

Appendix B

Current UK Youth Parliament members

1. James Saker

My aim is to help as many young (particularly Syrian) refugees fleeing to the UK as possible, especially in Barnet, and, perhaps, surrounding boroughs. To do this, my UKYP manifesto is to make an app which will help them locate and use services for which they are eligible for, but are not led towards, for example mental health services. I understand that the vast majority of Syrians have mobile phones (there are 87 mobiles for every 100 Syrians) [1], however, I do not know how many have smartphones.

Of course, my app would have to be in two languages – English and Arabic – so as to reach as many as refugees I can. I would like it to be accessible on both Apple and Android (again, so as to reach as many refugees as possible). However, as its mobiles are generally cheaper, and many refugees are in poverty, I think that Android would be more of a priority. For the same reason, my app will be free I do not know the cost of the development of a basic app, although I do know that a previous MYP who also developed an app is in the process of making one with £10,000 funding.

I should note that a big challenge of making my manifesto worthwhile will be getting people to know about it. To do this, I aim to put posters and other awareness material in schools and mosques, to a big extent. I will also try to get people to distribute information about the app via word of mouth, as well as any other helpful details (e.g. how to get a library card) which would help those in need.

[1] (2014) <http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/surprised-that-syrian-refugees-have-smartphones-well-sorry-to-break-this-to-you-but-youre-an-idiot-10489719.html>

2. Rai Alzarif Elbobo

It is a great achievement to have the honour of representing young people in Barnet. I have worked hard to earn the young people's trust, and I will always work hard to make sure that I don't betray this trust and I will always take their best interests into consideration. Though it is going to prove difficult to get young people interested and involved in activities related to my campaign, I have a clear plan and vision of how I am going to involve them. Hereby, I will explain how I am planning to achieve the targets of my campaign and how I intend to insure their voice be heard.

As I stated in my manifesto, the purpose of my campaign is to educate students about the different concepts of travel safety as well as ensuring that they commute

safely no matter what their commuting method is. That's why, I believe in creating a safety zone among schools; this will be a secure area around each school and will be implemented and supported by School and Student Councils around Barnet.

What is the idea and purpose of a safety zone? A safety zone is a secure area around each school and will ensure that young people's commuting rights aren't violated. The 'Safety Zone' is aimed at students who travel by walking and will ensure they aren't exposed to bullying, theft or sexual harassment. In addition, the 'Safety Zones' are meant to encourage students to travel in a group or in pairs to avoid unnecessary incidents. Moreover, for those who walk through a 'footpath' or a deserted area, I will strongly support the action of equipping these areas by CCTV cameras that can help us detect suspicious activities. Furthermore, I will encourage students to use apps where the location of a young person can be identified and instant help can be supported when needed such as 'life 360'. These apps are already out there, it's just a matter of making young people aware of the benefits of using them.

Another aspect of my campaign is running workshops to enlighten young people using Public Transport about different suspicious situations they may encounter. We will perform sketches where real-life scenarios are presented to focus on a certain situation which young people may face while commuting on public transport (this will make the awareness campaign more enjoyable). The idea is to get young people to think about the external consequences affecting those involved in sceptic situations. Then a further discussion will be aroused in which expert's advice students and suggest more professional, effective and practical ways of dealing with the problem. To make my idea clearer, I 'd like to give an example. " On a Friday evening when Amina was returning by herself using the bus to go back home from school, one of the passengers is drunk. He began to sexually grooming her ... How would she behave? What shall she do or what shall young witnesses do? Discussion will be aroused, and resolution shall be given.

In addition, students' anti- social behaviour on TFL can widely influence acts of violence. We should tackle this problem since it has a major consequence on young people and different parties. To achieve that, a Barnet hotline could be established where public passengers can report a student's inappropriate behaviour which can then be recorded by Barnet and re-directed to the school where responsible staff can deal with the situation.

Furthermore, I will work with the British Youth Council to assist with the national campaign, Don't Hate Educate, to arouse the awareness against 'racism' and 'religious discrimination'. This will definitely provide students with confidence and a feeling of security as it directly tackles issues in school and while commuting.

I hope I will be able to satisfy my duties as a Member of the Youth Parliament and I believe that I will make a difference in Barnet's community. I also promises those

who put their confidence in me that I will work up to their expectations. Together, we will make a difference because I believe in the saying: 'Where there is a will, there is a way. If there is a chance in a million that you can do something, anything, to keep what you want from ending, do it.'

3. Odysseas Matziounis

Youth Poverty

Today, it is well known to all of us that there is widespread problem of poverty and low living standards in the whole of the UK. This affects particularly the youth which is one of the most vulnerable social groups. Characteristically, there are reports that say that there are thousands of young people today without roofs over their heads. Moreover, there are schools in Britain that over half their students have free lunch passes due to low family income. Furthermore there hundreds of families whose only income is the child benefit. So we are not talking about children who can't get the latest video games, but for children that don't have the essentials to live.

To tackle this problem effectively, we need to raise awareness first. More people need to learn about the current situation in some parts of Britain. There should be attention drawn to the figures surrounding the issue and more research in order to get a clearer view of the present situation. There can be a lot of measures taken to tackle these issues. Some examples that the campaign could include are:

- Priority for homeless people with children for jobs that not many skills are necessary.
- Increasing the tax free boundary.
- Give incentives to businessmen and women to hire people that have underage children and face problems.
- Prioritize people that are growing children for council housing.
- Tougher penalties for taking financial advantage of young people.
- Job creation for the youth by making available opportunities in the primary and secondary sector, that unfortunately are not known or accessible for a large part of the youth that need it.
- Tax free rent for young people, so landlords are able to lower the rent.

Youth and Crime Rates

Nowadays, the rise of gangs in the UK is evident. Young people are in danger because of elements in society that have no respect for the rule of law. Only in London there are thousands of gang members and drug and drinking culture slowly but steadily become the norm. These developments require decisive action both against the perpetrators, in support of the victims and as warnings to potential perpetrators. Such actions could be:

- More frequent patrols in schools.
- Constant police or other form of authority presence in schools, youth centers, libraries etc. in so called “dodgy” areas
- Rewards for young people that give information to the authorities for illegal activities, with assurance of confidentiality.
- Psychological and financial support for young people who have been harmed by gang culture
- Job creation for former gang members.

4. Sam Gold

My campaign is based around children who have special needs. Some of my aims are:

- To try to make life easier for young people with disabilities by raising awareness of what it means to have a disability and what some of the challenges are that they and their families face every day.
- To campaign for their rights, especially their right to have many of the basics that those of us without disabilities take for granted.
- To help children with disabilities feel more part of our community, be it by starting new clubs, or helping existing clubs get more help; be it with training on how to help children with special needs, or helping them or the schools and groups they attend get more resources.