



WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

Southwark values the voice of children and young people and encourages their participation in decision making and in supporting their community. This document explains the structure of youth decision making and how it sits within the council.

Southwark Youth Council

The primary purpose of Southwark Youth Council (SYC) is to act as the voice of young people and to promote the views of Southwark's young people to the adult decision makers of the council. SYC members will attend weekly meetings and receive regular training in order to effectively represent the views of Southwark's young people by:

- Creating a mutual communication and feedback relationship with the eight Youth Community Councils, school councils and key forums for hard to reach groups.
- Create an annual action plan based on the priorities raised by these groups.
- Plan and deliver the annual youth conference event in conjunction with these groups.
- Actively promote the views of Southwark's young people to councillors, council departments and other organisations.
- Participate in consultations for council departments and other organisations, who wish to incorporate the views of Southwark's young people into their work.
- Participate in initiatives to improve the quality of services for Southwark's young people, such as mystery shopping, monitoring and evaluation exercises and youth interview panels.



BIG YOUTH VOTE 2012

Benefits:

- Learn new skills
- Gain qualifications
- Enhance CV
- Receive professional references
- Meet new people
- Build confidence
- Access to wider opportunities

Youth Community Councils

The role of the eight Youth Community Councils (YCC) is to ensure that young people have an accessible forum in their locality which represents their views and is open to any young person who lives, works or receives education in Southwark.

The role of the YCCs is

- Represent young people in their area by collecting and feeding back information to and from the Youth Council and young people in their area.
- Advise service providers and council officers on matters relating to the delivery of services in their area.
- Create opportunities for young people to meet councillors to discuss their concerns and interests and be part of local decision making processes.
- Actively engage young people in their area in participative activities, inter generational projects and community cohesion initiatives.

The eight YCCs are:

Bermondsey; Borough and Bankside; Camberwell; Dulwich; Peckham; Rotherhithe; Walworth; Nunhead and Peckham Rye.



BIG YOUTH VOTE 2012

UK Youth Parliament

Young people elected onto the youth council will have the opportunity to stand as the Southwark representative on the UK Youth Parliament (UKYP). This will be decided by nomination process within the SYC group.

What is the UK Youth Parliament?

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 provides opportunities for 11 to 18 year olds to use their voice in creative ways to bring about social change.

UKYP was launched at the House of Commons in July 1999, and held its first sitting in February 2001 in London. There are currently over 600 elected MYPs (Members of Youth Parliament) and DMYPs (Deputy Members of Youth Parliament).

Now in its tenth year, UKYP continues to get bigger and better. Decision makers are listening to what young people are saying. More and more young people are voting in UKYP elections. UKYP is making its mark!

What it means to be an MYP

Being an MYP is a very exciting opportunity. Throughout your term of office you will have the chance to get involved in a range of activities. For example, MYPs meet with MPs and local councillors, organise events, run campaigns, make speeches, hold debates, and ensure the views of young people are listened to by decision makers. But the most important aspect of any MYP's job is to make sure they represent the views of the young people in their constituency.