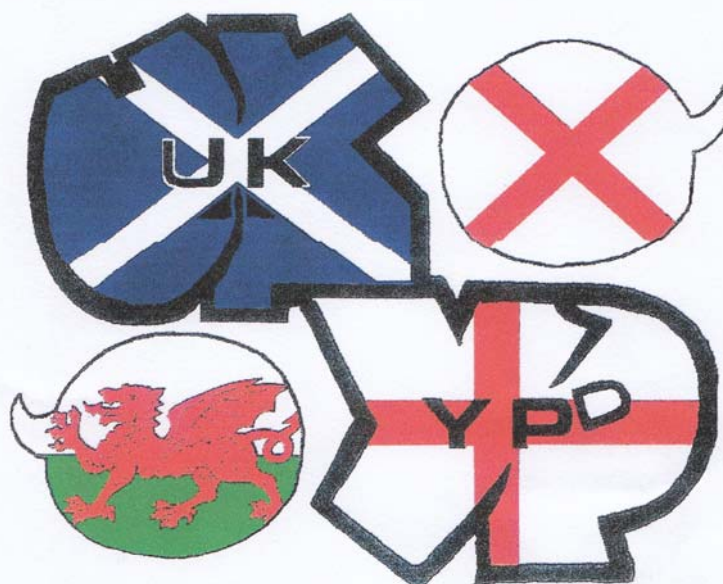




Youth Parliament
MAKING OUR MARK

Put the YOU in Youth Parliament



United Kingdom
Youth Parliament
in

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

2009 - 2010

connexions



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INTRODUCTION

HELLO!!!

It's great that you are interested in getting involved in UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) in Cambridgeshire. This pack has all the information you will need – from finding out more about what UK Youth Parliament is and how it works, to how to put yourself forward to stand for elections to be a Member of Youth Parliament (MYP).

Because there is quite a lot to take in, you will probably find that you have lots of questions. That's why there is a UK Youth Parliament Facilitator on hand to help you through. Look at the map in the pack to find out what area you live in and then call or email a Facilitator.

East Cambridgeshire and Fenland

Huntingdon and North West Cambridgeshire

South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City

Vic Edwards
07739 631433
vic.edwards@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Clare Bruges
07717 677945
clare.bruges@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Also visit
www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk
or
www.youthoria.org

Our office telephone number is 01223 718475

So have a look through the pack and see what you think – hopefully you will want to get more involved.

Good Luck!!!



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WHAT IS THE UKYP?

NATIONALLY

The UKYP is made up of nearly 400 MYPs from all over the United Kingdom. The purpose of these MYPs is to raise the issues facing all 11 to 18 year olds with the relevant bodies who are in the position to make a difference and consider the views of your peers when making decisions that affect you.

REGIONALLY

The UKYP is split into Regional Groups across England; while in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have their own National Youth Parliaments that feed into the UKYP. Cambridgeshire is part of the East of England region along with Suffolk, Bedfordshire, Essex, Hertfordshire and Norfolk.

These six counties provide 30 of the UK's total number of MYPs, with each MYP having a Deputy Member of Youth Parliament who assists them at a regional level. The 60 young people meet approximately every two months to discuss the issues relevant across the entirety of the East of England (such as Rural Public Transport).

LOCALLY

Cambridgeshire is split into three Constituency Seats, allowing us three MYPs and three Deputies. These seats are divided equally according to the approximate number of 11 to 18 year olds living in each area according to the last Census. In each Constituency Seat in Cambridgeshire, the MYPs and their Deputies will be supported by up to 10 further young people from the area, with everyone joining together to form Constituency Cabinets. Working together, this Cabinet will discuss the concerns where they live at Cabinet Meetings every three to four weeks, with the issues raised by the Cabinets forming a Cambridgeshire County Manifesto.

Because Cambridgeshire has always been in the forefront in ensuring that the young people of the county get the best possible way of 'having a voice'. This coming year a County Youth Assembly is being formed to make sure all of our youth will have the opportunity to bring their issues and recommendations to the attention of the decision makers and debate for change where it is needed.

This may affect the way in which the UKYP operates, to a small degree, in the County but it will not be without you being heard and will not effect our National structure



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WHY IS IT A GOOD IDEA?

The UKYP is a good idea for many reasons, ranging from the international recognition that young people deserve to have a voice in their communities, to the fact that it allows young people to discuss issues that they are usually ignored on. For the most part though, it could be said that the following are the three main reasons to support the UKYP:-

1. It has the support of the three main political parties (Conservatives, Labour and Liberal Democrats).
2. It has been formed in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (primarily Article 12).
3. It is a democratically elected body with a mandate to represent all young people and not just a select group.

But what do ex-MYPs say about the Youth Parliament?

"Being involved in the UKYP has built up my self-confidence because I have really enjoyed it and it has expanded my views on all sorts of issues. I have got a lot out of it. I think it is important for other young people to get involved because it is good to get our voices heard. The UKYP is a good way to help get what young people want out of life and to raise the issues important to you people."

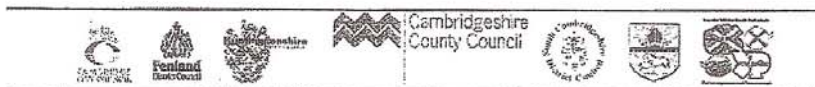
Member of Youth Parliament for South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City
Child & Young Peoples Protection

"I have found the UK Youth Parliament to be a great experience, not only giving me a thorough insight into the world of politics, but also installing faith in the Governmental system, whereby young people ARE given the opportunity to have their voice heard and also the opportunity to make changes. Personally, my confidence and organisation has improved immensely through regular meetings with various people and organisations, debates and presentations. It is essential that young people get involved with the UKYP – not only is it a great experience with loads of opportunities and great people, but it gives young people a voice on issues that involve us. We are the future of politics and the running of this country and so it is essential that we get involved now – age shouldn't be a condemning factor, we all have opinions and something to say."

Member of Youth Parliament for East Cambridgeshire and Fenland
Child & Young Peoples Protection

"Over the past year I have found being a Member of Youth Parliament hard work, yet I feel that is part of its appeal. It has encouraged me to develop as a person, particularly in my ability to communicate with a variety of age groups and sections of society. One day I might be talking to a group of students in year seven, and the next in a confidential meeting with County Councillors at Shire Hall. It helps that all young representatives involved with the UK Youth Parliament in Cambridgeshire have benefited from a well organised network of youth workers enabling us to reach our potential."

Member of Youth Parliament for Huntingdon and North West Cambridgeshire
Child & Young Peoples Protection



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Names Omitted. This Copy Only
Child & Young Peoples Protection
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HOW TO BECOME AN MYP

The following is a simple to follow step-by-step guide explaining what to do if you want to run to be the next MEMBER OF YOUTH PARLIAMENT for your area.

- Step 1 Read through this Nomination Pack from start to finish so that you truly know what the UK Youth Parliament is about so that you can decide whether it is suitable for you and whether you are suitable for it.
- Step 2 Check the Constituency Map and find the place where you live, go to school or spend the majority of your time. This will help you to decide which Constituency Seat you wish to stand for.
- Step 3 Complete the Candidate Nomination Form, ask your parents to complete the Parental Consent Form and write your Election Manifesto. This Manifesto is what people will be using to decide whether they should vote for you or someone else. So, without breaking the 150-word limit, you have to sell yourself to your peers and explain why you are the best choice to become the next MYP.
- Step 4 Return the completed forms by **Friday 12 December 2008**
- Step 5 **Until Friday 6 February 2009** you will be given the chance to campaign and promote yourself in whatever way you think is best.
- Step 6 Finally, the elections will be taking place from **Monday, 9 February to Friday, 13 February 2009** with ballot boxes and voting booths being situated throughout the County. This week will be your last chance to swing votes your way so keep campaigning.
- Step 7 After the elections are completed, all the ballot boxes will be collected and the votes counted under neutral supervision. Following the counting of the ballot papers, the results will be announced at an official ceremony between **23 to 27 February 2009** where you will find out who the new MYP will be.
- Step 8 Following the Announcement of Results, the new Members will be invited to attend a training day in **March 2009**, where you will be given the chance to get to know each other better and learn new skills, all of which will help you through the year ahead.
- Step 9 The last part, of course, is your term in office !!!
During this time you will be given the opportunity to finally make the difference you want to make and fulfil the ambitions that helped you decide to run in the first place.



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PERSON SPECIFICATION

There are numerous things that can combine to make someone the perfect Member of Youth Parliament, and you don't necessarily need to have all of them for you to be that person. The following list are some of the things that are considered to be the attributes that will help you to succeed as an MYP in the year ahead of you:

You should be enthusiastic and want to make a change to the world in which you live that will benefit those around you

You should be able to turn words into action and get things done

You need to be good at understanding other people's points of views

You should be able to relate to all young people and not just a certain group

You need to be friendly and approachable

You need to be able to manage your own time and get things done

You should have a passion for the community in which you live, as well as other communities that are around you

You should be able to speak up on behalf of your peers, even if you disagree

You need to be non-judgemental and someone who doesn't jump to conclusions about the people you meet

You need to be committed to the projects you join and have the desire to see things through to the end

You need to be able to handle disappointment as well as gratification

You should not be easily disillusioned and be able to double your efforts in order to succeed

We are not asking you to have every quality on the list above, because it is unlikely anyone does. But if you have some of them then you are the sort of person who would make a good Member of Youth Parliament and be able to make a difference for those around you.



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JOB DESCRIPTION

It doesn't matter whether you are elected as the Member of Youth Parliament, Deputy or Cabinet Member, you will have a job to do that is no more or no less important in the success of the UKYP than anyone else. The Cabinet needs the MYP to get their voices heard and the MYP needs the Cabinet to decide what that voice says. The following is a simple list that gives you some idea of what you should expect to be doing over your year in office.

Attend meetings where all elected representatives will decide on what needs to be done and how

Respond to the requests of your Constituents and let them know what you are doing

Make sure the voices of your Constituents are being heard and not just your own personal opinions:

Respect and take into account the views of others no matter what you are doing and no matter how much you disagree with what is being said

Attend Regional Meetings approximately every 2 months with all the MYPs from the East of England to focus on common issues

Meet once a year at the National Sitting of the UK Youth Parliament where you join with all MYPs to form the UKYP Manifesto and Agenda for Action

Participate in local projects and campaign on behalf of your Constituents

To form and promote a Cambridgeshire County Manifesto

To act responsibly and abide by the UKYP Code of Conduct

The above list is not everything you may have to do during your year in office, but a summary of the things you are very likely to be doing. On top of this you may have to meet with local Councillors, Education Partnerships or Schools, depending on what you need to do.



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CODE OF CONDUCT

1. The UKYP is an independent national body, which seeks to represent no party political view.
2. The discussions of the UKYP are to be solely issue based.
3. The UKYP will ensure that the young people of the UK are given a voice on any issue that affects them and as laid out in Article 12 of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child, as long as it does not affect the right of others.
4. The UKYP will respect the issues as laid out in the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child, to ensure that every young person who participates in the work of the UKYP has his/her rights respected and protected.
5. Any young person up to and including the age of 18 has the right to have his/her view heard and listened to by the UKYP.
6. As an elected MYP your duty is towards:
 - The young people who voted for you;
 - The young people who didn't vote for you;
 - Every young person in your LEA/Constituency
7. As an MYP it is important that you take your role and duty seriously when you are representing the UKYP, both in and outside of UKYP meetings.
8. As an elected MYP you have a duty to attend UKYP meetings, arrive on time and make sure that there are transport arrangements to and from your place of meeting.
9. If you can not attend a UKYP meeting you should inform you adult support worker.
10. Regular breaks will be contracted into all UKYP meetings. It is important that you try to wait until a break before leaving the meeting room, as it can be very disruptive to the meeting.
11. When you wish to make a point or ask a question you should indicate you intention by raising your hand and waiting for the Chair to invite you to speak.
12. When you are talking you should try not to take over the meeting or prevent others from speaking. It is important to give everyone a chance to talk and take part in the meeting.
13. It is important to respect and listen to what others are saying during a meeting, and to continue to respect someone's point of view outside of a meeting.
14. Language, which may be offensive, should not be used during meetings.
15. If the elected members of the UKYP feel that a MYP has broken the guidelines as laid out in this "Code of Conduct", a committee will be formed of MYPs to discuss the behaviour of that person and to decide as to what action should be taken/reprimand be given



Cambridgeshire and Peterborough County Council



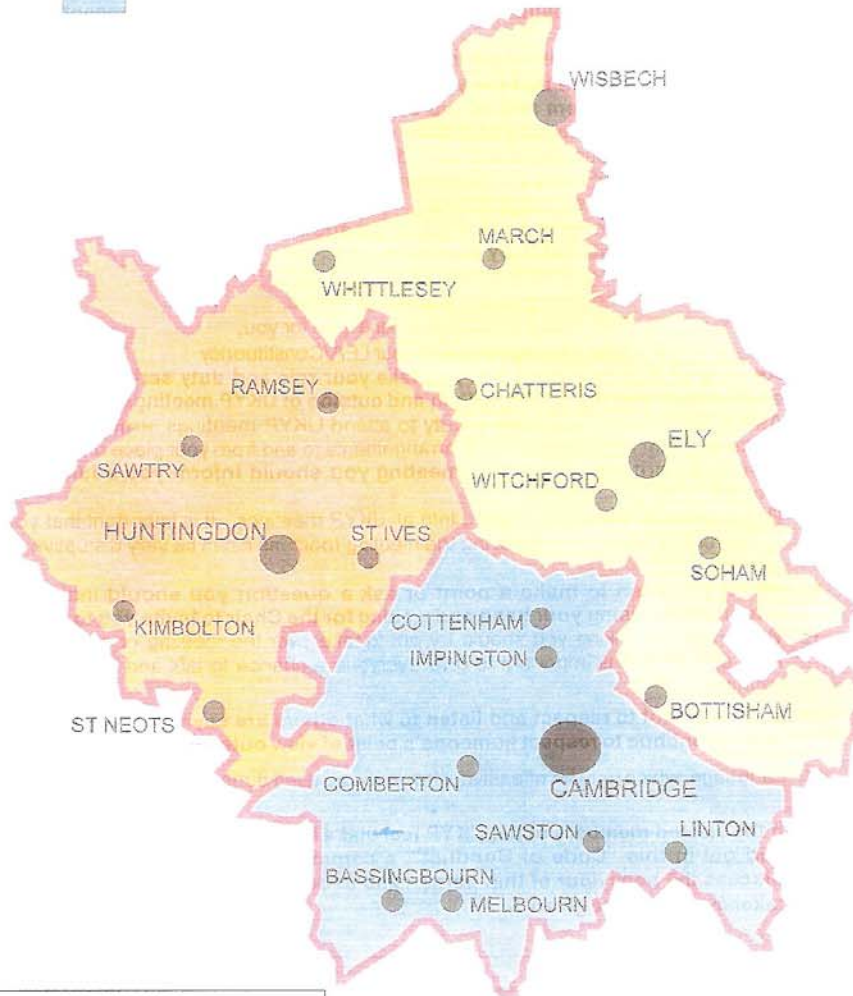
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Cambridgeshire UKYP Constituencies

There are 3 seats in Cambridgeshire for Members of the Youth Parliament. The seats are made up as follows:

- EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE & FENLAND
- NORTH WEST CAMBRIDGESHIRE & HUNTINGDON
- SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE & CAMBRIDGE CITY



PLEASE COMPLETE ALL 4 YELLOW PAGES AND RETURN
IN ENVELOPE PROVIDED



NOMINATION FORM

FULL NAME

DATE OF BIRTH

ADDRESS

.....

.....

.....

POSTCODE

HOME TELEPHONE NUMBER

MOBILE TELEPHONE NUMBER

E-MAIL ADDRESS

SCHOOL/COLLEGE/EMPLOYER DETAILS

ADDRESS

.....

.....

.....

.....

POSTCODE

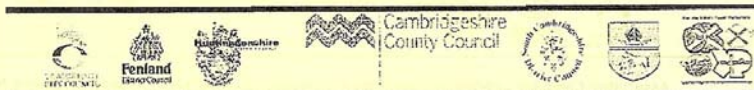
TELEPHONE NUMBER

WHICH SEAT DO YOU WISH TO STAND FOR? [[SEE MAP PAGE](#)]

.....



2009



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Nomination for Office of United Kingdom Youth Parliament
vte/cce
Guidance - Representation of the People Act



Youth Parliament
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ELECTION MANIFESTO FORM

CANDIDATE NAME

CONSTITUENCY SEAT

In no more than 150 words, tell the voters why you want to be their Member of Youth Parliament

Large empty box for writing the election manifesto.

Signed

Please return Nomination Form, Election Manifesto Form and Parental Consent Form to:
UK Youth Parliament, ELH 1101, Castle Court, Shire Hall, Cambridge. CB3 0AP



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PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT FORM FOR THOSE AGED UNDER 18 YEARS

1. NAME OF PARTICIPANT

SURNAME FIRST NAME M/F
ADDRESS
.....
.....
POST CODE TEL. NUMBERS

2. MEDICAL HISTORY

To your knowledge, has your son/daughter been in contact with any infectious or contagious disease in the past four weeks? Yes/No
If 'Yes', please give details

Does your son/daughter suffer from any of the following: asthma, chest complaints, hay fever, migraine, fits or faints, bad period pains, travel sickness? Yes/No
If 'Yes', please give details

Does your son/daughter suffer from any other medical condition not listed above that you feel we should be aware of? Yes/No
If 'Yes', please give details

Does your son/daughter suffer from any physical disability? Yes/No
If 'Yes', please give details

Is your son/daughter receiving any medical treatment (including any medication) at present that we should be aware of? Yes/No
If 'Yes', please give details

Has your son/daughter received a tetanus injection in the past five years? Yes/No

Is your son/daughter allergic to any medication? Yes/No
If 'Yes', please give details

Please indicate below any dietary requirements due to medical, religious or moral reasons:
.....
.....
.....

NOTE: English law does not permit staff to give any form of pain relievers.

3. ACCIDENT OR EMERGENCY DECLARATION

In the event of serious illness or accident that requires emergency hospital treatment, I authorise the youth worker in charge to sign on my behalf any written form of consent required by the hospital authorities if the delay required to obtain my own signature is considered inadvisable by the doctor concerned.

Name of Parent/Guardian:

Signed:

4. PARENTAL DECLARATION

I (.....^{*1}) agree that my son/daughter (.....^{*2}) shall be a member of^{*3} and take part in activities relating to this, and that he/she shall be subject to the authority and guidance of the staff involved.

(*1 – insert name of parent/guardian) (*2 – Insert name of young person) (*3 – Insert name of activity)

Do you give permission for your son/daughter to appear in photographs? Yes/No

NOTE: Pupils are not insured by Cambridgeshire County Council against personal accident or injury. Cambridgeshire County Council cannot, therefore, accept responsibility for accidents or injury to pupils or for loss or damage to personal effects, unless the cause is due to negligence of Cambridgeshire County Council or any member of its staff. You may wish to check with the organiser of any events whether personal accident cover is to be provided and, if not, to make your own arrangements.

My address during the period of the course will be:

SURNAME FIRST NAME

ADDRESS.....

.....

.....

POST CODE.....

I confirm that I have parental responsibility for the young person mentioned and will inform the youth worker in charge should ANY of the aforementioned details change during the course of the project:

Name of Parent/Guardian:

Signed:

5. EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

HOME TELEPHONE NUMBER

MOBILE TELEPHONE NUMBER

WORK TELEPHONE NUMBER

NAME OF CURRENT DOCTOR

NAME OF DOCTOR'S SURGERY

DOCTOR'S TELEPHONE NUMBER

NOTE: English law does not design



Elections 2008-2009

ORDER OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	ACTION
Until 12 December 2008	Nomination period	Support, guidance and presentation
Until 6 February 2009	Campaigning period	Support and guidance
9 February 2009 to 13 February 2009	Election week	Support and guidance
16-20 February 2009	Count	
23 February 2009 to 27 February 2009 <small>TBA - To Be Advised</small>	Results Ceremony	Announcement of results



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**SUMMARY OF UKYP MANFESTO AND AGENDA FOR ACTION
2009**

Education and Skills

Transport

Employment

Fees in Education

Health

Environment and Rural Affairs

Law and Society

Culture, Media and Sport

International Matters



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CAMBRIDGESHIRE MANIFESTO

1. Transport

Numerous issues were discovered to be common across Cambridgeshire whether you lived in the city, a town or a village. These issues included the cost of fares for all young people, the fact that there is a non-standardised age restriction for the change from child to adult fares which is compounded by the lack of an under 16s Identity Card and the treatment of young people by certain bus drivers. These issues are just some of the countywide concerns, but there are even more issues that are specific to certain areas, such as the inconsistency or non-existence of bus services.

2. Education

As with transport, it was found that many issues were consistent across the entirety of Cambridgeshire regardless of what school you attended or where the school is situated. These common problems included issues surrounding the power (or lack of) of School Councils, the ineffective treatment of behavioural problems, the pointlessness of certain compulsory subjects and the lack of options, career choices and life skills that will put you in better stead for when you leave school.

3. Leisure facilities

The issues surrounding leisure facilities various across Cambridgeshire as different areas have different things available to young people. However, this inconsistency of services has caused numerous discussions to take place as to improving the provision of services to young people across Cambridgeshire. The variety of demands from young people on this section of the County Manifesto range from reducing the cost of certain local facilities to the fact that facilities that were promised have not been built and from the lack of information on local facilities to the lack of provision of something as simple as a bus shelter so young people can get out of the rain when with their friends.

4. Discrimination

Although it was recognised that discrimination amongst young people was probably lower in Cambridgeshire than most other areas of the country, it was still seen to be an issue because it still happens. No matter how little it happens it is always a big problem and it needs to be dealt with. There were three types of discrimination that were considered to be the primary areas of concern and they are Racism, Sexism and Ageism.

Fees for Further Education

Because of the National voting in the House of Lords this year it was felt by the Cambridgeshire delegates, that this issue be attached to our local debate under the current heading of Discrimination. As that is what it is in practice.



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