

YCAB Newsletter



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Issue 0



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Milton Keynes Youth Cabinet (YCAB) is a group of 36 young people, aged from 11 to 18, who promote and represent the voices of young people in Milton Keynes. There was a youth election in February 2015 where young people in Milton Keynes voted for the next YCAB. The vote also decided on the two young people who would become Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs) and the two who would be the Deputy Members of Youth Parliament (DMYPs). YCAB deals with local campaigns and issues within Milton Keynes whilst UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) works on national campaigns.

The campaigns which YCAB will be working on for the next 2 years will be Anti-Bullying and Mental Health. The Anti-Bullying campaign is the local campaign which young people in Milton Keynes voted for

whilst the Mental Health campaign is the national campaign which UKYP is working on. Both projects are still in their early stages of development.

Monthly Updates

In March, two members spoke on the JVS Show on BBC 3 Counties radio to discuss Votes at 16. The young people discussed the advantages and the disadvantages for Votes at 16. They responded to questions from callers who were listening to the broadcast. For more info, go to:

<http://www.byc.org.uk/campaigns/votes-at-16.aspx>



What is Youth Cabinet and what is Youth Parliament?

Campaigns, Residentials and Meetings



In Other News...

In April, members of YCAB had a training residential where they met everyone who they'd be working with for the next 2 years. They discussed the campaigns they would be working on, met with decision makers and also took part in workshops which developed their skills.



The MYPs and DMYPs had a regional residential as well, where they were able to work on the skills they need within their role and become informed on what work they needed to do in their local authority to benefit the national campaign.

In May, YCAB had their first meeting in the Buszy and met with Michael Bracey, Corporate Director for People. Michael has responsibility for Children and Adult social services. YCAB told him about their ideas with their campaigns. When YCAB conducted the vote for the campaigns that they would be working on, they also gave young people an option to say why they wanted to vote for that issue, and at the meeting the Youth Cabinet began collating these responses.



In June, YCAB had their second meeting which took place in the Civic Offices. As now a regular feature, Michael Bracey attended and discussed how certain cuts to services would affect young people in Milton Keynes. YCAB decided which members would take on certain roles within the group (who would chair the meetings, who would be in charge of fundraising and finance, etc).

Coming Up

In July, YCAB are due to have another meeting where they will: look further into the Anti-Bullying campaign, will discuss the Children and Family's Partnership (as some members attended one of their meetings), will discuss the changes the council has made with the All in One card and will talk about the barbeque YCAB will be having

over the summer.

In August, the Annual Sitting will take place. The two MYPs for Milton Keynes will travel to Exeter for this meeting. At the Annual Sitting it is decided which campaigns will be included in Make Your Mark (which begins late August) during which it is decided which campaign UKYP will follow for the next year.

In Other News

In preparation for **Mandela Day**, a group of young people have been creating pieces of artwork. The group is planning to put an event on to mark 25 years since Mandela was released from prison. Mandela Day is on the 18th July and is celebrated around the world.



The **All in One Card** is a scheme originally set up by YCAB which decreases bus fares and provides nationally recognised identification. Despite changes made by the council, YCAB is still encouraging young people to use the card.



National Election, The Count for the general election took place in May. Three

members of YCAB went to MK Dons Stadium, to observe how the vote count for Milton Keynes is carried out and they were also interviewed by MK News and students from a nearby university. They talked about their work nationally and locally (as two of the young people were MYPs and the other a representative for the British Youth Council).



As previously mentioned, **Make Your Mark** is a national campaign carried out by UKYP. It gives young people the opportunity to decide which issues they want to be carried out into a campaign. This year, UKYP is aiming for one million votes, so the MYPs and DMYPs are beginning to sign up schools in Milton Keynes to vote in September.

