



**Youth Parliament**  
MAKING OUR MARK



# **UK Youth Parliament**

## **North East Lincolnshire Youth Elections**

### **Summary report March 2017**



## Introduction

Andrew Rowe was the Conservative MP for Faversham and Mid-Kent, without whom there would be no UK Youth Parliament. Andrew believed passionately that the young people of the UK should be given a voice on the issues that matter to them, and presented a ten minute rule bill to the House of Commons in the 1990s calling for the creation of a Youth Parliament. He then worked tirelessly to bring together a steering group of young people and representatives from key youth organisations, to support the creation of UKYP. At the first Annual Sitting, MYPs referred to him as the “Father” of all Youth Parliaments. At the 4th Annual Sitting of the UK Youth Parliament in July 2004, Andrew Rowe was appointed the first ever Patron of UKYP. By 2004 90% of Local authority areas have signed up to the Youth Parliament

There are a number of key projects the UK Youth Parliament involve young people in from North East Lincolnshire and across the UK. These include Make your Mark an annual ballot asking young people to vote on the most important issue for them out of the top 10 chosen by members nationally. The top five issues voted on are then debated annually in November by Members of Youth Parliament in the House of Commons and a national campaign selected following this debate.

National campaigns this year are to get the vote for 16 and 17 year olds as well as a curriculum to prepare young people for life. More information on the national campaigns can be found on [www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk](http://www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk)

Members also attend a national sitting every summer and at least 3 regional conventions to plan and progress campaigns as well as receive training.



## Aim

To replicate ‘adult’ democratic processes by using conventional and transparent local election methods, in order to provide young people with the experience of voting in a democratic election that has meaning for them. Thus helping to develop awareness and experience of voting and personal engagement that they will take into adulthood.

## **Preparations and process**

Preparations for the UK Youth Parliament elections start in September with Schools and Academies promoting the opportunity for young people to be nominated or nominate themselves as a 'Dream team' which is a team of two young people who stand for election as Member and Deputy Member of Youth Parliament. Nominations for the elections close at the end of October and all candidates who have applied or been nominated are invited to attend an event explaining more about the UK Youth Parliament, the role and expectations on young people's time through the elections process as well as expectations of them if they are elected. This allows the young people to make an informed decision about the commitment needed and if they can meet the commitment before we select the teams to stand for election. This reduces the possibility of young people dropping out at a later stage. During early November a selection panel decide which teams will stand for election.

The selected teams are invited to give a speech about their team and a further speech about an issue at a 'meet the candidates' event during early November. This marks the start of the campaigning period from November to the end of January. Teams are supported with some publicity promoting all teams and are encouraged to create their own other campaigning plans to gain interest during this time. The candidates are offered support through this time to discuss their ideas and how they might reach and engage other young people. They also receive a short workshop on working with the media as they are involved in media interviews at various stages in the process.

Voting happens during a two week period at the beginning of February with schools and colleges as polling stations during this time. An additional polling station is held in Freshney place to allow any young people who have not had chance to vote.

Votes are closed and counted during half term and results announced the following week.

## **Publicity**

Publicity was provided through a number of media.

Grimsby Telegraph, BBC Radio Humberside and other publications ran stories in their news reports in the run up to the elections, including the meet the candidates event and the results event.

A poster was designed and distributed giving a summary of the teams and what they stand for, using their selection statements. These were distributed widely and used during the voting to help young people decide if they hadn't already.

Each team made a short 2 minute film explaining why young people should vote for them. These were sent to schools for use in assembly or tutor time to help their students decide who they would like to vote for and avoid young people having to take time out of their own education to visit other schools.

Each school and college received a PowerPoint presentation explaining what UK Youth Parliament is, what it means to them locally, how to vote and some information on each of the teams to help them decide who they want to vote for. This was designed to be flexible for use in assembly tutor or lesson time in the run up to us attending with the polling station.

Messages were shared and updates on the process through social media and on the website. The open polling station was developed and promoted as an event on social media and the posts were boosted to reach as many young people as possible.

## **Information**

Young people could access further information throughout the process via our youth elections webpage [www.nelincs.gov.uk/youthelections](http://www.nelincs.gov.uk/youthelections)

This information includes links to the UK Youth Parliament website, the role and responsibility of the team elected, applications eligibility criteria timetable and key dates etc. Additional information to support the teams during the process was sent to them via email periodically.

Young people selected to stand for election were given a pack at the start of the process with key documents, key dates, tips on creating a debate and campaign in advance of them giving their speeches and planning the campaigns.

Young people standing for election also had the opportunity at a number of stages to meet senior managers and local councillors and ask their advice on campaigning and standing as a member of youth parliament.

Young people standing for election received a short workshop from our communications team on dealing with the media.

## **Selection**

Each team when nominated was asked to provide a selection statement which gave the reasons why they should be chosen and what they would like to change if elected. They could share their skills and personal interests to help with this too. The statements were assessed against criteria by a selection panel made up of young people and staff responsible for the elections. The selection panel chose four teams from the eight nominated to run for election. Please note that one member of each of two teams withdrew before the campaigning started. As all candidates applied and were selected within the original timescales the two candidates left opted to create a team together.

## **Campaigning**

Three teams of two campaigned for votes through speeches, talking to the press, creating posters, giving assemblies to their peers, creating films and using social media between November 2016 and February 2017

During the campaigning time all candidates were invited to come to the Youth ACTION group meetings for support and to ask any questions as the elections developed. All candidates had opportunities to talk to councillors and support from their academy and YPSS staff. All candidates were given additional support via one to one time and emails throughout the campaigning.



# Introducing your dream teams for the UK Youth Parliament elections ....



**Sultana Zahan and Ella Restall**

"Together as a team we are trying to make the curriculum for life a subject as we think it is an important topic for us all. We are also trying to raise the issue regarding body image because it is a common aspect."



**Cameron Tilley and Ryan Brown**

"We want your voice heard! We will work towards providing better opportunities for young people and implementing PHSE lessons that are useful. We believe in this borough. We believe in YOU!"



**Zachary Steeles and Max Kerrigan**

"We want to bring back the £2 under 19 bus riders for us young adults, as places like Lincoln and Hull still get this. We would also like to give all of us a good knowledge of mental health. Also we would like to bring Curriculum For Life into our local schools so students can learn about basic needs for life. But on top of all this we want you to know that we will stand for your views and opinions, that you matter and you get a say. So vote Max and Zac and let our voices be heard."

## Who will represent the young people of North East Lincolnshire? YOU DECIDE!

Polling stations will be held in academies and colleges during early February 2017. For more information on when and where the polling stations are visit the youth elections webpage [www.nelincs.gov.uk/youthelections](http://www.nelincs.gov.uk/youthelections)

Keep up with progress on: [www.facebook.com/icanNEL](https://www.facebook.com/icanNEL) or [@iCan\\_NEL](https://twitter.com/iCan_NEL)

**MAKE CHANGE HAPPEN BY VOTING FOR YOUR FAVOURITE DREAM TEAM**

## Voting

All secondary academies and colleges were invited to host us in running a polling station for their students in their organisation. We tailored the timing and position of the polling station to fit with the school and enable the best opportunity to vote with the least disruption to their education. Nine academies and colleges took part in the elections by holding polling stations for their students. Councillors, young people, teachers and other YPSS staff supported the polling stations.

For the students who were unable to vote because their academy was not hosting a polling station or if they were not able to vote during the time we were in their academy, we held an open polling station. This was held in Freshney place taking the polling station to a place young people are rather than asking them to make a special trip to vote. This enabled us speak to lots of young people and adults and raise the awareness of the UK Youth Parliament. Many young people we saw and spoke to told us about them already having voted in their schools during the previous two weeks.

### *Our candidates voting in the election*



### *Students voting across the area at their polling stations*







## Turnout

Academy/College name	Number of votes cast 2015	Percentage turnout 2015	Number of votes cast 2017	Percentage turnout 2017
Oasis Academy Immingham	174	25%	287	50%
Grimsby Institute	88	12%	135	9%
Healing School	430	49%	403	45%
Franklin College	97	43%	58	5%
Cleethorpes academy	325	39%	628	75%
Toll Bar Academy	921	45%	569	28%
Oasis academy Wintringham	348	40%	285	35%
Holy Family Catholic Academy	69	27%	0	0
Havelock Academy	452	46%	456	47%
The Academy Grimsby	0	0	209	61%
King Edward VI Grammar	0	0	163	63%
Ormiston Maritime Academy	0	0	268	35%
Other votes	25	na	55	na

## Total number of votes

2013 total votes cast	2790
2015 total votes cast	2830 increased votes by 40 on 2013 figures 1% increase
2017 total votes cast	3516 increased votes by 686 on 2015 figures 24% increase



## Results

In third place with 948 votes and 27% of all votes were Sultana Zahan and Ella Restall.



In second place with 1158 votes and 33% of all votes were Cameron Tilley and Ryan Brown.



In first place with 1377 votes and 39% of all votes are Zachary Steeles and Max Kerrigan .



## Lessons learnt

### *What has worked well?*

- Engagement of the academies who were involved this year was really positive
- Meeting with candidates before selection to explain the commitment and role in more detail
- Created short films to promote all teams in a consistent way from YPSS
- Created a presentation for teachers to use with students in either form/tutor group or assembly in the run up to the elections to introduce the candidates and how to vote and why it is important to vote

### *What we can do to improve our elections?*

#### Next elections we intend to :

- Create a presentation and short film to send to schools in advance of the nomination and selection stage to get more interest in standing for election
- Posters promoting candidates in run up to election and in voting booth to have each team's top 3 issues they would like to improve as well as a sentence saying why vote for them
- Offer option of voting to be done by schools themselves in addition to us running polling station



## Special thanks

We would like to offer special thanks to the many people who contributed to the UK Youth Parliament elections this year. They really couldn't happen without the commitment and support of the teachers and school staff in promoting and supporting young people to stand for election and in hosting the polling stations. Our local councillors who have offer guidance and support through attending events and meetings with the young people as well as helping with the polling stations. NELC staff by helping run the polling stations with me and senior managers in supporting all youth voice work through events and meetings. Not forgetting the young people who voted and the candidates supported by their families. There is a lot of hard work and effort which goes into campaigning and standing up to represent other young people and try to make difference in the world. We look forward to working with young people and others in the future on the UK Youth Parliament campaigns.

A huge thank you goes to our outgoing Member and Deputy Member of Youth Parliament Salema Khatun and Alfie Hallett. We wish you all the very best in your futures and hope you will take the experiences and happy memories with you always.

**Finally, Congratulations and good luck to our new Member and Deputy Member of Youth Parliament**

## Zachary Steeles and Max Kerrigan



For more information about the UK Youth Parliament Elections in North East Lincolnshire please contact Pippa Curtin 01472 323298 [pippa.curtin@nelincs.gov.uk](mailto:pippa.curtin@nelincs.gov.uk)