

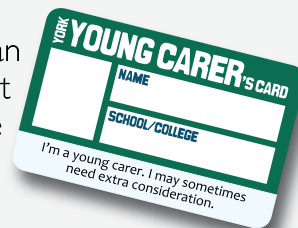
UK Youth Parliament

UK Youth Parliament is a UK-wide organisation that represents young people's views on a national basis. On 25 January, Castlegate played host to the election to choose three young people to become York's Members of the Youth Parliament (MYPs) and represent York's youth in this national forum. Poppy Hindby-Smith, Ella Boorman and Harry Luck have since attended a training residential and regional meetings for Yorkshire and Humberside.

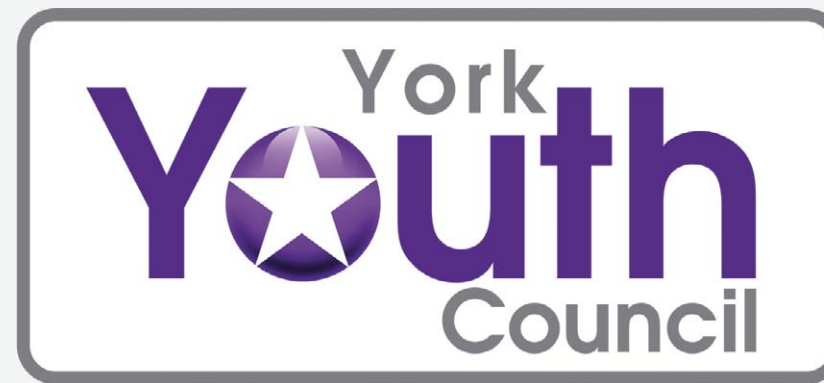
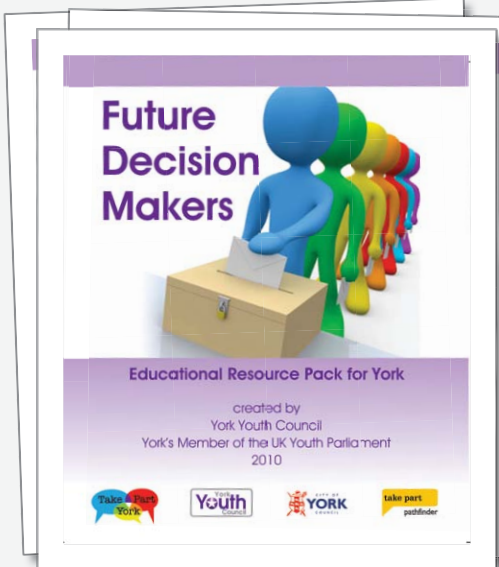
MYP campaigns

★ YOUNG CARERS: The regional campaign this year is to support young carers. In York a card has been created with York Carers Centre that will enable young carers to ask for a little extra consideration and receive the support they need in education. This is being piloted in York College, Askham Bryan College, All Saints School and Huntington School from September 2011.

The card was launched on 19 September, in an event to raise awareness of the pilot project with headteachers. It is hoped they will be encouraged to involve their own secondary schools from September 2012.



★ FUTURE DECISION-MAKERS: The packs of political education lessons that were created last year have been updated with information about the new York Councillors. The fabulous resource is being shared with MYPs across the region to enhance political education in Yorkshire and Humberside.



Young people.
Working together.
Improving York.



John Bercow MP

York's MYPs and Youth Council hosted a meeting with John Bercow MP to showcase the work of young people in York. The audience was made up of primary and secondary school pupils and politics students.

House of Commons

The House of Commons event was a fantastic opportunity to air the views of young people from across the country to national decision makers including the Children's Minister, Tim Loughton and former Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott. Not only was it a great opportunity to represent young people, but also to demonstrate to the wider public that the stereotypes of young people aren't true and that we were more capable than in having a mature debate (better than actual MPs, according to the Speaker John Bercow).

Interested in getting involved?

If you'd like to get involved in York Youth Council, visit us at www.yorkyouthcouncil.co.uk or contact Sarah Nicholson on 01904 552355.

MYP and Positive Images pictures: The Press, York. Architect's rendering: Constructive Individuals, York. Other images by Natalie Harney, Jennifer Todman, Ewan Main and City of York Council. Design and layout by ewanyork.co.uk



A year for youth

Twenty-six young people have been nominated to represent the youth of York from schools, colleges and youth groups. This year we have worked with the old and new Councillors of the city. We campaigned to ensure young people are not unfairly targeted by the cuts to the public sector.

We are proud to announce that we have worked creatively with partners to achieve success in our three campaigns: positive images, the Festival of Youth, and our ongoing campaign for a city-centre venue for young people.

Our big issues

City centre venue

A continued campaign from last year is to open a city centre venue for young people. By popular vote of the Youth Councillors, the cafe will have fair trade products and an ethical purchasing policy.

The lease of the building is in its final stages, and now the Youth Council is focusing on enabling young people to be involved in the steering group and creating the identity of this special place.



Festival of Youth

The second Festival of Youth was a great success despite the weather. All the acts had a great time entertaining crowds of onlookers both young and old, and the day proved to be a fantastic showcase of York's young talent.

The Youth Council is really proud of this year's festival as it met our aims to organise an enjoyable day showing young people in a good light. We really hope that, if this becomes an annual event, next year the weather will be on our side.

Change Champions

Change Champions is York Youth Council's initiative to make sure that young people (including those at primary school) can meet with local service providers to discuss issues relevant to their ward. They then create an action plan to make a positive change where it is needed. These meetings are run by young people who have been trained in facilitation.



Positive images

Young people in York told us they were concerned about the negative media stereotype of teenagers. This negative image creates a division between the generations and is not helpful to our community.

This year we set out on an ambitious campaign, hosting an exhibition at the City Screen for a month that challenged the negative media image and gave a view about how young people feel they are misunderstood by their community.

A performance by young people on the main stage at the York Carnival bridged the gap between the generations by showing some of our common interests: music, fashion and *Doctor Who*.



And much more...

★ **CITY BEAUTIFUL:** we looked at four key themes: development sites, streets, parks & river, and city walls.

★ **CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL:** we have done a walk around the footstreets of York looking at how the city can be improved for residents and visitors without compromising its heritage.

★ **TRANSPORT CONSULTATION:** we prioritised and advised on the most effective use of the limited available funding.

★ **POVERTY CONSULTATION:** Youth Councillors helped by finding out what 200 people in York think.

★ **LOCAL SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE:** the reduction in money to local authorities means services need to be prioritised. York Youth Council has contributed to the decisions by saying what are the most important services for young people in York.

★ **POLICE MEETING:** we attended a meeting of police in the North Yorkshire area at their head office.

★ **INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN YOUR SCHOOL COUNCIL:** we discussed how things can be made more accessible for young people in York's schools.

★ **WORKSHOP FOR NEW COUNCILLORS:** we discussed how the Youth Council and Councillors can work together to improve York for young people.

★ **HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY:** Dionne Pentland attended the service at Clifford's Tower followed by the event at the Merchant Adventurer's Hall.

★ **AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL QUILT SQUARE:** we made a square for a large quilt made by voluntary groups in York commemorating 50 years of Amnesty International. The completed quilt will be displayed in York Minster.

