



# UK Youth Parliament (UKYP)

## Application to be a Member of Youth Parliament

### 1. What is the UK Youth Parliament (UKYP)?

Run by young people for young people, the UK Youth Parliament (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 2001 in London. There are currently over 600 elected Member of Youth Parliament (MYPs) and Deputy Members of Youth Parliament (DMYPs).

### 2. What does it mean to be a MYP?

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

For example, MYPs 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 job is to make sure they represent the views of young people in their area.

MYPs are politically neutral (MYPs are required to act impartially and to represent the views of their constituents in their duties).

### 3. What's it all about and how does it work?

#### The aims

UKYP aims to give young people aged between 11-18 years of age a voice, which will be listened to by local, regional and national government, providers of services for young people and other agencies who have an interest in the views of young people.

It has an independent national identity that has a rolling programme of activities across the year, including an Annual sitting, a Sitting in the House of Commons and regional meetings.



## Objectives

- UKYP is composed of representatives between 11-18 years old
- UKYP ensures that the young people of the UK are given a voice on any issue that affects them, as laid out in Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child,
- UKYP gives the young people of the UK an opportunity to be involved in a democratic process at a national level
- UKYP empowers young people to take positive action within their local communities based upon issues of shared concern.
- UKYP is a non-party political organisation. They seek to represent no party political view.

## 4. The Structure

UKYP recognises the regional boundaries of the UK, as defined by the Government and has developed a regional group supported by a Regional Coordinator in each of the nine English regions. Agreements have been developed with the national youth agencies in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (the Scottish Youth Parliament, Funky Dragon – Wales, and the Northern Ireland Youth Forum) to ensure the young people in those areas are represented on UKYP. Each Local Authority (LA) across England represents a UKYP constituency. Each constituency has a minimum of one MYP elected as a representative to UKYP. The numbers of MYPs in each constituency depend upon the numbers of young people in that area, e.g. In North Yorkshire's case 3 young people are elected to the UKYP.

## 5. The role of MYPs - *During their term of office MYPs will:*

MYPs work with their MPs, councillors and local youth voice groups on the issues of greatest concern to their constituents.

Nationally, the views of young people are represented in the UKYP manifesto, which contains statements on the issues MYPs think are most important. To view the UKYP manifesto, please go to [www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk](http://www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk)

MYPs across the UK work to give young people a voice by:

- Listening to marginalized groups,
- Organising events, campaigns, etc.
- Meeting MPs,
- Lobbying for change,
- Appearing in the media, all to amplify the views of their peers.

MYPs are increasingly being recognised at a local and national level. Some local authorities have given their MYPs equal status to their MPs, and UKYP works hard to enable MYPs to meet regularly with Government Ministers, Members of the Opposition and civil servants.

The role does require a high level of commitment and whilst there is no set hours per week there are a number of key meetings throughout the year you will be required to attend, in order for an MYP to be eligible to attend the House of Commons sitting an MYP must have an attendance rate of no less than 75%, e.g. they must have attended at least 6 of the 8 key meetings leading up the sitting.



## 6. Support from North Yorkshire Council's Youth Voice and Creative Engagement Team.

If you are interested in becoming the MYP for North Yorkshire – you will need to:

- Attend all relevant meetings associated with the work of an MYP, this includes meetings and activities run by the Youth Assembly for York and North Yorkshire. The Youth Assembly will also support the work of the MYPs as required.
- Meet monthly with your supporting officer, and a minimum of 4 times a year with the other MYPs for North Yorkshire.
- Ensure that you represent the voice of young people in North Yorkshire

If you are successful in becoming an MYP for North Yorkshire, we will provide:

- A dedicated officer, to support you in your role as MYP for North Yorkshire
- Financial support where appropriate for your UKYP role e.g. travel expenses.
- Where appropriate, accompany you to meetings
- Assist with establishing meetings with local councillors/officers of the Council.

North Yorkshire will elect 3 MYPs. Four applicants will be shortlisted for each of the three areas, those shortlisted will be invited to write a manifesto for distribution across social media channels, schools and youth groups, young people across North Yorkshire will be able to vote for the three MYPs who will represent North Yorkshire using the same ballot as their Make Your Mark votes.

### Timetable

Event	Timescale
1. Closing date for young people wishing to stand as MYP, applications to be submitted.	<b>Nov 17<sup>th</sup> 2023</b>
2. MYP applicants shortlisted, 3 per area.	<b>Nov 24<sup>th</sup> 2023</b>
3. Names of shortlisted candidates for each area confirmed	<b>Nov 26<sup>th</sup> 2023</b>
4. MYPs elected by schools and youth group votes at the same time as MYM	<b>Feb 1<sup>st</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> 2024</b>
5. MYPs confirmed	<b>Mar 8<sup>th</sup> 2024</b>
6. MYP Induction and Training	<b>Apr 6<sup>th</sup> 2024</b>



**Application to become a Member of the Youth Parliament (MYP) 2022**

Name of Candidate:

DoB:

Address:

Contact tel. no:

Email address:

- Which of the areas would you like to represent: Central, East and West (*please circle your proposed area see district map below*)



**Your video** – please answer the following 3 questions in **under 2 minutes**, then send this form and your video to [chloe.thwaites@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:chloe.thwaites@northyorks.gov.uk) to apply. **Deadline 19<sup>th</sup> November**. You will be notified if you have been shortlisted by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November and then invited to an online manifesto writing workshop on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November.

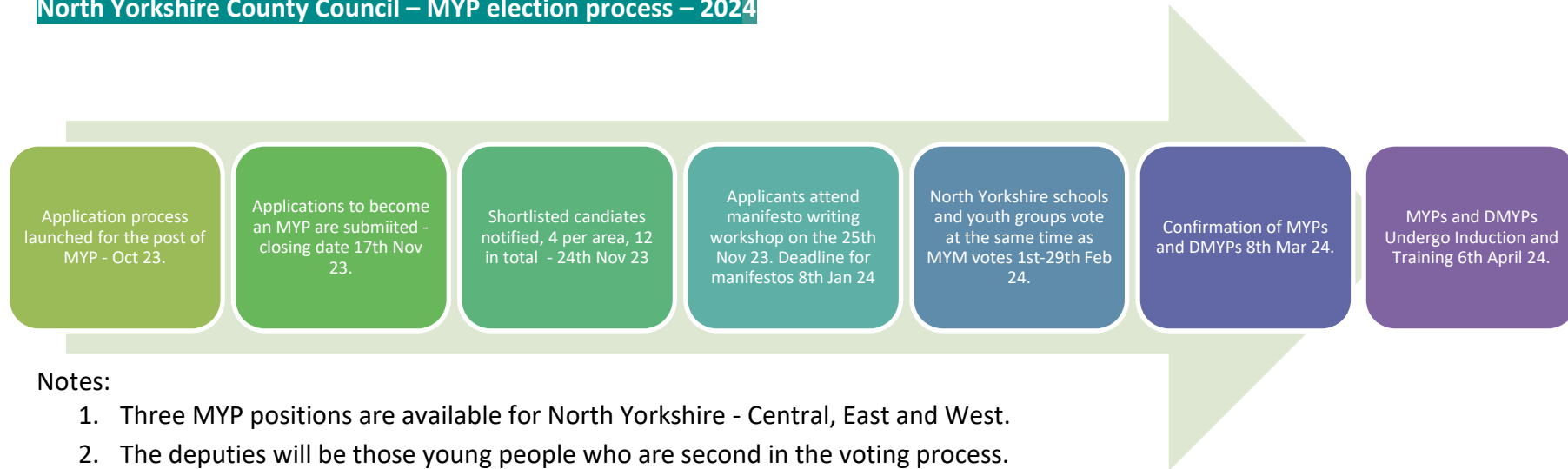
- What is the big issue for young people in North Yorkshire? What would you like to do about it?
- How will you represent all young people in your area?
- Why should young people vote for you?

**Signed:**..... **Date:**.....





## North Yorkshire County Council – MYP election process – 2024



### Notes:

1. Three MYP positions are available for North Yorkshire - Central, East and West.
  2. The deputies will be those young people who are second in the voting process.
  3. The MYP election process will take place every two years.
  4. 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – term of office commences.
  5. 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – term of offices closes.
- For more information on the UK Youth Parliament go to <http://www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk/>
  - For more information about the work of young people or the election of MYPs in North Yorkshire email [chloe.thwaites@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:chloe.thwaites@northyorks.gov.uk)

