

British Youth Council



**Our Parliament
Our Vision 2017**

**Young People
& Brexit**

**16: A
New Age for
democracy**

**Our
Minds
Matter**

**Living
Wage for
Everyone**

**Save our
Youth
Services**

**Teach
First Aid
in Schools**



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A Manifesto by young people calling for action

In 2015, following a 10 month consultation, the British Youth Council produced 'Our Parliament, Our Vision 2015-2020', a General Election manifesto. The British Youth Council's members prioritised five issues which they wanted the future Government and Parliament to address. These five issues are:

- 16: A New Age for Democracy
- Our Minds Matter (Mental Health)
- Living Wage for Everyone
- Save our Youth Services
- Teach First Aid in schools

In light of the snap election and with its mandate from the last election, the British Youth Council will continue to call on the future Government and Parliament to address these issues, and will include a sixth, timely, call for young people's meaningful engagement in Brexit negotiations.

“

Politicians across the country must engage young people in a meaningful way ahead of the announced snap election. Candidates have to convince young people that they can deliver on the issues that matter to them. Those who seek to represent us must talk to us and not about us.

”



Anna Barker, Chair of the British Youth Council

A white speech bubble with a thick black outline and a drop shadow, containing the text 'Young People & Brexit' in orange.

Young People & Brexit

We want OUR PARLIAMENT to:

Ensure young people are given the opportunity to actively participate and be meaningfully engaged in the Brexit negotiations.

Our Vision: The European Referendum was an important vote for this generation as it would set the course of the future for young people. We believe that young people are an important stakeholder in decision making. We want the Government to do more to recognise this and should ensure that young people are meaningfully engaged in shaping what the United Kingdom will look like when we exit the European Union.

A white speech bubble with a thick black outline and a drop shadow, containing the text '16: A New Age for democracy' in pink.

16: A New Age for democracy

We want OUR PARLIAMENT to:

Reduce the voting age for Parliamentary and other public elections, across the UK, to 16 years.

Our Vision: We believe that 16 and 17 year olds should be given the vote in all public elections, across the UK, and empowered through quality political education to participate in democracy. We believe that at 16 we are mature enough to engage in, and contribute to, our democracy through having the vote.



Our Minds Matter

We want OUR PARLIAMENT to:

Recognise that our minds matter, and improve the access to and quality of our mental health services.

Our Vision: We believe that the Government needs to do more to address mental health challenges faced by young people. We believe that the stigma surrounding mental health prevents many young people from seeking support; and that help and advice is often scarce. Greater investment needs to be made to ensure that support and care is; age-appropriate, youth friendly and accessible both locally and nationally for 16-25 year olds. We also believe that the Government must ensure measures are developed to raise the quality of youth mental health provisions across the UK.



Living Wage for Everyone

We want OUR PARLIAMENT to:

Ensure that everyone is paid the Real Living Wage.

Our Vision: We believe that work must, at the very least, provide a route out of poverty, and that a Living Wage is therefore necessary. We also believe there should be an equal rate regardless of age.

A speech bubble with a thick black outline and a white fill, containing the text 'Save our Youth Services' in purple.

Save our Youth Services

We want OUR PARLIAMENT to:

Take the lead in restoring levels of funding for youth services that has been cut in recent years.

Our Vision: We believe properly funded youth services and agencies aid young people in their personal development and their ability to function in society. We believe that youth services should have funding priority to ensure they meet the needs of young people. We believe that youth services need to be recognised for their value.

A speech bubble with a thick black outline and a white fill, containing the text 'Teach First Aid in Schools' in purple.

Teach First Aid in Schools

We want OUR PARLIAMENT to:

Ensure that quality First Aid is a compulsory subject for all children in schools.

Our Vision: We believe that the compulsory teaching of First Aid skills as part of primary and secondary education would equip children and young people with a knowledge of life saving procedures, potentially saving thousands of lives. We also believe that First aid teaching should be given enough time and support to be taught to a high standard for all school pupils at a level appropriate to their ability.

About the British Youth Council

The British Youth Council is the national youth council of the UK. A youth-led charity, we connect with our member organisations and networks of local youth councils, to empower young people aged 25 and under, wherever they are from, to have a say and be heard. We aim to help them to participate in decisions that affect them; have a voice and campaign on issues they believe in, inspire them to have a positive impact, and gain recognition for their positive contribution to communities, society and the world.

Serving our membership

Our membership is made up of more than 200 organisations that support our common vision for young people. Members elect our Board, determine our policies and prioritise our campaigns. They also act as the link between the British Youth Council and millions of individuals within the membership of our members.

Youth-Led networks

The British Youth Council runs a number of youth-led network and programmes – including the UK Youth Parliament, Young Mayor Network, Local Youth Council Network and Youth Select Committee – which encourage young people to get involved in democracy and campaign about change.

Campaigning and consulting

The British Youth Council seeks to represent the views of young people and our members to stakeholders and decision makers at a local, national and international level.

Training and recognition

Our training programmes empower young people with the skills, knowledge and confidence to bring about change. We also recognise young people who have made a significant contribution to their community through our high-profile award schemes.

International Work

Through our international youth participation, young people; learn about global issues and connect and share with other young people around the World. They are able to take part in discussions and influence decisions made at an international level.

For more information please visit www.byc.org.uk/generalelection.



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