

Get your opinions heard in the run up to the General Election

A Parliamentary Candidate is someone who is campaigning to be elected in the General Election 2017; to represent you and other people in your local area in the House of Commons, and become your Member of Parliament (MP). Your current MP may also be running as a Parliamentary Candidate for the General Election. You will have a number of Parliamentary Candidates in your area from a range of different political parties.

Talking with your local Parliamentary Candidate, and having meetings face-to-face with them, is the best way to find out what they think about the issues you care about. Meeting with your local Parliamentary Candidates about the General Election Manifesto will play an important role in the Our Parliament, Our Vision campaign. It will ensure that parliamentary candidates consider each of the six calls to action in the Manifesto and could convince them to make these actions happen if they are elected. By getting active you are making sure the youth voice gets heard in this General Election.

How to arrange a meeting with your local Parliamentary Candidate.

Firstly find out who the [Parliamentary Candidates are for the political parties in your area](#), by putting in your postcode. Then search online for how you can contact them. You might decide to send an email or letter asking to meet to discuss the General Election Manifesto. In the email/letter make sure you include your full address and postcode, making it clear you are a member of their prospective constituency, and why you want a meeting. Please find an example letter/email below.

Alternatively you may wish to phone your Parliamentary Candidate's office. You're more than likely to get through to the Parliamentary Candidates assistants, who can arrange a time for a meeting.

Sample contact email/letter to Parliamentary Candidate.

(Type your Parliamentary Candidate's address here).

(Type your Home Address here). (Type the date),

Dear (Insert your Parliamentary Candidate name here),

My name is (Insert your name here), and I am a young person living in (insert your town). I'm writing to you to ask if I could arrange a meeting with yourself to discuss a number of issues that I and other young people feel passionately about.

I would like to meet to discuss the British Youth Council's General Election Manifesto, a manifesto created by young people for young people. This Manifesto calls on parliamentary candidates to commit to making its six calls to action happen, once they are elected, to improve the lives of young people in the UK. One of the five points that I am particularly interested in is (insert name of campaign action here).

I would appreciate any time that you have available to discuss these issues.

Yours sincerely,

(Type your name here).

How to structure your meeting.

Take the checklist below with you to your meeting to help you get across everything you wanted to say.



Introduce yourself. Give your name, say a little about where you come from, what you do, and then tell them about how you got involved with the British Youth Council. For example you might be part of a youth council



Give a brief explanation about the British Youth Council and the General Election Manifesto.



Ask the parliamentary candidate questions about the 6 calls for action in the General Election Manifesto. Make sure you take a pen and make a note of their answers. You might want to read through the briefings on each of the calls to action before your meeting. Questions you could ask include:

Tackle Climate Change: *Do you think enough is being done to achieve zero net emissions and, to tackle climate change? Why do you feel this way? If you are elected will you take action?*

Our Minds Matter: *Do you support more investment in mental health services for young people so that they become accessible and age-appropriate? Why do you feel this way? If elected what will you do to ensure investment in youth mental health services?*

End Poverty in Our Communities: *Do you think every child and young person should have a decent standard of living? Why do you feel this way? If you are elected will you take action to ensure no child or young person in the UK lives in poverty?*

Lowering the Voting Age: *Do you think citizens aged over 16 should be allowed to vote? Why do you feel this way? If you are elected will you take action to lower the voting age to 16?*



Finally thank the Parliamentary Candidate for their time and the meeting. Ask your Parliamentary Candidate if you can take a **photo** with them, and whether the British Youth Council can use this photo in our communications to show how young people across the UK are meeting up with their Parliamentary Candidates.

Frequently Asked Questions about meeting your Parliamentary Candidate

What should I expect from the meeting?

- The Parliamentary Candidate could be running late as they are often very busy, and you may feel that the meeting is rushed. Try to get as many of your questions answered as possible, but don't worry if your Parliamentary Candidate can't answer all your questions at once. You could always arrange another meeting with them, so don't be put off by this!

Do I have to go on my own?

- You do not have to go on your own, you could ask the Parliamentary Candidate in advance of the meeting if you could bring a parent/guardian or take some friends with you.

What should I wear to the meeting?

- Anything you feel comfortable in. The Parliamentary Candidate may be dressed quite formally.

Where should I arrange the meeting?

- It is best to arrange it in a public place e.g. at the library or at their office. Let someone know where you are meeting your Parliamentary Candidate and at what time.

What if I feel nervous?

- Don't worry about being nervous! Just take your time. If your Parliamentary Candidate asks you a question on the General Election Manifesto that you are unsure about say you will get back to them by email. Then you have time to ask the British Youth Council and get back to the.

What if my Parliamentary Candidate does not agree to meet with me?

- Be persistent. If you still have no luck get in touch with the British Youth Council.

What should I take with me?

- Take a pen and paper, your camera and of course this guide!

If you have any further questions please email info@byc.org.uk or call **0207 250 8374**.

Let the British Youth Council know how your meeting went

The British Youth Council would like to hear how your meeting went so we can know whether your Parliamentary Candidates are supporting our General Election Manifesto and of course congratulate you on meeting your Parliamentary Candidate! Please email your answers to the following questions about your meeting to info@byc.org.uk or give us a call on **0207 250 8374**.

- What is your name? How old are you? Where do you live? i.e. your town and county
- Which Parliamentary Candidate did you meet?
- When did you meet them and where?
- What issues did you discuss with your Parliamentary Candidate?
 - What were your Parliamentary Candidate's opinions about the British Youth Council's General Election Manifesto and its five calls to action (Brexit negotiations, votes at 16, public transport, Living Wage, investment in youth services and mental health)?
 - Did your Parliamentary Candidate say they would take any action to make these calls to action happen if they were elected/re-elected?
- Did your Parliamentary Candidate say they would pledge their support to the General Election Manifesto?
- Did you take a photo of you with your Parliamentary Candidate? If so, attach it to your email.

Keep up to date with the campaign

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