Mayor of Lewisham, Sir Steve Bullock.  
<https://www.lewisham.gov.uk/mayorandcouncil/youngmayor/Documents/YMCommemorativeEBook.pdf>
- b. The programme pivots on the annual election of a Young Mayor (aged 13-17) who represents the 11-17 year olds who live, work or go to school in Lewisham. The annual elections are run to fill four roles: Young Mayor, Deputy Young Mayor and two Youth Parliament Representatives.
- c. The Young Mayor has a budget of £25-30 000. The Young Mayor and advisors consult young people on how to spend this budget and present their proposals to the Mayor and Cabinet for approval.



- d. Unsuccessful candidates tend to stay involved as Young Advisors. The Young Advisors meet weekly, in the town hall and engage with professionals seeking advice, offering services or requesting feedback from young people.
- e. The Lewisham model purposely provides minimal formal political because it is built on the ethos that political participation is about having the opportunity to share opinions. As one young person has said 'why do I need training to have an opinion?'
- f. Bernard Crick's essay on *Politics as a Form of Rule: Politics, Citizenship and Democracy* (2004) points to the importance of promoting political literacy. In LYMP this is achieved by giving young people opportunities to become voters, campaigners and candidates. Participants grow a deep political awareness through engaging in the politics of representation and/or the politics of deliberation and social action. These are cultivated through:
- g. The model allows young people to learn about politics and elections by engaging in real, formal elections. The process of standing as a candidate encourages a strong civic identity. Deciding who to vote for provides young people with the opportunity to exercise a right to vote alongside civic responsibilities.
- h. A weekly young advisors forum develops democratic group work and is core to the programme. The Young Advisors meeting is oriented towards deliberation and social action in the form of a team that acts in support of the four elected representatives but also to collaborate with policy makers, service providers and other young people
- i. Opportunities for intercultural contact during and between elections. The election brings young people from across the borough into contact with each other on a range of sites and produces learning through those conversations. International exchanges also boost international perspectives.

#### LYMP - doing politics for real

- a. Offers opportunities for political engagement eg. with police, politicians
- b. Allows young people to define issues and engage in critical dialogue
- c. Creates opportunities for young people to share and contest opinions
- d. Develops spaces for young people to engage with adults in debate that respects young people's expertise
- e. Enables experiential and informal learning

#### How many young people have participated in the LYMP elections?

- a. 316 young candidates for Young Mayor of Lewisham between 2004-2016
- b. 50 formal positions representing young people filled through 13 Young Mayoral elections
- c. 42-56% turnout – significantly higher than in local adult elections
- d. Core supporters of each candidate engage actively campaign
- e. 25-30 Young Advisors meet weekly

#### LYMP Collaborations:

- a. Schools and Colleges are partners in the programme. They host polling stations and hustings for Young Mayor elections.
- b. Some schools use LYMP election period as an opportunity to run assemblies on democracy or

run their own school council elections

- c. School council representatives that are elected or appointed through school-based processes meet the Young Mayor at an annual meeting. LYMP visits schools to consult on budget proposals.
- d. Primary Schools students are not eligible to vote or stand as candidates but do meet regularly with the Mayor and LYMP representatives to learn about the Young Mayor's Programme and have an opportunity to quiz a young person about what it's like to be Young Mayor and what a Young Mayor does. One elected Young Mayor has highlighted how he was inspired to become involved as a result of one of these events
- e. Young Offenders Forum encourages youth voice amongst young offenders in a collaboration with the Youth Offending Team (YOT).
- f. Children in Care Council representatives are Looked After Children (LAC) supported by a dedicated participation officer. The Young Mayor collaborates with this group.
- g. Neighbourhood Assemblies allow councillors to work with Young Advisors to explore how neighbourhood forums might include more young people and as neighbourhood structures have evolved, so have the links with young people.
- h. Greater London Authority (GLA) has a Peer Mentor Scheme (young people employed by the GLA) with a Youth Participation officer, that LYMP has worked with.
- i. House of Commons visits have been arranged either as a tour or to influence policy. The most high profile of these was when the Young Mayor and Advisors joined Gordon Brown round his table at Downing Street to discuss plans for youth policy at the time. More recently there has been significant engagement with the Votes at 16 lobby.
- j. 10 000 Hands and Safe Havens Campaign led by Jimmy Mizen Foundation in partnership with LYMP
- k. British Youth Council (BYC) Votes at 16 campaign has been actively supported by LYMP.
- l. Erasmus exchanges enable young people to exchange ideas and engage in international debate

**Minority engagement:** The programme has been notably successful at involving candidates who are young women, from BME backgrounds and/or have a disability.

**Social Media:** An online presence matters

- a. Online visibility of candidates has been reflected in recent year results, with those with the most interactive, diverse and entertaining online presence also attracting strong voting numbers.
- b. As digital technology, community radio and social network sites have diversified, so has their usage in young mayoral elections.

### **Why Young People Become Candidates**

- a. Young people are motivated to stand for election for a combination of altruistic and personal development reasons and hold the position of Young Mayor in high regard. Candidates say they want to make a change in Lewisham, want to help or speak for others and hope the experience of standing will provide them with significant personal

development.

- b. Candidates treat the positions as of higher significance than anything else they may have been engaged in before and sometimes candidates stand several times before being successful. Candidates' previous experience is primarily gained from school, though in 2014, a larger proportion of the candidates had previous experience as Young Advisors

### **Youth Democracy as a Youth Work process**

- a. LYMP is facilitated by professionally qualified youth workers based in the town hall offices
- b. The youth workers offer young people opportunities for civic and political engagement that is consistent with traditional youth work ethos and methods
  - i. allowing young people to define issues based on their lived experience
  - ii. engaging young people in conversation and critical dialogue
  - iii. creating opportunities for young people to share and contest opinions
  - iv. developing spaces for young people to engage with adults in debate, respecting young people's expertise

### **Voting Age**

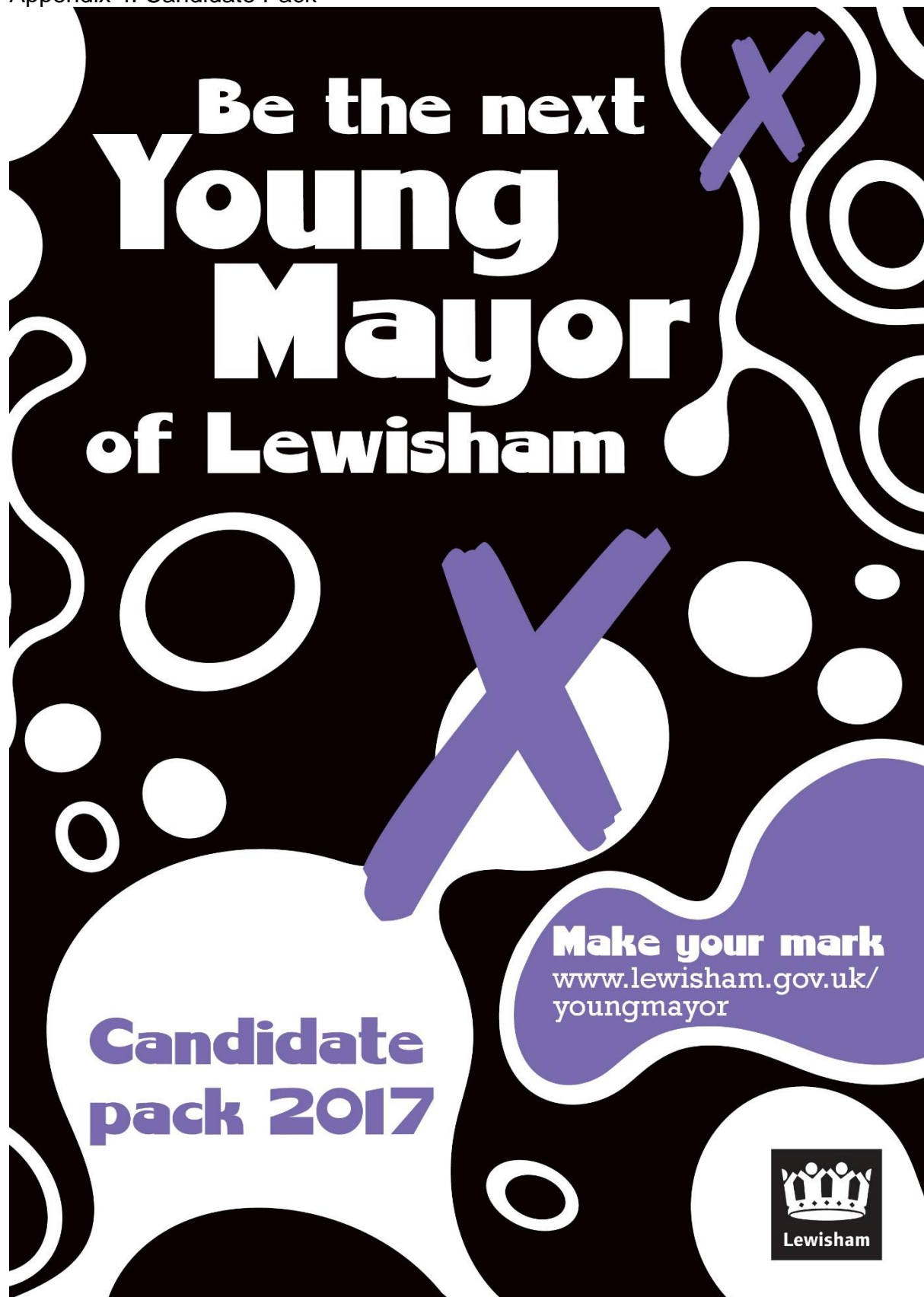
- a. Lewisham Young Mayor elections are important for testing the arguments that:
  - i. young people under 18 aren't mature enough to make an informed decision
  - ii. that young people wouldn't turn out to vote if the voting age were to be lowered
  - iii. under 18s wouldn't make a mature decision.
  - iv. These arguments are examined in the 2017 article 'Extending democracy to young people: is it time for youth suffrage?' by Kalbir Shukra. It can be read on <http://research.gold.ac.uk/20166/> or <http://www.youthandpolicy.org/y-and-p- archive/issue-116/>

### **Recommendations**

- a. That voting age is reviewed and lowered to include more young people
- b. That programmes be developed to support young people to stand for election as councillors
- c. That youth work be envisioned to support young people (outside of school) in developing their opinions through active engagement as citizens. On this basis the youth worker's role in citizenship would be to offer opportunities for young people to engage in conversation, opinion formation and deliberation, value lived experience but be open to hearing other perspectives
- d. That local authority programmes engage young people in local democracy, build intercultural communication and social solidarities for community cohesion.

*18 August 2017*







## Young Mayor of Lewisham candidate pack

Thank you for showing an interest in this election. It is with great pleasure that we enclose the forms you need to complete to stand as a candidate.

### In this pack you will find:

- 10 steps to being a successful candidate.
- A candidate's application form which you need to complete.
- A parental / guardian consent form which one of your parents or guardian needs to complete.
- A teacher's consent form which your headteacher needs to complete.
- A supporters form which your 50 supporters need to complete.
- The ideal election statement guidance and a 'my election statement' form for you to fill in. This will be your 200 words that say why you want to stand and what you would do for young people in Lewisham if you were elected.

### So what do you have to do now?

First, read this pack.

If you decide you want to stand, call us as soon as possible on the numbers below so we know you are standing and can get all your contact details to be able to keep in touch with you.

**Address:** Young Mayor's Office, Civic Suite, Catford SE6 4RU

**Young Mayor's Office:** Katy Brown on 020 8314 6313/07957 198312 or katy.brown@lewisham.gov.uk, or Malcolm Ball on 020 8314 6354/07957 198308 or malcolm.ball@lewisham.gov.uk **website:** www.lewisham.gov.uk/youngmayor

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## 10 steps to being a successful candidate

This is an easy guide to make sure you can become a successful candidate for this year's Young Mayor of Lewisham elections.

### STEP 1 Read this guide very carefully!

#### STEP 2 You need to meet the rules to stand as Young Mayor:

- Rule 1: Are you going to be aged between 13 and 17 years old on Wednesday 11 October 2017?
- Rule 2: Do you live in the borough of Lewisham?
- Rule 3: If you do not live in Lewisham, do you go to secondary school or college in Lewisham or work in Lewisham?

If your answers are YES to rule 1 and YES to rule 2 OR rule 3 then you CAN stand to be Young Mayor.

If you meet these rules and you want to stand, **call us on the numbers below** to let us know.

### STEP 3: Look at the candidate application form

Complete the sections very carefully.  
Please give us all your contact details so we can let you know we've received your forms.  
Don't forget to sign the declaration.  
Please scan, send or drop the completed form to us by  
**5pm Friday 15 September 2017.**

### STEP 4: Look at the parental/guardian's consent form

Please pass this on to your parent or guardian.  
They must give the form back to you when they've completed it.  
Please scan, send or drop the completed form to us by  
**5pm Friday 15 September 2017.**

### STEP 5: Look at the school/college consent form

Please pass this on to your headteacher or principal to complete. It **must** be your headteacher or principal who signs this form and it must be given back to you when completed.  
Please scan, send or drop the completed form to us by  
**5pm Friday 15 September 2017.**

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**Young Mayor's Office:** Katy Brown on 020 8314 6313/07957 198312 or katy.brown@lewisham.gov.uk, or Malcolm Ball on 020 8314 6354/07957 198308 or malcolm.ball@lewisham.gov.uk **website:** www.lewisham.gov.uk/youngmayor

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### Then you need to get your form to us.

There are three ways you can submit your completed candidate form and you can do this as soon as you have completed it (you don't have to leave it until the last minute!)

- Send an email with a scanned copy of your completed candidate form to us at katy.brown@lewisham.gov.uk or malcolm.ball@lewisham.gov.uk
- Drop it in to us at the Civic Suite, Catford SE6 4RU. Please come to the reception and ask for Katy or Mal from the Young Mayors Team and we will come and collect it from you.
- Post your completed candidate pack to the Young Mayor's Team, Civic Suite, Catford SE6 4RU it must arrive before the deadline (if in doubt bring it down rather than post!). Please email us to let us know your pack is in the post, just in case it doesn't arrive!

**However you choose to submit your form, the deadline for us to receive your completed candidate form is 5pm on FRIDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2017.**

**If we do not have your form by the deadline you will not be able to stand in the election.**

### Any questions?

Call or email us, details below, and we'll help you. There is also more information about what previous Young Mayors have done at [www.lewisham.gov.uk/youngmayor](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/youngmayor).

**Good luck! And we look forward to receiving your forms.**

**Address:** Young Mayor's Office, Civic Suite, Catford SE6 4RU

**Young Mayor's Office:** Katy Brown on 020 8314 6313/07957 198312 or katy.brown@lewisham.gov.uk, or Malcolm Ball on 020 8314 6354/07957 198308 or malcolm.ball@lewisham.gov.uk **website:** www.lewisham.gov.uk/youngmayor

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### STEP 6: Look at the supporters nomination form

You have to get signatures of 50 young people (aged 11–17 years old) to support you. If they do not go to school or college in Lewisham they must live in Lewisham so ask them to put their address on the form so we can confirm this. We will not pass their details to anyone else.  
If you have already got 50 signatures on a different form, then send it to us and we will let you know whether that's OK.

Please scan, send or drop the completed form to us by  
**5pm Wednesday 11 October 2017.**

### STEP 7: Look at the election statement form and read the guidance

As a candidate you will have to produce an election statement that will be given to everyone who can vote in the elections (that's 20,000 young people who live in or go to school in Lewisham). To be able to stand, you need to write up to 200 words on what you would do for young people if you were elected. This will form the basis of your final election statement. We have a sheet giving you tips on what to write and you can also call us if you want some more help.

### STEP 8: Start filling in the forms

Don't forget that you can contact us (all the details are at the bottom of the page) if you have any questions about any of this. No question is too silly so don't feel embarrassed!

### STEP 9: Start thinking ahead

OK, you've just completed the forms and sent them in, there's nothing else to do is there?  
**WRONG!**  
We will contact you to let you know all your forms have been completed properly then you will have to switch into 'campaign mode'. What does this mean?

### This means that you will:

- have to start thinking about what your 'message' is (ie what you stand for in this election).
- have to start identifying good people to be part of your campaign team – these will be people who can help you with publicity, people who have lots of contacts, and people who can help you persuade as many people as possible to vote for you!
- start telling people you're standing and to vote for you on Wednesday 11 October 2017!

Don't worry too much about these tasks. We'll go through them on your candidate training day. But you do have to start thinking about them now!

**STEP 10: So what are you waiting for? Call or email us to let us know you are standing and send us your forms. Good luck!**

**Address:** Young Mayor's Office, Civic Suite, Catford SE6 4RU

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## Election of Young Mayor 2017

My name is \_\_\_\_\_

and I am standing for election as Young Mayor of Lewisham.

(Tick boxes as appropriate)

I can confirm that:

a) I am between the ages of 13 and 17 on Wednesday 11 October 2017 ☐

My date of birth is \_\_\_\_\_

b) I live in the London Borough of Lewisham ☐

My address is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

c) I am educated within the London Borough of Lewisham ☐

My secondary school/college is \_\_\_\_\_

OR

d) I work within the London Borough of Lewisham ☐

My place of work is \_\_\_\_\_

(Remember if you live in Lewisham but don't go to school or work there you can still apply to be Young Mayor!)

**Address:** Young Mayor's Office, Civic Suite, Catford SE6 4RU  
**Young Mayor's Office:** Katy Brown on 020 8314 6313/07957 198312 or  
katy.brown@lewisham.gov.uk, or Malcolm Ball on 020 8314 6354/07957 198308  
or malcolm.ball@lewisham.gov.uk **website:** www.lewisham.gov.uk/youngmayor

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## Parental/guardian's consent form

I have read the guidance and support the application of  
\_\_\_\_\_ (name of candidate).

I can confirm that this candidate is:

- aged between 13–17 years
- lives in the London Borough of Lewisham OR
- is educated or goes to school in the London Borough of Lewisham OR
- works in Lewisham.

I provide my consent for my child to stand as a candidate for the 2017 election of Young Mayor of Lewisham. I also provide consent that photographs and video may be taken of the child named above and may be used in current and future council publications (both print and online) and may be sent to news media for production.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (in capitals): \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Evening contact: \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** Young Mayor's Office, Civic Suite, Catford SE6 4RU  
**Young Mayor's Office:** Katy Brown on 020 8314 6313/07957 198312 or  
katy.brown@lewisham.gov.uk, or Malcolm Ball on 020 8314 6354/07957 198308  
or malcolm.ball@lewisham.gov.uk **website:** www.lewisham.gov.uk/youngmayor

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## My contact details are as follows:

Home telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

If you successfully complete all your forms, we will be holding a one-day training event for all candidates on Saturday 16 September 2017 from 10–4pm @ Civic Suite, Catford. **You MUST attend this training event to continue being a candidate for the elections.**

You will find out more about the role and about campaigning, have your photograph taken in order to prepare your candidate materials. If you have a problem attending on Saturday please get in touch with us as soon as possible.

Lunch will be provided and we will pay back any of your travel costs.

## Candidate declaration

**I DECLARE THAT THE INFORMATION THAT I HAVE GIVEN ON THIS FORM IS TRUE AND THAT I MEET THE CONDITIONS FOR BEING YOUNG MAYOR OF LEWISHAM.**

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** Young Mayor's Office, Civic Suite, Catford SE6 4RU  
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katy.brown@lewisham.gov.uk, or Malcolm Ball on 020 8314 6354/07957 198308  
or malcolm.ball@lewisham.gov.uk **website:** www.lewisham.gov.uk/youngmayor

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## School/college consent form

I confirm that  
\_\_\_\_\_ (name of candidate).

is a student at my school and is in Year \_\_\_\_\_

I also confirm that I give my full consent to this student's application to be a candidate for this year's Young Mayor of Lewisham elections.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Headteacher name (in capitals): \_\_\_\_\_

Headteacher of (name of school): \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime number: \_\_\_\_\_

Evening number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** Young Mayor's Office, Civic Suite, Catford SE6 4RU  
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katy.brown@lewisham.gov.uk, or Malcolm Ball on 020 8314 6354/07957 198308  
or malcolm.ball@lewisham.gov.uk **website:** www.lewisham.gov.uk/youngmayor

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## Supporters nomination form

I agree to support \_\_\_\_\_ (name of candidate)

as a candidate for the Young Mayor of Lewisham elections 2017.

I can confirm that on Wednesday 11 October 2017 I will be between 13 and 17 years of age.  
I can also confirm that I live in Lewisham and/or go to school in Lewisham or work there.

Signature	Name (in capitals)	School or address	Date of birth
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**Address:** Young Mayor's Office, Civic Suite, Catford SE6 4RU  
**Young Mayor's Office:** Katy Brown on 020 8314 6313/07957 198312 or  
katy.brown@lewisham.gov.uk, or Malcolm Ball on 020 8314 6354/07957 198308  
or malcolm.ball@lewisham.gov.uk **website:** www.lewisham.gov.uk/youngmayor

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or malcolm.ball@lewisham.gov.uk **website:** www.lewisham.gov.uk/youngmayor

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Signature	Name (in capitals)	School or address	Date of birth
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**Young Mayor's Office:** Katy Brown on 020 8314 6313/07957 198312 or  
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or malcolm.ball@lewisham.gov.uk **website:** www.lewisham.gov.uk/youngmayor

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## The ideal election statement

- Your election statement needs to spell out 'your reason to stand' by explaining what three things you would change or work on in Lewisham if you were elected.
- It needs to answer the following things:
  - why you are standing?
  - what you will do for the young people of Lewisham?
  - how you will feedback to the young people of Lewisham?
  - why you are the best person for the job?
- It needs to be written in simple language. Short sharp sentences.
- Use examples and stories to explain why you are doing things (for example, you want a skate park because your neighbour got knocked over in the street as there was nowhere for her to skate).
- Be creative but realistic. Don't promise things you can't do.
- Be honest about yourself, is this all about you or about the young people of Lewisham?
- Be different – you need to stand out from the others.

Call or email us if you want help with this or want to run your final version by us first. At candidate training you will have help to finalise your election statement.

**Address:** Young Mayor's Office, Civic Suite, Catford SE6 4RU  
**Young Mayor's Office:** Katy Brown on 020 8314 6313/07957 198312 or  
katy.brown@lewisham.gov.uk, or Malcolm Ball on 020 8314 6354/07957 198308  
or malcolm.ball@lewisham.gov.uk **website:** www.lewisham.gov.uk/youngmayor

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## Young Mayor of Lewisham 2016

### Guidance for Schools and Colleges

#### Assemblies

The Young Mayor's Office will organise an assembly in your school about the election. They can also come in at break, lunch or tutor times to talk to classes or individuals if requested.

#### Candidates and Nominations

Once students have expressed an interest in becoming a candidate they will need to complete a nomination form and return it by the deadline. Each candidate will need to get a signature from their head teacher and from a parent / carer as well as 50 peers to sign to say they should stand for election.

The Young Mayor's office will distribute the nomination packs. When the packs are completed they need to be returned to the Young Mayor's Office. Information about nominations and campaigning can be obtained from the Young Mayor's Office (there is a list of contact numbers at the end of this guide). You can also see information about nominations at [www.lewisham.gov.uk/youngmayor](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/youngmayor), [www.b-involved.org](http://www.b-involved.org) and Facebook at the Lewisham YCP.

#### Postal Votes

Students who are home schooled may have a postal vote. Students that attend school need to vote in their school's polling station.

**If students are likely to be away on polling day e.g. for work experience or located in another building (e.g. sixth forms) you must let Electoral Services and the Young Mayor's Office know when you return your 'Use of Premises' form so we can organise the polling arrangements for your school.** The 'Use of Premises Form' needs to be returned by the deadline on the timetable at the back of this guide. The deadline for postal votes for home schooled children is listed in the timetable at the end of this guide.

#### Manifestos and Polling Booths

Before polling day a polling booth and boxes of mayoral manifestos will be delivered to you by a delivery company. You will be sent a letter/ email saying when to expect the delivery. If you need further information you can contact Electoral Services. Electoral Services will need to know what time your school can take deliveries and who to contact about the delivery. You must include the delivery information on your '**Use of Premises**' booking form.



## Polling Day

### The Polling Station

You have been sent a letter about booking the polling place- where the students go to vote in your school along with a form to complete ('Use of Premises' booking form). You will need to confirm that your school is available to be used for polling on election day on the form and return the form to Electoral Services. **You will need to book a room to use as a polling station on election day.** The room must be large enough for a table, election staff and for students to file through and vote. The polling staff will need to be in the same room all day.

**All your students should have the opportunity to vote** in the Young Mayor Election at the polling station in your school. Many schools have found that a good way to do this is to take the students to the polling station **class by class**. This stops the polling station from becoming too full at any one time and means each student has the chance to vote.

### Allocating Students to Polling Stations

If your school is very large and you usually have more than one polling station in your school you will need to work out which year groups will be going to each polling station e.g. years 7-8 in polling station one (560 students), years 9-10 in polling station two (605 students) and years 11-13 in the last polling station (425 students)- please see illustration on the next page.

Once you have worked this out you must put this on your '**Use of Premises Form**' and return it by the deadline in the timetable at the back of this booklet. You will need to work out which year groups will be going to each polling station and what the total number of students is for each polling station is so we can allocate ballot papers and divide the registers. **It is very important that you provide this information so we can calculate the amount of ballot papers needed for your school. If we do not have the figures for your school we cannot allocate the ballot papers to any of the schools as the numbers follow on.** If you usually have one polling station then all your students will go to the same polling station.

### School Registers

**Please provide the register in the order the students will be attending the polling station:** either by class order/ alphabetical order or if you are not taking the students down by class just in alphabetical order. You can email the register to [helena.pugh@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:helena.pugh@lewisham.gov.uk) on a spread sheet or post it. If you have any queries about formatting the register please contact Hélène Pugh in Electoral Services (all contact numbers are listed at the end of this guide).

### Example allocation for 3 polling stations

<b>Years 7-8</b> <b>560 students</b> <b>Atrium</b>	<b>Years 9-10</b> <b>605 students</b> <b>Main Hall</b>	<b>Years 11-13</b> <b>425 students</b> <b>Main Hall</b>
<b>Polling Station 1</b> <b>register for years</b> <b>7-8</b> <b>2 poll staff</b>	<b>Polling Station 2</b> <b>register for years</b> <b>9-10</b> <b>2 poll staff</b>	<b>Polling Station 3</b> <b>register for years</b> <b>11-13</b> <b>2 poll staff</b>

### Polling Station Staff

On polling day election staff will come to the school before polling begins to set up the polling station. The Presiding Officer (PO) is in charge of the polling station and the Poll Clerk (PC) is there to help the PO. The staff will bring the ballot box, registers, and some free items to give out with them. **Please remember that elections staff will need a place to park** as they bring election equipment with them by car. Electoral Services organise PCs and POs.

A youth worker will be assigned to each polling station by the Young Mayor's Office to help direct the students through the polling station. Teaching staff will also be needed to help with this, so please ensure teachers are available to help during polling hours. **If you usually have more than one polling station students will need to be directed to the correct room to vote.**

**If you think you may need to make changes** to polling station arrangements you will need to let Electoral Services/ the Young Mayor team know on your 'Use of Premises Form' prior to the Young Mayor election, otherwise we may not be able to make changes.



## The Count

Once the election has been held the votes will be counted. This takes place the day after polling day.

The 'second preference' voting system is used for the Young Mayor Election. Voters have a first and second choice. **They must use their first choice for their second choice to be counted.**

The first choice votes are counted for each candidate. If no candidate is the overall winner the two candidates with the most votes go head to head. Any second choice votes for these two candidates are then added to their totals. The one with the most votes after adding the second choice votes is then the winner.

## Contacts

Please use the table below to check who you need to contact about any queries you may have about the Young Mayor election.

	Activity	Contact Details
Young Mayor's Office	Nominations Guidance for candidates Youth workers School assemblies	Young Mayor's Office Mayor's Office, 2nd Floor, Civic Suite, London, SE6 45W  Malcolm Ball 0208 314 6354 0795 719 8308 malcolm.ball@lewisham.gov.uk  Katy Brown 0208 314 6313 0795 719 8312 katy.brown@lewisham.gov.uk
Electoral Services	Polling stations Registers Ballot papers Voting Postal Votes	Hélène Pugh Electoral Services Ground Floor Laurence House London, SE6 4RU  0208 314 6045 helen.pugh@lewisham.gov.uk  General office number 0208 314 6086
Websites	General information	www.b-involved.org www.lewisham.gov.uk/youngmayor Facebook/ Twitter Lewisham YCP

## Young Mayor 2016 Timetable

Please use the timetable to keep track of the activities during the Young Mayor Election.

Activity	Date	Tick/ Done
<b>Assemblies</b>	The Young Mayor's Office will contact your school to organise an assembly date	
End of Summer Term	Wednesday 20 July 2016	
Autumn Term Begins	Monday 5 September 2016	
<b>Use of Premises Form</b> return to Electoral Services	By Monday 12 September 2016	
<b>Nomination Packs</b> return to Young Mayor's Office	By Friday 16 September 2016	
<b>Candidate Training</b>	Saturday 17 September 2016	
<b>School Register</b> return to Electoral Services	By Friday 16 September 2016	
<b>Postal applications</b> closing date (see information on postal votes in this guide).	By Friday 23 September 2016	
<b>Manifesto Delivery</b>	Monday 10 October 2016	
<b>Polling Booth Delivery</b>	Monday 17 & Tuesday 18 October 2016	
<b>Election Day</b>	Wednesday 19 October 2016	
<b>The Count</b>	Thursday 20 October 2016	
<b>Polling Booth Collection</b>	Friday 21 October 2016 and Monday 24 October 2016	