



CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON  
**YOUTH**  
COUNCIL

# **YOUTH COUNCIL**

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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# Introduction

The Youth Council have established clear priorities with aims to progress three campaigns; Food for Learning, School Recycling, and the Voice of Pupils in school. We hope to continue to champion these priorities in 2024.

This report will highlight what we have achieved this year and the opportunities that we have had to coproduce services and influence decision makers in the city.



Jaipal Uppal  
Youth Council Chair



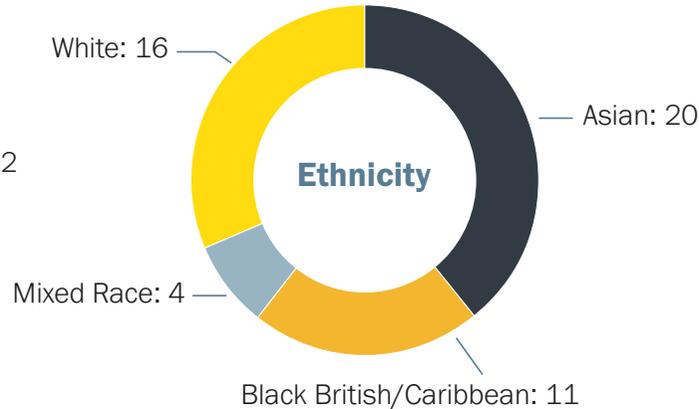
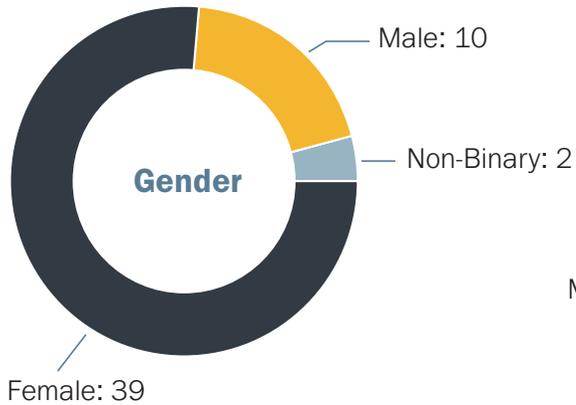
Greg MacDonald  
Youth MP



Harleen Nahel  
Youth Council

# Demographics of the Youth Council

In total **fifty-one young people** participated in the Youth Council during 2023.



## School representation



**All but one** secondary school in the city has been represented.



## Youth Council Meetings

We have had **16 Youth Council Meetings** during the year. Our average attendance is **24 young people**.

Where possible members of the Youth Council are encouraged to attend meetings face to face however, we do offer a virtual option and can hold hybrid meetings so young people can take part online.

Meetings throughout the year have been held at the Civic Centre with small group meetings operating from the Coproduction Hub.

# City of Wolverhampton Council Wards and number of Youth Councillors



## Wolverhampton

Bilston East	3
Bilston North	3
Blakenhall	4
Bushbury North	5
Bushbury South and Low Hill	2
East Park	4
Ettingshall	4
Fallings Park	1
Graiseley	4
Heath Town	3
Merry Hill	1
Oxley	1
Park	2
Penn	3
St Peters	2
Tettenhall Regis	2
Wednesfield North	2
Wednesfield South	1

## Others

Coseley East	1
Featherstone	1
Perton East	1
Pleck	1
Willenhall South	1

### Youth Council Representatives per school

Aldersley High School	2	
Colton Hills Community School	1	
Coppice Performing Arts School High	2	
Heath Park School	2	
Highfields School	3	
Khalsa Academy	2	+ 1 Youth PCC
Moreton School	2	+ 1 Youth MP
Moseley Park	2	
Ormiston New Academy	2	
Ormiston SWB Academy	2	
Royal School	2	+1 Youth MP
Smestow Academy	2	
Our Lady and St Chad Catholic Academy	0	
St Edmunds Catholic Academy	3	+ Youth PCC
St Matthias School	2	
St Peters Collegiate Academy	2	+ 1 YC Comms Officer + 1 YC Secretary
St Regis C of E Academy	2	
Thomas Telford UTC	1	
Wednesfield High	2	
Wolverhampton Gammar School	2	+ YC Chair
Wolverhampton Girls High	2	+ 1 YC Secretary
Out of City	1	+ YC Vice Chair
X2Y	1	
Women and Family	1	
Resouce Centre	1	



BYC Convention, Nottingham



Members of Youth Council at Police Youth Summit with Keith Fraser retired a Superintendent and Chief Inspector of West Midlands Police

## Youth Council Campaigns



### School Recycling

Encourage Secondary Schools to recycle more.



### Voice of pupils in schools

Focus on looking how pupils get involved in coproduction in schools.



### Food for learning campaign

National campaign to focus on the cost of school meals with the aim of free school meals for all.



### Health

The Youth Council presented a report to the Childrens and Family Together Board on the views of young people from the Youth Council on Oral Health. We also attended the scrutiny review on Oral Health to discuss the issues facing the city on a local and national level.

The Youth Council were part of the coproduction of the Emotional Health and Well-being report with Anna Freud Centre, members of the group were part of the steering group that supported the process and one of the Youth Council meetings was dedicated to exploring the themes in more detail.



## Regeneration of the city

The Youth Council have been attending the City Invest Board which has given members a real opportunity to offer input into the key developments happening in the city and offer our comments.

As a result of this the Youth Council were part of the development of a video to be shared with potential investors that showed the positives of Wolverhampton and the opportunities available for development. The Youth Council engaged in every stage of the video production including the planning and pre-production as well as taking part in the filming both in front and behind the camera. This piece of work is known as the Area Prospectus and was presented during Wolverhampton Business Week at an event using the 360-degree Igloo Cinema screen at Wolverhampton University's Brownfield Institute Springfield Campus.

The Youth Council were also involved in the plans for the Open Spaces for the new Canalside development and have been involved in the discussions regarding the learning quarter. Members of the group also contributed to discussions regarding the plans for the redevelopment of an area of Bilston Market.



Youth Council at the Invest Board with robot dog



Youth Council Meeting

## Environment/Climate Change

This is an area that has been a keen focus of the Youth Council and started with an opportunity to understand how the City Council disposes of waste and recycles within the city. This learning has led to the development of a Youth Council policy aimed at promoting and improving school recycling which some members have adopted within their schools.

Members of the Youth Council have also attended the Climate Change Advisory Board and have developed further understanding of the priorities of that group. The Youth Council have contributed to the Council's Climate Change Strategy and met with the Head of Service for Green Cities where the Youth Council agreed to support a Big Lottery Application for funding on environmental issues in the Black Country.

## Education and Employment

The Youth Council have had the opportunity to meet with the Assistant Director of Education during the year to share their experiences regarding education. One discussion regarding Post 16 education has led to the development of a Post 16 review by the City Council. This review included the development of the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy for the city where the Youth Council members shaped the consultation and plans.





## Opportunities for Young People in the city



Members of the Youth Council alongside the #YES board have shaped the YO! Wolves' strategy which looks at how to get young people engaged in more wellbeing activities across the city. Previous consultations with the Youth Council have been used to develop this strategy including Make Your Mark.

The Youth Council have highlighted issues regarding cost of living for young people in the city and met with the City Council to understand the support available and have made recommendations to consider further. One of these is the price and quality of school meals in the city and has been linked to the Food for Learning Campaign recommended that Free School meals be available to all.

## Work with Decision Makers

The Youth Council continues to attend the City Council Scrutiny Panels and have attended all of the Children and Young People Scrutiny panels held this year. This has given the Youth Council the opportunity to ask questions and raise concerns to Councillors and Director's present about issues that directly affect the young people of the city. Members of the Youth Council have also been attending the Children and Family Together Board meetings and have contributed to the discussions as well as feeding back to the main group.

The Youth Council have had regular meetings with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People as well as Director's from Children's Services where they have had the opportunity to question and learn more about the services available to young people.



Youth Full Council

## Youth Voice Residential/ Have Fun

During the year young people on the Youth Council have had the opportunity to meet other young people from schools across the city at events and celebrations. These have included the annual Youth Voice residential where young people from all the city's Youth Voice groups can attend; this is an opportunity to network and have fun while offering us as the Youth Council the opportunity to find out more about the work the other groups have been doing.

In addition to this participant are invited to the Youth Voice Christmas party and many other activities or events taking place throughout the year.



Condover Residential 2023



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