

Milton Keynes Council



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Youth Cabinet Report: March, April & May 2009

March –April 2009

Elections

The elections took place during the weeks of 23rd March-3rd April. A total of 2500 young people voted in the elections (10% of the youth population in Milton Keynes). During the elections staff visited 10 schools to encourage and enable voting as well as give as much support to school staff as possible.

Election Announcements

The election announcements took place on 3rd April. Along with all candidates, parents, carers and friends were invited to join The Deputy Mayor, Dr Phyllis Starkey, Head of Youth Support and Play Services Sue Payne and Cllr Sandra Clark at a celebration event held in the Council Chambers, Civic Offices. This was a great event with a high turnout.



From left to right: The announcements in the chambers, the newly elected Youth Cabinet & UKYP members

Residential to Woodrow High House, High Wycombe

The newly elected members were invited to attend a three day residential aimed at introducing the group to their roles, team and skills building and getting the group to plan the year ahead. Activities included a workshop from Barnardos, a rope course & archery afternoon, public speaking, the first YCAB meeting and lots of fun!

During the residential the group decided on three campaigns which they will be working on across the coming year. The three campaigns are:

- A 3-in-1 concessions card, developed with transport providers and retailers, would act as an ID card for proof of age, a concessionary travelcard and a discount storecard for 13 to 19 year olds.
- A review of positive activities would seek to identify what activities are

available to teenagers in Milton Keynes, including investigative mystery shopping trips, and to fill any gaps in provision by working with youth activity providers. Emphasis would be placed on wider promotion of what's on, including championing the young people's website www.mysaymk.com and increased opportunities to showcase young people's talents in the sports and arts.

- A better health awareness campaign, kicking off with a conference around health issues to identify where and how young people would benefit from better awareness including examining the possibility of producing an appealing DVD on key teen health topics such as healthy eating and safe sexual health.

The young people really enjoyed the residential and bonded well as a group. Their enthusiasm and understanding of their role grew and it was the best start to their term. The young people will all receive an AQA in attending a Youth Cabinet Residential.



From left to right: UKYP members and the Youth Cabinet cambers at the residential

May 2009

First YCAB meeting

The first YCAB meeting was held on 6th May 2009. Gail Tolley & Sue Payne attend the meeting and listened to their campaign ideas and about the residential. The minutes of the meeting can be found at:

<http://www.mysaymk.com/positiveactivities/DisplayArticle.asp?ID=64752>

Environment & Policy Meeting

Buky Odunbaku (YCAB) and Sean Barnes (UKYP) attended a meeting with the Environment and Policy Development Panel where they were asked to give a five minute presentation on how they saw Milton Keynes in the year 2026. They gave an impressive presentation centred on transport options and activities for young people. They then answered the panel and audiences questions with careful consideration. Both found the event interesting and enlightening.

Campaign Groups

All campaign groups have met at least once. Here are the bullet points from each group:

3 in 1 card:

- Have contacted Trading Standards and have organised a meeting (July). Trading Standards have agreed to liaise with pass card on behalf on YCAB.
- Have contacted Metro Buses and are waiting upon a response
- Are organising a meeting with West Sussex's 3in1 card team to discuss how they went about getting their card up and running and how Milton Keynes can do the same
- They have created a petition for young people to sign in support of the scheme and have distributed it to the rest of YCAB
- Are researching which stores they would like to approach to support the scheme and give them discounts
- Are researching other discount and ID cards that are available to young people in Milton Keynes and how they could link into the 3in1 card

Health:

- Completed a graffiti wall at the Wider Youth Forum to assess what health issues young people would like more information on
- Are in the process of recruiting more young people to the campaign group as it is quite small
- Are collecting information about different health issues

Youth Provision:

- Have created and are distributing a survey to young people about what activities they like in Milton Keynes
- Are doing an audit of all the different activities in Milton Keynes through internet research and e-mails relevant professionals
- Are looking at organising some summer activities
- Are looking at attending some summer festivals to meet young people and promote their campaign

Wider Youth Forum

The Youth Cabinet organised a BBQ (26th May) for the first YCAB Wider Youth Forum. The objectives of which were:

- To introducing themselves to their constituents
- Introduce their campaigns for 2009/10

- Get feedback about their campaigns and advertise the opportunity for other young people to get involved
- Give their constituents an opportunity to voice youth issues to them directly
- To have fun and enjoy the opportunity for a social gathering

Over 40 young people along with 16 YCAB members attended the event. The three campaign groups presented their ideas and gathered important information through surveys and graffiti walls. More than 70% of the group wanted to hear more about the campaigns and were interested in getting more involved. Feedback from the event was good; however YCAB felt they needed to invest more time to organise such a large event.

UKYP meeting

The UKYP members met together and have all registered to UKYP and have received their introduction pack. They have also all voted for their national campaign. UKYP's next meeting will be June 09.