

About the UK Youth Parliament

What does the UK Youth Parliament do nationally?

- 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 11-18 year-olds to use their voice in creative ways to bring about social change
- The UKYP has 300 elected MYPs (Members of Youth Parliament) aged 11-18.
- These young people are elected representatives of their constituents.
- At the Annual Sitting (held in July) the UKYP produces a national manifesto that is presented to the Government, informing them of the beliefs of young people across the country.

What does the UKYP do in Somerset?

- In Somerset there are three Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs). The Somerset constituencies are:

1. Mendip & Sedgemoor
2. South Somerset
3. Taunton Deane & West Somerset



- Somerset also has an Advisory Group of 20 young people from across the County, who act as a reference group for the MYPs.
- The MYPs all have manifesto issues which they campaign on. For the last two years, Somerset's focus has been on:
 1. Young people for a safer community
 2. Promoting and empowering young people's voices
 3. Young people's health and well-being
- Somerset UKYP also acts a representative voice for young people in Somerset, taking part in decision making (such as youth grant giving), consultations, interviews, commissioning and much, much more. See the Achievement List for more detailed information.

What's the Election Process?

- In Somerset the MYPs and Deputies nominate themselves through schools, colleges and youth clubs.
- You can nominate yourself for consideration as an MYP by completing a nomination form and handing it in. This year's deadline for nomination is 4th November 2016. Your school can tell you where they are collecting forms, otherwise post it to Kirstie Brown (addresses below).

- Young people who nominate themselves must attend the Selection Day (10th December 2016), where they learn more about the UK Youth Parliament and, if you choose to, go forward to the election at the end of the day.
- All elected MYPs and Deputies will then work with the existing members and deputies as a training period, until 29 February 2017. They will then take up their posts properly on 1st March 2017.
- All elected MYPs and Deputies will go on a residential in March 2017 with the other newly elected MYPs and Deputies from across the South West Region.
- If you don't get elected and still want to be involved, you can join the UKYP Advisory Group. This group helps the MYPs and their deputies with their manifesto issues and other work. Contact Kirstie (see below) for more information on how to join.

If I want to be an MYP, what's expected of me?

- As an MYP or Deputy you represent young people in your area, so you need to be willing to get about and talk to people and take their views on board
- Attend the monthly UKYPAG meetings and regional meetings every half term
- Attend the Regional Residential which is in March 2017
- Attend the Annual Sitting in July
- Be prepared to attend other meetings that crop up
- Work !!!!! But you do have the support of a youth worker and the UKYP Advisory Group (a group of young people who want to help).

I want to be involved, but I don't want to stand for election. What should I do?

- Just contact Kirstie (see below) and she can help you.
- Many young people join the Advisory Group to see if they like it and then go on to stand for election the next year.
- Many just like being in the Advisory Group because the workload isn't as high (as it is if you're an MYP) but you still achieve things and have fun.

For more information about anything to do with the UKYP

please contact Kirstie Brown on

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