



**Bristol City Youth Council
UK Youth Parliament
Bristol Youth Mayors
Manifesto Campaigns 2015 – 2017**



Full Council – 26 May 2015

AGENDA ITEM 7

**Introduction from Bristol City Youth Council Chair
Daisy Newbold-Harrop**

February 2015 marked a huge democratic achievement for Bristol's young people: a record number of 10,379 voters participated in the election of the new Bristol City Youth Council. This turnout shows just how eager the youth of Bristol are to be a part of the democratic system, and to have a say in decisions that affect them. This is why the newly elected Bristol City Youth Council, consisting of 28 constituency representatives and 5 Equalities Groups representatives, shall be working hard throughout these next two years to put forward the views of young people all around Bristol.

This manifesto document is our first step on that journey. In it, we outline our key priorities for our up-and-coming term in office, presenting all that we wish to achieve in the next two years. This term, our priorities fell into five main categories:

- **Health and wellbeing**
- **Futures**
- **Equalities**
- **Green Capital**
- **Neighbourhoods**

Unfortunately, we have neither the time nor the resources to focus on issues from all of these categories, and we have therefore selected our top three priorities from them. However, the Youth Council still contains representatives from all of these subgroups, who will become the main contacts for issues regarding the campaigns.

Also, contained in this manifesto document are the priorities of our four United Kingdom Youth Parliament (UKYP) representatives, and our two Youth Mayors. One of our first actions as a Council was to elect these six positions of responsibility, and they provide important links to other Youth Councils across the country, as well as to key political figures. They hold separate priorities to the Bristol City Youth Council; however the Council supports these priorities.

This manifesto is the result of much careful work on behalf of the Bristol City Youth Council, and is an accurate reflection of the issues that young people across Bristol feel need to be focused on. Hopefully, with the cooperation of other organisations and decision-makers, we can make the changes promised in this document, and make Bristol a better place for young people.

**Daisy Newbold-Harrop
Chairperson
Bristol City Youth Council 2015-2017**

About the Manifesto

Over the next two years, the Bristol City Youth Council will work hard to achieve change in a number of areas that affect young people across the city. As we do this we will seek to further embed young people at the heart of democracy in Bristol. This city can be proud of how far it has come regarding young people's involvement, but it still needs to continue to push forward to become a standard bearer for the rest of the United Kingdom and Europe.

The priorities featured in this manifesto originated from a number of different sources:

- Campaigns that members of the Bristol City Youth Council stood for
- Priorities identified at Area Youth Forums across the city
- Mayoral priorities
- UK Youth Parliament priorities
- Equality group priorities

Bristol City Youth Council has assessed all of the campaigns, and has prioritised them in the following order:

- 1 Physical and mental health and wellbeing
- 2 Raising the awareness of European Green Capital
- 3 Volunteering opportunities for young people in their communities
- 4 Relevant financial education
- 5 Practical work experience and careers advice
- 6 Making education accessible to all young people
- 7 Support for neighbourhood policing

As well as focusing on the above priorities, Bristol City Youth Council has also committed to supporting the equality forums in the city. Although the equality forums will lead these campaigns, Bristol City Youth Council will campaign on their behalf in the following areas:

- Tackling Islamophobia
- Providing more activities for young carers
- Amplifying the voice of Children in Care
- Supporting the young LGBTQ community
- Raising awareness of the needs of disabled young people

Our Priorities

1. Health and Wellbeing

The aim of this campaign is to gain equal recognition for both the mental and physical health of young people around Bristol. We believe that issues regarding mental health are often stigmatised, and this leads to a lack of conversation around the topic. This often results in the escalation of issues, which could have been resolved at an earlier stage. Services for dealing with mental health issues are often only accessible once significant concerns have been raised. We need to be **proactive**, rather than **reactive** when dealing with mental health. We need to see more early intervention and a higher

emphasis on equipping young people with the skills necessary to ensure positive mental health. The Bristol Safeguarding board prioritises this campaign also.

Campaign targets:

- De-stigmatise mental health issues, and promote discussion within schools.
- Provide early help for young people suffering from mental health issues, via the appropriate services.
- Equip young people with the skills needed to manage their mental health.
- Create posters and videos around the theme of 'Healthy Body, Healthy Mind', to promote the importance of positive mental and physical health.
- Hold a conference for schools, championing positive mental and physical wellbeing.
- Equip teachers and youth workers with training and resources; enabling them to promote positive mental and physical health to the young people they work with.
- Appoint 'Healthy Body, Healthy Mind' ambassadors in every school, derived from the student body.
- Work in partnership with health organisations such as CAMHS, Off the Record, and Young Healthwatch to raise the profile and increase the sphere of influence of this campaign.
- Take immediate and direct action by consulting young people on how they wish positive mental health to be promoted, via the local Area Youth Forums.

2. European Green Capital

In order to take full advantage of Bristol's status as European Green Capital this year, we would like to see more events around the city to raise its profile with young people, and help it to leave a legacy with the city for years to come. We also feel that the punctuality and reliability of transport is an issue. We feel that these issues can be tackled through the improvement of public transport technology. This will help to make the city a greener, more eco-friendly place.

Campaign targets:

- Run a high-profile outdoor event, targeted mainly at young people, featuring stalls from various eco-friendly companies and organisations, to promote the city's Green Capital status. We could possibly work with Playday on this matter.
- Arrange to meet First Bus and the Council Department of Transport to discuss how technology could be used to improve the bus service in and around Bristol.
- Involving young people in developing a legacy plan, to extend Bristol's green status beyond 2015.

3. Volunteering in local communities

Young people need to be offered more opportunities to take an active role within their communities. We believe that this will help to strengthen communities across Bristol, and improve the image of young people. These opportunities will also equip young people with valuable social skills that will be useful for them in the future.

Campaign targets:

- Improve the Area Forums delivered by the Youth Links Providers by liaising with Neighbourhood Partnerships and the voluntary and community sectors.
 - Ensuring councillors consult with young people before making/deciding plans.
 - Make sure that Neighbourhood Partnership meetings cater to young people's needs.
 - Make certain volunteering opportunities for young people are publicised within communities.
 - Organise a fair to promote volunteering positions.
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UK Youth Parliament

Bristol UK Youth Parliament campaigns:

1. Curriculum for Life

We believe that every young person deserves to be equipped with the knowledge to make positive choices for themselves. Our Curriculum For Life campaign revolves around encouraging schools to incorporate these 5 essential topics into their core syllabus:

- Politics
- Personal finance
- Sex and relationships
- Drugs
- Mental health

- We will work with schools, colleges and youth centres to ensure that the young people of Bristol have access to impartial information and advice surrounding these issues.
- We will formulate resources (videos/posters) that can be used as a stimulus for discussion.
- We will work with the Bristol City Council to ensure that young people are consulted when decisions are made about guidelines for PSHE lesson content.
- It is our aim to ensure that **every** secondary school in Bristol is committed to teaching a Curriculum For Life by the end of our two year term.
- We champion a Curriculum For Life becoming compulsory on a national scale.

2. Improving access to Mental Health support and education

Mental Health has been raised as a local, regional and national priority, a true indication of how much needs to be done to improve societal understanding of what mental health is, and also to foster positive mental wellbeing.

- We will be working in partnership with organisations like CAMHS, Off The Record and Young Healthwatch to distribute resources to schools and youth centres, as well as fundraising.
- Bristol Youth Parliament members will use our Curriculum For Life campaign to ensure that schools facilitate insightful and proactive discussion concerning mental wellbeing.
- We aim to host an event that will raise money and promote positive mental health, in addition to tackling the stigma surrounding the issue.

National Youth Parliament priorities:

- Mental Health
- The Living Wage
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South West Youth Parliament manifesto:

- Curriculum for Life
- Mental Health
- Work Experience and Careers Advice

Bristol Youth Mayors

The Bristol Youth Mayors, Neha and Thanushan, were elected from the Youth Council body in February 2015. They have created a different manifesto to tackle the issues raised from the Futures campaign, which looks to improve the prospect lives of young people through education.

Amongst being involved with the Youth Councils manifesto, we have decided to prioritise and still incorporate issues raised from the Futures campaign, with the help of Mayor George Ferguson. During our time in office we would like to improve **Work Experience** and **Careers Advice** for students. We strongly believe that currently this is one of the areas substantially lacking in the education sector due to the shortage of work experience placements and insufficient tailored advice needed to match individual aspirations. Education is a topic we are both very passionate about, either having experienced the struggles first hand or known people who have often had difficulty. As Bristol has recently adopted the status as a Learning City, we thought it a prime opportunity to base our manifesto around education, as it will help us get the recognition and support needed. Aided and inspired by the Learning City Partnership Board we have created this manifesto as Youth Mayors.

Campaign targets:

- Challenge companies and organisations to offer more tailored work experience to young people around Bristol.

- Expose our peers to alternative vocational paths, in terms of their future for example apprenticeships.
 - Do this by inviting more companies to set up careers fairs in schools to advertise their career and give advice to young people.
 - Encourage schools to hire the necessary position of a careers advisor who will advise students, help them gain experience and act as a contact point to connect young people and companies/organisations.
 - Create a network to connect 15-18 year old students to professionals so that they can get sufficient advice and necessary contact details for work experience to ensure they are making the right choices for the future.
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Emerging Priorities

Bristol City Youth Council will respond to emerging issues over their term in office, as they occur. Issues may emerge if decision makers from the Bristol City Council, other organisations or young people wish to consult with us, or raise any concerns.

Conclusion from the Bristol City Youth Council Chair

Now that you are familiar with the priorities of the Bristol City Youth Council, we hope that you can support us in our endeavour to achieve these aims. If you feel you can support us in any way, or want to get involved in our campaigns, please contact us. Any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the manifesto or the Youth Council as a body, can be directed to the contacts below.

I thank you for reading our manifesto, and hope that it has proved the determination of Bristol's young people to have their voices heard and to change our city for the better.

Daisy Newbold-Harrop
Chairperson
Bristol City Youth Council 2015-2017

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