

Rotherham Early Help and Family Engagement

UK Youth Parliament Rotherham Election Information Pack 2022-2024

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Early Help Participation, Voice and Influence Team

Email: sarah.bellamy@rotherham.gov.uk or matt.ellis@rotherham.gov.uk

Tel: 01709 822128 Mobile: 07584174878

What is the UK Youth Parliament?

UK Youth Parliament

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 young people aged 11-18 years old to use their voice in creative ways to bring about social change.

UKYP was launched at the House of Commons in July 2009, and held its first sitting in February 2011 in London. There are currently over 350 elected MYP's (Member of Youth Parliament) in the UK. You can read more about UKYP by visiting www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk

Members of Youth Parliament

Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs) in Rotherham are elected bi-annually and serve a two year term of office. They are elected via a borough wide vote to represent the voice of young people in Rotherham on a local, regional and national level.

In Rotherham we have two MYPs and two Deputy MYPs (DMYPs). The two candidates with the highest borough wide vote will be elected as MYPs and the candidates with the third and fourth highest votes will become deputies.

If for any reason a MYP has to give up their position, the Deputy MYP with the next highest vote will become MYP.

An elected MYP and DMYP will be expected to:

- Attend all UKYP local meetings and events with fellow MYP's and the Participation, Voice & Influence Team
- Represent the voices of young people in Rotherham on a local, regional and national level
- Meet regularly with the Rotherham Youth Cabinet
- MYPs will attend and participate in all regional and national meetings, events, conventions, annual sitting and the House of Commons debate. DMYPs will deputise in their place if an MYP is unable to attend, in particular the Annual Sitting and House of Commons debate.
- Actively take part in the UKYP national campaigns
- To adhere to the UKYP constitution / rule book
- To be a professional and responsible member of the UK Youth Parliament
- Promote the work of UK Youth Parliament and Youth Voice
- Ensure that the work of UKYP is not affiliated with any political party
- If an elected MYP/DMYP turns 19 years of age during their period in office, they must step down on the day before their 19th birthday.

Being a Member of Youth Parliament for Rotherham

What does it mean to be a Member of Youth Parliament in Rotherham?

Being an MYP or DMYP is a very exciting opportunity. Throughout your 2 year term of office you will have the chance to get involved in a range of activities.

For example, MYPs and DMYPs meet with MPs and local councillors, organise events, run campaigns, make speeches, hold debates, and ensure the views of young people are listened to by decision makers.

But the most important aspect of any MYPs and DMYPs job is to make sure they represent the views of young people in their area.

The two MYPs and two DMYPs in Rotherham are supported on a day to day basis by staff from the Participation, Voice and Influence Team within RMBC during their two year term.

Commitment and Expectations

Members of Youth Parliament in Rotherham serve a two year term (1st March 2022 till 28th February 2024).

MYPs and DMYPs in Rotherham are expected to attend all meetings (local, regional and national). If a MYPs/ DMYP is unable to attend a meeting they must inform staff at least 24 hours prior to the event unless in exceptional circumstances. If an MYP fails to attend 3 or more meetings / events without sending their apologies they may be asked to step down and forego their position as a MYPs or DMYPs for Rotherham.

Meetings and events

MYPs and DMYPs in Rotherham are expected to act professionally and responsibly when attending meetings and events. Any MYPs and DMYPs who doesn't adhere to the code of conduct will be given a verbal warning and then a written warning at which point they will be asked to step down and forego their position as an MYPs and DMYPs for Rotherham.

During their two year term MYPs and DMYPs will be asked to attend the following:

- **Local UKYP Meetings:** MYPs and DMYPs will come together every 4 weeks to work on their national campaign, complete relevant paper work and plan their future work. The meetings are held on a Tuesday evening, 5pm till 7pm at Riverside House Rotherham.
- **Rotherham Youth Cabinet Meetings:** The Rotherham Youth Cabinet meet on a weekly basis, 5pm till 7 pm at Riverside House usually on Wednesdays. We would expect MYPs and DMYPs to attend these meetings as much as possible (except when UKYP meetings are on the same week at Youth Cabinet Meetings).

- **Town Hall Meetings:** Every two months a meeting is held in the Town Hall Chamber for Youth Cabinet and MYPs to feed back on their work, campaigns, activities and achievements. These are held usually on Thursdays, 5pm until 7 pm. It is expected MYPs and DMYPs will attend these meetings. If for any reason no MYPs can attend, a written report must be sent prior to the meeting.
- **Regional Conventions:** Conventions take place three times a year (June, October & January) and are an opportunity for MYP's and Youth Councillors from across Yorkshire and Humber to come together, share good practice and learn from each other. The conventions take place at venues across Yorkshire and Humber
- **Yorkshire and Humber Residential:** The Yorkshire and Humber regional residential is for MYP's and Youth Councillors from across Yorkshire and Humber to come together for a weekend in March (Friday till Sunday) to undertake training, participate in planning workshops and finding out about youth voice work in the region.
- **Annual Sitting:** The annual sitting happens once a year in July (Friday to Sunday) at a venue in the UK. MYP's from across the UK come together to start planning for Make Your Mark. During the weekend MYP's will take part in the 'Big Debate' where they will debate new issues for the British Youth Council's manifestos. If either MYP can't attend, a Deputy MYP will be invited to attend in their place.
- **House of Commons:** The House of Commons sitting is an annual event for MYP's only from across the UK. MYP's come together in the House of Commons on a Friday in November to debate the top five issues chosen from the Make Your Mark Ballot. At the end of the debates MYP's will vote for the national campaign. If either MYP can't attend, a Deputy MYP will be invited to attend in their place.
- Additional meetings as and when required

Support to attend meetings and events

MYP's and DMYPs are expected to make their own way to and from any meeting or event that is held within Rotherham. If travel costs or transport are an issue to you please speak to a member of the team who will try to make appropriate arrangements to ensure you can attend.

For meetings and events that are held outside of Rotherham the Participation, Voice, Influence and Team will book and pay for transport to enable MYP's to attend.

A member of the Participation, Voice, and Influence Team will accompany MYP's and DMYPs to all meetings and events during their two year term.

Campaigns

Make Your Mark

Make Your Mark is the largest youth ballot in the UK and is the core for the primary UK Youth Parliament campaigns.

Make Your Mark takes place every year and is a ballot sheet which lists 10 issues, young people aged 11 to 18 years old are asked to vote for the one issue that is most important to them. The top five issues from across the UK are then taken to the House of Commons to be debated by MYP's before voting for the national campaign.

MYPs and DMYPs in Rotherham are expected to support and enable young people to complete the ballot.

Local Campaign

The issue that is voted as the most important issue for young people in Rotherham in the Make Your Mark ballot will become the local campaign (12 month campaign) for Rotherham Youth Cabinet. They will lead the campaign with support from MYP's and DMYPs.

National Campaign

The campaign that is voted as the National Campaign at the House of Commons will become the campaign MYPs/DMYPs work on for that year (12 month campaign).

Applying to become an MYP for Rotherham

How do I become an MYP in Rotherham?

To become an MYP you have to be elected by other young people in an official UKYP election.

Any young person who is a resident in the UK, and aged between 11 and 18 years old (inclusive) has the right to stand for election as an MYP and the right to vote for their MYP.

Each Local Authority in England represents a Youth Parliament Constituency. The number of MYPs allocated to each constituency varies depending on the number of young people who live in that area. There are **two MYP positions** available in Rotherham.

To apply to become a Rotherham MYP you must live, work, be educated or volunteer in the area for 14+ hours a week to be eligible.

The application process

Any young person who is interested in standing to be a MYP must complete an Expression of Interest Form and return it to the Participation, Voice and Influence Team, Early Help and Family Support Services, First Floor Wing B, Riverside House, Main Street, Rotherham, S60 1QY or email it to sarah.bellamy@rotherham.gov.uk. The deadline for expression of interest forms is **Friday 8th January 2022**.

Tuesday 12th January from 5 till 6.30 pm at Riverside House Rotherham, the current MYP's and the Participation, Voice and Influence Team are holding a 'what to expect session' for any young person who is interested in applying to become an MYP to learn more about the role, the application process and to ask any questions. We would strongly encourage you to try and attend this if you are planning to stand for election.

Any young person wishing to apply to become a Member of Youth Parliament in Rotherham is asked to complete a manifesto template about the issues they are passionate about. Current MYPs and Participation, Voice and Influence Team will support with this process.

Please note that if you are elected as an MYP your campaign may not be worked on locally in Rotherham but will be submitted to the British Youth Council to be included in their manifesto list.

Monday 25th January: Deadline for submission of completed Manifesto templates to be received by the Participation, Voice and Influence Team.

Wednesday 10th February: Elections to commence in schools and other young people's organisations. Elections are anonymous and based on the information contained within the manifestos rather than the individual. Each candidate will be allocated a letter and young people will vote for the candidate based on the information they provide and the issues they feel are the most important. Young people will vote by placing a cross in the box alongside the candidate they feel would represent them the best.

Thursday 25th February: Count of votes by Rotherham Electoral Services and Participation, Voice and Influence Team and announcement of new MYPs and DMYPs at the Town Hall Chamber at 5 pm.

1st March 2020: Term of office commences.

Campaigning

Elections for MYPs in Rotherham are anonymous to prevent favouritism, prejudice etc. This ensures voting is purely based on the issues each candidate feels are important. Due to this, we do not encourage any form of individual campaigning.

However, we do encourage all young people trying to ensure as many young people as possible have the opportunity to vote for their MYPs and to promote the opportunity in schools, colleges and other young people's groups.

Promotional Material

A generic UK Youth Parliament voting poster will be available in February 2022.

"It has been a great honour to represent the views of Rotherham's young people. It has been hard work and sometimes quite overwhelming at times but I learned to so much along the way and it was amazing."

"UKYP is a great platform to bring about change and scrutinise the actions of policy makers. Being an MYP is a respected position and people in government and in the council will take concerns and suggestions on board. On top of this it's a great to make friends with other young people that care about change."

Further Support and Information

If any candidate requires further information about the UK Youth Parliament and the role of an MYP in order to help them decide whether to stand for election, please speak to or email:

Sarah Bellamy on sarah.bellamy@rotherham.gov.uk – mobile 07584174878

Or

Matt Ellis on matt.ellis@rotherham.gov.uk – mobile 07887057455

Application Form

**UK Youth Parliament Application Form
2020/2022**

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 young people aged 11-18 years old to use their voice in creative ways to bring about social change.

UKYP was launched at the House of Commons in July 2009, and held its first sitting in February 2011 in London. There are currently over 350 elected MYP's.

If you would like run in the UKYP Rotherham elections to become a member of the UKYP, then please complete this short application form and return to us either via email to sarah.bellamy@rotherham.gov.uk or to Participation, Voice and Influence Team, Early Help and Family Support, First Floor Wing B, Riverside House, Rotherham, S60 1QY by Wednesday 6 January 2022.

Name	
Date of Birth	
Age	
Address	
Telephone Number	
Email Address	
Name of School, College or Work Place	
Your Signature	
Parent/Carer's Signature	

*By signing this form you are declaring that you can commit to the requirements outlined in this document