

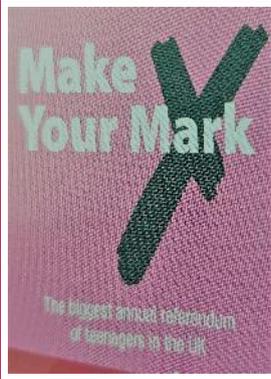


# Somerset Manifesto

## 2019- 2021



**SOMERSET**  
County Council



# About UKYP

The Somerset UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) is part of the national UKYP and is affiliated to the British Youth Council (The BYC) The BYC supports about 400 elected representatives from counties across the nation. The BYC works closely with central Government.

In Somerset three Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs) were elected by their peers, along with three Deputies, in December 2018.

The MYPs have a 2-year term of office and they, along with the open Somerset UKYP Advisory reference group, represent 11 to 18 year olds on issues which are important to them. UKYP empowers young people to take positive action within their local communities based on issues of shared concern.

Somerset Youth Parliament is a universally representative and diverse group of young volunteers who work hard to try improve the lives of young people, no matter what their background, circumstances or abilities. They are dedicated to fairness, equality and democracy.

They promote Youth Voice and Participation by working alongside the local authority, services and decision makers to raise concerns, challenge perspectives and influence positive change.

One member said “***Participation through Somerset Youth Parliament provides a representative voice for all young people which is important for improving the lives of young people who may often feel unheard***”

and “***The elevation of youth voice will help to create a county where young people feel a part of society and respected by services and decision makers***”

# Foreword



Somerset UK Youth Parliament is committed to proving that including the voice of our young people really does matter. Youth Parliament is at the forefront of representing universal Youth Voice and Participation across the county.

When we really involve young people and take the time to listen, nurture their opinions, provide them with choices and develop their voices in schools, in services and in our communities, they will inform and inspire us in so many ways. And they will affect all our lives for the better. We should recognise their choices and concerns and empower them to make decisions that will benefit both them and our whole community's resilience.

Somerset County Council has an established record of investing in young people by listening to them. The latest example is our new Somerset Plan for Children, Young People and Families 2019-22 which was created through consultation with local children and young people. In the Youth Parliament we have a group of enthusiastic and engaged young people committed to their own development, ready to challenge and be challenged, who are standing up publicly on their manifesto of:

- **Save our Environment**
- **Youth Representation**
- **Youth Empowerment**

In addition, they will continue to shape the debate on issues such as mental health, votes@16, education and equality

These young people are Somerset's today. And more than that they also have the opportunity to start things that will shape its future.

Somerset County Council is proud to have given a voice through the UK Youth Parliament. The council and its partners will listen to them and will feed back to them on the effect they are having.

I wish them well during their time in office.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frances Nicholson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Frances Nicholson**

Somerset County Council, Cabinet Member, Children & Families

# Meet the elected Members



## Charlotte May Ward

Aged 11, From Cheddar

Hello, my campaign is all about the environment. I feel strongly about animals; their habitats and the way people are treating this world. I am concerned that there will be nothing left for us and our descendants.

A few fun facts about me are; that I have a dog called Hurricane, my favourite colour is blue, I love sweets and chocolate, but do not like tomatoes! When I grow up I want to be a midwife.

## Charlotte's Manifesto focus

# Save Our Environment

### Beliefs

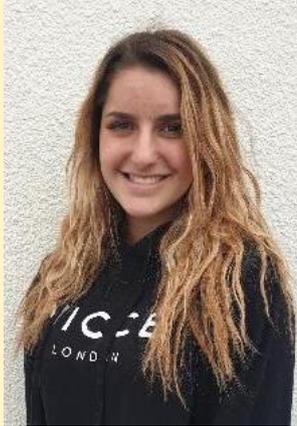
- ❑ Youth Parliament believes that environmental issues are one of the most important and urgent concerns which threaten every young person's life and wellbeing over the next few years
- ❑ We believe that more young people are realising that the threats to our natural environment need to be taken seriously by decision makers and politicians
- ❑ We also think that young people need to be encouraged to think about all the ways they are connected to the natural world and how they can help make a difference however big or small
- ❑ Young people should be better equipped with the right information to understand the impact the environment has on our lives- how it affects our mental health and wellbeing, our behaviour and how it can build our life skills and resilience.
- ❑ Young people in Somerset deserve the opportunity to appreciate, celebrate and be proud of our environment

### Objectives

- ❑ Investigate and research current local and global threats to our natural environment
- ❑ To conduct research to test young people's opinions and level of awareness about environmental issues across Somerset & explore sympathetic local organisations and allies
- ❑ Explore what our schools do to educate young people, raise awareness of environmental threats and if they have any policies/ processes for addressing issues
- ❑ Produce and circulate a short report about these findings
- ❑ Design a practical project and create a session plan for teachers/ educators which demonstrates how simple and fun it is to be environmentally friendly.
- ❑ Promote local issues and encourage young people to get involved and share their positive stories

# Hanna Wittek

Aged 16, From Bridgwater



Hello, I'm passionate about my campaign. I want young people to have good self-esteem and confidence - feel strong and safe. I also want to raise awareness about the effect violence and abuse can have on young people. I am a strong advocate for youth voice and for making our voices heard. I am an experienced re-elected Member of Youth Parliament, so I am very keen to continue working closely with young people, workers and councillors. I was born in Hungary, I love sports and I like travelling and experiencing new cultures. I hope to make a positive change in the future of young people

## Hanna's manifesto focus

# Youth Empowerment

### Beliefs

- ❑ We believe that too many Young People are affected by crime and are vulnerable in their communities
- ❑ Young People should be engaged with, updated, consulted and included in concerns and developments about local crime, decision and policy making- especially when this affects and/or involves us
- ❑ Youth Parliament believes that violence can link to inequality and oppression (gender, sexuality, culture, lack of education, poverty) and also affect young people's health and wellbeing
- ❑ Young people deserve opportunities to learn how to become more resilient, feel empowered and have the right to feel confident, assertive and proud!

### Objectives

- ❑ Research young people's awareness about current local crimes and safety issues
- ❑ Explore whether some young people have experienced harassment/abuse more than others (E.g. LGBTQ+, BME, low income, In care) in order to establish a link to vulnerable groups
- ❑ Create and circulate a short report to decision makers on the findings of the research
- ❑ Identify key decision makers and influential allies to gain support for my campaign e.g. Leader of the County Council, Police and Crime Commissioner, Public Health about current issues around Somerset. (such as mental health, domestic violence, knife crime, county lines etc.)
- ❑ Create resources to promote equality, assertiveness, confidence and resilience in young people locally and facilitate in schools
- ❑ To create a resource and promote where to find information about the basics of Self-Defence and awareness around the community.
- ❑ Use social media to raise awareness of issues and promote positive stories about young people over my term of office



## **Amelia Saleh**

**Aged 13, From Bridgwater**

Hi, my campaign is youth representation/ the positive image of young people- so basically how young people are viewed. I want to explore what could be causing this, why and how can we change negative images. I want to make a difference in the world and improve other people's lives. I already volunteer by helping at clubs outside of school and go back to my primary school to lend a hand!

I really enjoy working with young people (especially my age or younger) and I hope to one day be a teacher. Youth Parliament is a great way for me to have a voice but also represent other young people's opinions

## **Amelia's Manifesto Focus**

### **Young People's Representation**

#### **Beliefs**

- ❑ Youth Parliament believes that all young people should be respected equally and treated with respect
- ❑ We believe that young people should be consulted on decisions made for them, they should have a voice and be given a platform to be heard
- ❑ Young people are under huge pressure to be 'perfect' in school which leads to unnecessary pressure, negative competition and inequality, which can create anxiety, low self-esteem and self-worth
- ❑ We also think that schools arbitrary and collective punishments are oppressive and don't encourage young people to develop communication or negotiation skills, trust, challenge or problem solve
- ❑ The image of young people is usually portrayed in the press in a negative way- always defined by a minority and doesn't reflect young people's real abilities, behaviour, potential and achievements

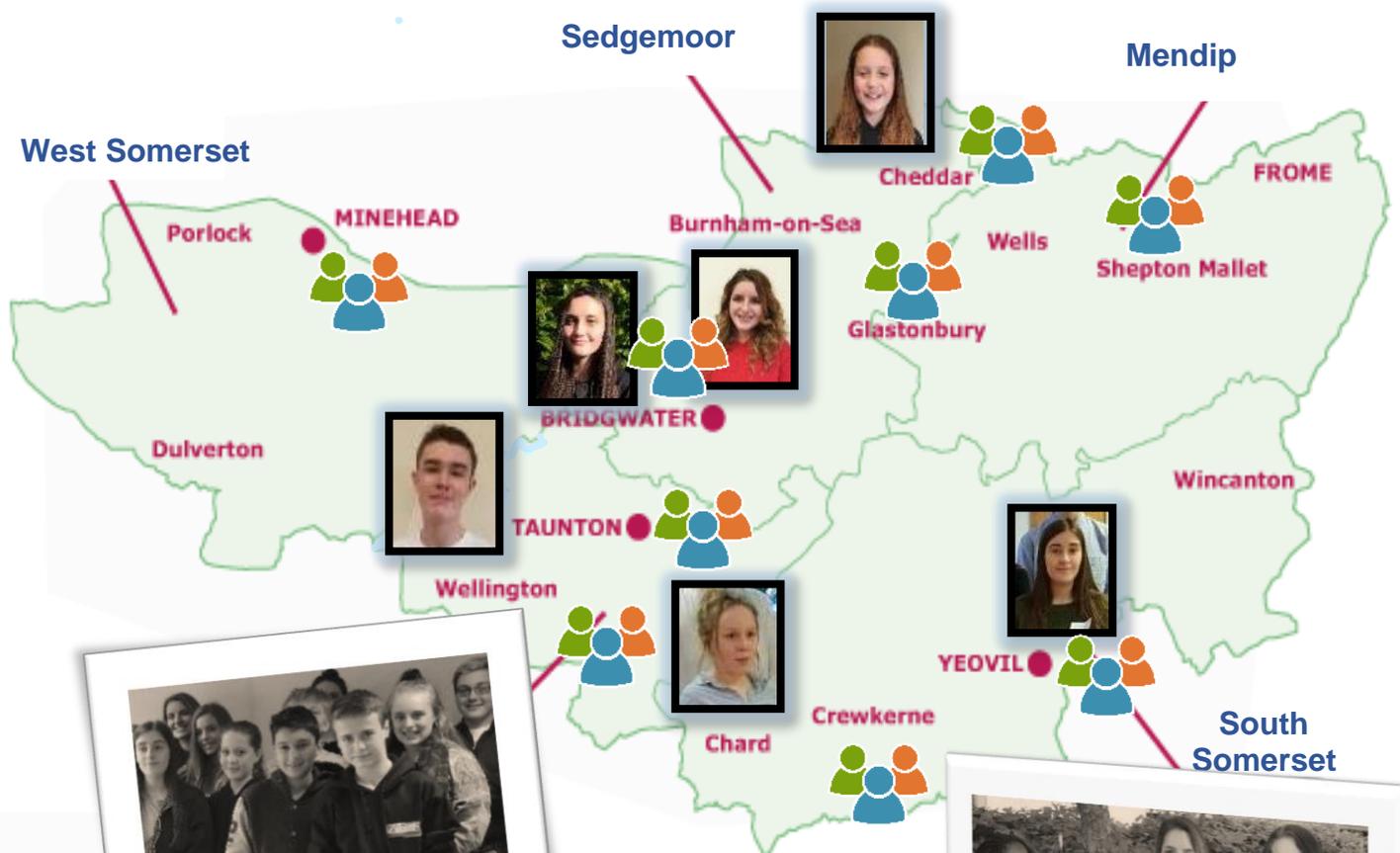
#### **Objectives**

- ❑ To conduct research into how many youth & school councils there are in Somerset and explore how they operate
- ❑ Create and circulate a short report on the findings of the research
- ❑ Help create a School Council guide/ resource for schools and promote across Somerset
- ❑ Explore ways to improve students school experiences such as the benefits of student 'break out' spaces and appeal to teachers/ heads to identify areas where young people can have time out; relax, reflect and feel safe, composed and in control
- ❑ To promote youth voice and young people's achievements through social media

# Meet the DMYP's & the Advisory Group

The Members of Youth Parliament will be supported by three Deputies who will help them to complete their action plans and objectives over the next 2 years. They are:

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
|  <p><b>Oban Mackie</b><br/>Aged 14, from Crowcombe</p> |  <p><b>Jessica Bullen</b><br/>Aged 12, from Milverton</p> |  <p><b>Bronwen Price</b><br/>Aged 16, from Yeovil</p> |
| <p>Oban is interested in the political education of young people, current affairs and the environment</p>                               | <p>Jessica is interested in political education</p>  | <p>Bronwen thinks political education should be taught within PSHE &amp; would help empower young people's voice</p>                     |



## **If you:**

- **would like to know more about Somerset Youth Parliament**
- **are interested in consulting with Youth Parliament on your service/ organisations processes and priorities**
- **are a decision maker, MP, service or employer with a brief which affects young people's lives and would like to offer shadowing experiences to young people**
- **are interested in what young people think or have to say and would like to visit the group**
- **are between 11 and 18 years old would like to know more about joining the Advisory Group or standing for election**

### **Please contact:**

Somerset UK Youth Parliament,  
Kate Darlington, Participation Officer,  
Children's Commissioning  
B1 West County Hall  
Taunton  
Somerset  
TA1 4DY

### ***or contact direct:***

Kate Darlington  
Tel: 07964 699595  
Email: [kdarlington@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:kdarlington@somerset.gov.uk)



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