

**Bristol City
Youth
Council
Manifesto
2024-26**



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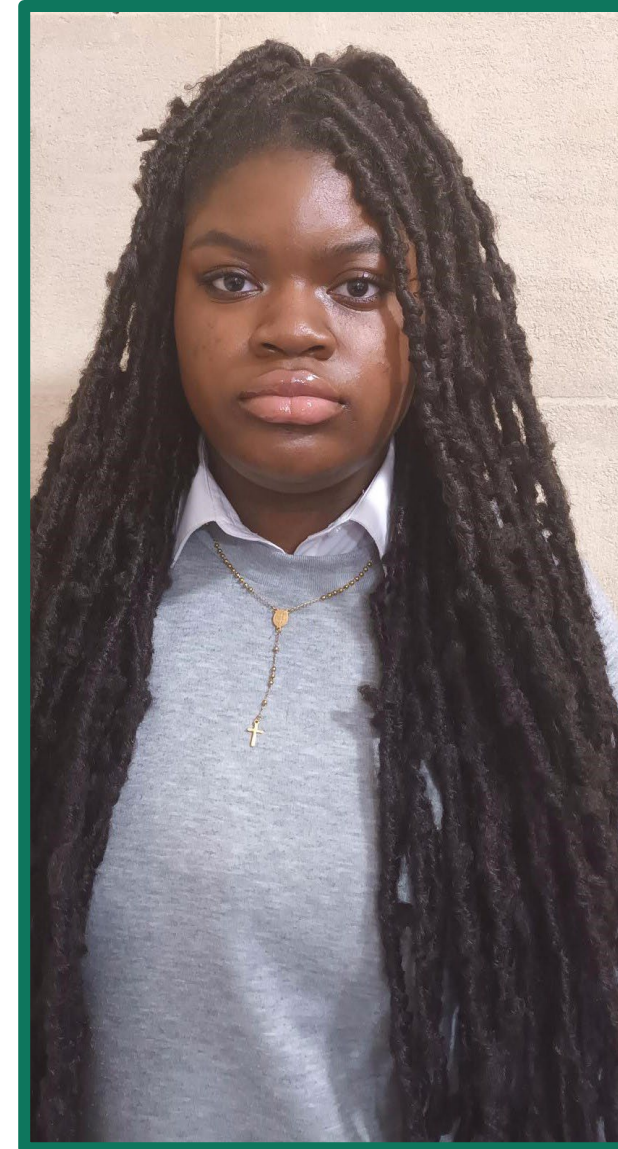
Chairperson's Introduction

"The Bristol City Youth Council (BCYC) comprises of driven individuals that embody the spirit of activism and engagement. We advocate for the issues that matter most to young people and the main aim of BCYC is to represent the voices of young people in Bristol.

Everyone regardless of Sexuality, Gender, Race, Special Educational Needs and cultural background deserves to be represented alongside the importance of having the voices of the young people of Bristol listened to. As a youth council we work to elevate these voices to power.

Within this manifesto we will be explaining about the City-Wide Campaign, Community leads, Area Youth Forums and the United Kingdom Youth Parliament."

--- Mary Akinboroye (Chairperson)



About the Bristol City Youth Council



The Bristol City Youth Council consists of 29 young people elected by young people in 3 different ways:

- ❖ 18 young people are voted in through the Bristol Youth Vote where they stand for election within their school/ youth organisation.
- ❖ 5 young people are elected through their equality groups.
- ❖ 6 young people are elected through their areas.

This ensures a wide representation of this city's young people.

Over a two-week period, young people across Bristol took part in the Bristol Youth Vote, 8,956 votes were cast and we were officially elected on the 9th February 2024.

The Bristol City Youth Council is a 2-year term of office. Young people have 2 meetings a month, one formal meeting and one campaign meeting as well as other opportunities to support and engage young people and organisations that are working on issues affecting young people in Bristol.

Our City-Wide Campaign - Knife Crime and Safety

In October 2023 BCYC held its annual youth voice conference. At this conference over 120 young people from across Bristol attended and were asked to vote for their top issue. The most important issue that came from this conference was Knife Crime and Safety. This became the city-wide campaign for the newly elected young people in February 2024.

The BCYC works as a group to represent the voices of young people in Bristol. Together we have gathered opinions of young people and aim to raise awareness surrounding knife crime, safety and various linked aspects. We strive to ensure that young people feel safe in their surroundings. To do this we will work with local young people, police, decision makers, educational departments and youth workers to help everyone feel safer in the city.



In April we took part in a 2-day residential where we explored what safety means for young people which allowed us to break down this campaign, we have identified 4 sub-groups these are:

- ❖ Knife Crime
- ❖ Prevention, education and welfare
- ❖ Police and crime
- ❖ Safer Environments and Communities

Campaign sub-groups

Knife Crime:

The topic of knife crime was chosen by the young people in Bristol, as many places, including Bristol, have been hit massively with the increase of knife related violence. As a group we hope to reduce the risk for young people. We aim to do this by raising awareness and working with decision makers and higher authorities.

Prevention, Education and Welfare:

The Prevention, Education and Welfare group are focusing on educating young people on how to prevent and recognise unsafe situations. This will include working with schools to find out what support there is for young people in regards to mental health and safety. This group is all about addressing the root causes to ensure the wellbeing of young people in Bristol.

Police and Crime:

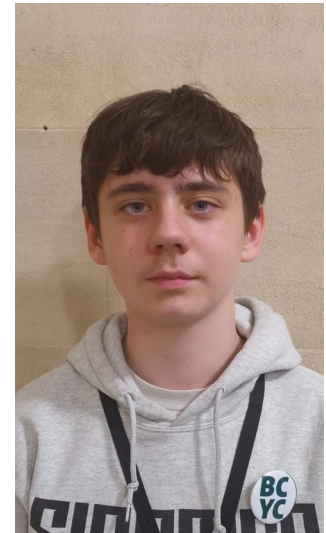
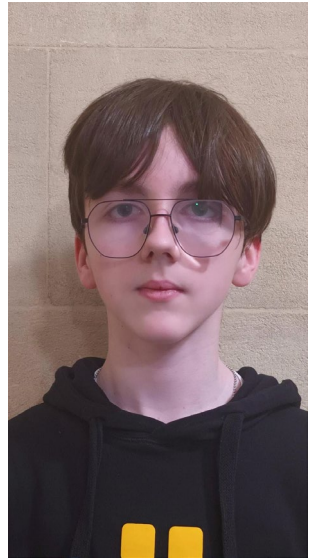
The Police and Crime subgroup aims to find out what the police are working on in relation to young people. We want to find out what is being done to improve relationships between the police and the youth, building trust and making them feel safer around them. We also want to find out what is being done to improve the city's crime rate in relation to young people, making sure that they feel secure and safe.

Safer communities and environments:

The safer communities and environments sub group aims to achieve safe surroundings for all within the community so that they feel they can express themselves freely and have an environment that doesn't make them feel unsafe or endangered. We want to work with local young people, and higher authorities that have the same passion for safety as we do in order to resolve the issues we stand for through social media and contact in schools and other organisations. With their support we want to ensure that people feel safe in their surroundings by creating fun and enjoyable spaces. We need to make sure that young people in Bristol have safe spaces to go to.

Community Leads

- Following the city's vote to no longer have a Mayor, BCYC decided to replace the role of the Youth Mayors with 3 Community Leads. This shows the focus of the youth council to represent the young people from the areas they come from as well as Bristol as a whole.
- A Community Leads role is to try and ensure that every young person across Bristol has a voice that is heard. Community leads jobs are to feedback what young people in their area have said to ensure that action takes place.
- We hope to work with people in the communities including senior practitioners, community organisations and local councilors, to ensure that they are hearing as many young people's voices as possible and focusing on the local communities within Bristol.
- Each area has a community lead, there are three areas which are North, South and East Central.



Area Youth Forums

We have area youth forums three times a year in each of the three areas. Many young people attend to share their views on the issues affecting the youth of Bristol. This means that we as a youth council are visible to young people and continuing to hear their voices throughout our term.

Following the area youth forums, we will have a Youth Voice Conference, to highlight the issues coming from the area youth forums. This will be held on the 6th of November during National Youth Work Week.



Some of the issues that have come from the area youth forums are:

- Knife crime and safety
- Specific areas where some young people feel unsafe.
- Shoplifting and the effects on community
- Made to feel like criminals in certain shops– age discrimination
- Need for more lighting in certain areas.
- Lack of activities and youth provision
- Racial profiling from security guards

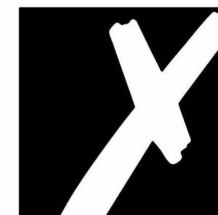
UKYP

UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) are elected members who represent young people regionally and nationally.

We aim to elevate the voices and issues of young people in Bristol across the country.

There has been a lot of disruption regarding the role of being a Member of Youth Parliament due to the closure of the British Youth Council but in May 2024 we received the great news that the National Youth Agency would be taking on the responsibilities of the UKYP programme.

We cannot wait to see what this looks like going forward as well as our first South West regional Conference in July, National Youth conference in October and the House of Commons sitting next March.



United Kingdom

Youth Parliament
MAKING OUR MARK

Closing Remarks

As the Bristol City Youth Council, we are aware that emerging issues may arise for young people in Bristol over our term and we will ensure that we listen and take these into account if and when they come up.

Our youth are crucial for societal progress, bringing fresh perspectives, innovation, and energy, shaping the future with their unique potential.

However, we are unable to make change alone. We ask for any support and assistance from adults to help ensure the success of our campaigns.

For more information or to get in contact with the youth council please see our details below:

Email: ywpartipation@bristol.gov.uk

Instagram: @bristolcityyouthcouncil