

## **Manchester Youth Council Make Your Mark Report 2016**

### **Make Your Mark 2016 Introduction**

Every year the United Kingdom Youth Parliament (UKYP) holds a UK-wide ballot called 'Make Your Mark', where all young people, 11 – 18, can vote on what they feel is important in their lives and what they think Members of the Youth Parliament should campaign on for the year ahead.

The UK Youth Parliament is managed by the British Youth Council (BYC), a youth-led charity which aims to empower young people across the UK to have a say and be heard.

On the 11th November 2016 Members of Youth Parliament (MYP's) came together to debate and decide, at the UKYP House of Commons sitting, the issues to campaign on for the year ahead.

The issues debated were the top 5 issues via the 'Make your Mark' public vote.

This report details the results of 'Make Your Mark' for Manchester and includes regional and national results.

For 2016 the target for the North West authorities was set at 150,000 ballots with the national target set at 1,000,000 young people to be consulted

### **Make Your Mark Top 10 Ballot Issues**

**As with 2014 and 2015, 10 topics were shortlisted on to the ballots papers by the MYP's from the UKYP manifesto.**

#### **The topics shortlisted were:**

1. Votes at 16. Give 16 and 17 year olds the right to vote in all elections/referendums.
2. A Curriculum to prepare us for life. Schools should cover topics like finance, sex relationship education and politics.
3. First Aid Education for All Young People All young people should learn basic First Aid, on a regular basis, including CPR, and all schools in the UK should have a defibrillator.
4. Mental health. Services should be improved with young people's help and mental health education should be compulsory and challenge stereotypes.
5. Transport. Make public transport cheaper, better and accessible for all.
6. Stop cuts that affect the NHS. Funding that affects the NHS shouldn't be cut. We must keep up vital services to protect young people.
7. Body Image. More needs to be done to raise awareness on body image issues, particularly the effects of negative body image on mental health. Bullying connected to body image should be challenged, and reduced.
8. Fund our youth services, don't cut them. Youth services provide us with vital support, development opportunities and positive activities.
9. Raising Awareness of Sexual Harassment in schools. Let's raise awareness of sexual harassment in schools so that young people affected don't suffer in silence and can get support from schools and teachers.

10. Tackling racism and religious discrimination, particularly against people who are Muslim or Jewish. All young people should work together to combat racism and other forms of discrimination, and ensure we know the dangers of such hatred.

### **How Manchester collected ballots for 2016**

All affiliates to Manchester Youth Council and all commissioned youth services were sent a mail shot with ballot papers, lesson, plans, tally sheets. Ballot boxes were also sent out by request.

### **Manchester young people had three ways to get involved and have their say.**

1. Fill in an individual ballot paper, placing a cross in a box as they would in an election.
2. Take part in a discussion group with a group leader, such as a teacher, noting how many voted for each topic and completing a tally sheet to record the results.
3. Fill in an online ballot form via our website.

In Manchester the first two options were co-ordinated by The Hive with our Youth Councillors and support staff contacting the schools and asking them to complete the tally sheets in form time or assemblies.

The Youth Councillors also took the individual ballot papers to youth groups and organisations to capture those young people not in education or whose school or group could not participate.

The online ballot option was managed and collected by BYC. The online results for Manchester have been added to this report and represented appx 20 % of the total votes collected.

**The number of young people consulted as part of 'Make Your Mark' in 2016 by Manchester Youth Council was 25,406  
This represents a 64.43% voter turnout**

### **Manchester Make Your Mark results 2016**

1. Tackling Racism 4067
2. Transport 4016
3. A curriculum to prepare us for life 3946
4. Votes at 16 3393
5. Stop cuts that affect the NHS 2572
6. Mental health 2313
7. First aid for all young people 1988
8. Raising awareness of sexual harassment in schools 1288
9. Body Image 1055
10. Fund our youth services, don't cut them 828

**Total ballots 25,406**

28 Schools and 13 youth groups took part in the ballot this year

### **North West Regional results**

The regional total for the North West smashed the target of 150,000 ballots with

194,091

This was the highest number of ballots for a region across the UK and also represents the highest turnout across the UK with of 31.91%.

The top 5 issues for the North West are:

1. A curriculum to prepare us for life
2. Transport
3. Tackling racism and religious discrimination
4. Stop cuts that affect the NHS
5. Votes at 16

### **Manchester regional placing**

Manchester achieved the 2nd highest turnout of voters as a region with 64.34% showing that Manchester young people want to be engaged in politics and have a say

Nationally - Manchester was came in the top 5 UK Youth Councils

Total ballots for Manchester were the 4th highest percentage turnout of 224 Authorities nationally Our turnout of 64.43% was the 4th highest across the UK.

To download a copy of the UKYP Make Your Mark 2016 report or for more information please go to: <http://www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk/makeyourmark/>

The total number of young people consulted as part of 'Make Your Mark' in 2016 across the UK was: 978,216

### **House of Commons Sitting**

On 11th November 2016 Vanessa Attipoe and Samuel Remi Akinwale , Members of Youth Parliament for Manchester, joined the other UK representatives at the House of Commons to debate the top 5 issues. After a full day of lively debates, presided over by the Speaker of the House John Bercow, the MYPs voted on which of the issues would form their UK-wide campaign for 2016 and also choose which issue would become the devolved campaign (England only) for 2016.

**The United Kingdom Youth Parliament, UK wide campaign for 2016 will be Votes at 16.  
The United Kingdom Youth Parliament, devolved campaign (England only) for 2016 will be  
A curriculum to prepare us for life.**

### **2017 Manchester Youth Council overview**

Since 2012 when MYC started to take part in the MYM ballot we have improved or maintained our results and have been in the top 5 UK results of the past 2 years.

MYC know it is unrealistic to expect every young person to take part and due to the way ballots are collected it is not unlikely that some young people could take part more than once e.g. young people could vote, in school, at cadets, at youth club and at church

For the fourth year running we have consulted with young people from across Manchester's 11-18 population.

This year is an amazing achievement and one that Manchester Youth Council is immensely proud of.

Our main goal this year was to increase school participation and we had a target of 25 educational

facilities and 10 youth groups.

We were able to work with 28 schools and colleges and 13 youth groups this year.

We would like to thank the pupils, teachers, youth workers and support staff that made Make Your Mark such a success.

### **How we did it**

Working from last year's recommendations at the beginning of June we sent letters out to Head Teachers and Principals, as well as contacts we already had in the schools.

This was earlier than in previous years. In the letters, support was offered by means of meeting with teachers to work out how best to run the voting system in school, with lesson plans and information to support workshops

Schools and groups were also offered the opportunity to vote online ( but due to the new tracking system with British Youth Council, engagement staff could only track schools registered and not the number of votes collected online or individual votes)

Members of the Hive ran workshops and ballots in schools and youth groups. Schools ran the ballots in a variety of ways to suit their individual needs. Some schools were able to provide extra support to run a full election and ballot within the school. The PRU also took part by planning the run up to ' make your mark' with a number of sessions to engage as many young people as possible.

Youth groups also ran ballots and sessions to engage young people

We had a good mix of young people taking part from all areas of Manchester with a wide range of needs and abilities.

Members of the Hive had training sessions and planned assemblies for educational facilities and youth groups, but found it difficult to reach all the schools they wanted to deliver in person to, due to their own schedules and responsibilities, however they managed to reach young people by reaching out locally and despite the shortened deadline they managed to achieve and increase on last years total.

### **Manchester Youth Council targets and recommendations for 2017**

1. To carry on making a positive change within our city
2. To increase the numbers of schools and youth groups taking part and engage with them to build strong relationships by offering support and training to teachers, youth workers and young people
  - \* Engaging with all schools and youth groups, building relationships by offering support and training to teachers, youth workers and young people
  - \* Working with hard to reach young people, NEET, SEND, LAC, young carers, young people who are aged 18 and under and are in work to promote Make Your Mark
3. We want to set up a Manchester Youth Council newsletter informing schools, colleges and groups of events, projects and opportunities, which will help with better engagement
4. We want to develop a network of Democracy contact throughout the schools; we will do this by having democracy workshops
5. We will develop training sessions for young people by working with leads to also develop ways in which Make Your mark can be made more accessible
6. To maintain our top 5 position in the UK
- . Maintain engagement from the 41 establishments who took part this year

7. Increase participation at all existing schools and colleges

Reflecting back on the results, how schools took part and the targets set we will make the following recommendations for Make Your Mark 2017.

8. Set up a Manchester Youth Council newsletter informing schools of what events and projects are coming up through the year

Develop a network of 'democracy' contacts throughout the schools

9. Work with leads (PRU, SEND, NEET, Young Carers, and LAC) to develop ways in which Make Your Mark can be more accessible and share ideas of how the ballot can be run to meet the needs of young people and staff.

Continue to use the tally system and will provide extra ballots, SEND ballots, ballot boxes and packs for all schools and groups

Link it with International day of democracy 15th September 2017. This hopefully will give schools a theme to work around and plan for.

10. Work with young people, elected members and the Leaders Forum to use MYM results results to work with the Manchester strategy - We wills

These will include:

- Have a strong sense of citizenship and pride in the city
- Chart a course to becoming a leading digital city
- Inspire the next generation to be the best they can be and provide them with the knowledge, skills and resilience they need to succeed
- continue to work with the voluntary and community sector to find new ways of reaching those communities that remain untouched by Manchester's success, creating resilient and vibrant communities of people
- Encourage walking, cycling and public transport use, and continue to invest in the infrastructure this requires
- Become a cleaner litter free city
- Increase the proportion of cycling and walking journeys and provide improved infrastructure and signing

### **What is a curriculum for life?**

**Jonathan Baggaley, Chief Executive, PHSE Association, said:**

**“Young people are struggling with the pressures and anxieties of today's world.**

**With this vote they are telling us they want schools to prepare them to meet the challenges through PSHE and citizenship education**

**The fact that this is a continuing priority for the UK Youth parliament tells us once again that not enough has been done to improve PSHE education in schools. We hope the government listens to these young people today and strengthens the status of PSHE education in schools for the good of our young people and society”**

Young people will campaign for them be to be taught the skills to prepare them for life

This will include teaching the following subjects:

- Political Education
- Sex and Relationships Education
- Cultural Awareness Education
- Community Cohesion Education
- Finance Skills Education
- Sustainable Living Education
- Citizenship Education

The curriculum should also include practical life skills:

Cooking, managing a household, washing clothes, cleaning, gardening, first aid, social media safety

### **Special Thanks**

To everyone who took part in the ballot.

To all young people who took part, and all the staff who went above and beyond the call of duty to meet the shortened deadline and take part in the ballot

*Abraham Moss, Burnage Media, Cedar Mount, Chorlton High, Coop Academy, Levenshulme High, Loreto School, Loreto College, Manchester College, Manchester Communication Academy, Manchester Creative Media Academy, Manchester Enterprise Academy, Manchester Grammar, Manchester PRU, Melland High, Newall Green High, Our Ladies, Parrs Wood High + 6th Form, Piper Hill, St Peter's RC High, The Dean Trust Ardwick, The East Manchester Academy, Whalley Range High, Wright Robinson, Xavarian, Manchester Hospital School, Manchester Young Lives, Mcr 107 Scouts, Afflecks Creatives, BL1 Church, Christ Church youth, LadyBarn Group, Newton Heath YP, The Factory Youth Zone, Wythenshawe Community Housing Group, White Moss Youth Group, Mcr Young Carers, The Group, N Gage, With Forum Youth Group*