



Young Mayor

of Lewisham

10th anniversary commemorative book

2005

2006

2007

2008

2009

2010

2011

2012



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Welcome

'The Young Mayor programme has engaged thousands of young people in democratic processes and changed the way the Town Hall works. The regular presence of young people who are there by right has changed the way the rest of us work and think.'
Mayor of Lewisham, Sir Steve Bullock

It's been 10 years since Lewisham had its first directly elected young mayor. The difference each young mayor has made to the lives of young people in the borough has been significant. Their dedication has ensured not only that their voices are heard in the heart of Lewisham's political office, but also that Lewisham's young people have opportunities to get involved in their communities.

This commemorative book has been put together to mark the 10th anniversary of the Young Mayor of Lewisham programme. In it, the current and previous young mayors share their experiences and achievements during their time in office.

Over the years, the young mayors have used their budgets to support and improve lives, consulting with young people and creating some key initiatives that benefit young people in the borough, including:

- organising healthy activities
- intergenerational work
- involving young people in debates and decision-making
- performance opportunities
- celebrating young people's achievements
- sports competitions
- role model and mentoring programmes.

Since Lewisham elected its first young mayor in 2004, it has become the longest-running programme in the UK and, since then, many similar schemes have been introduced across the country. I want to take this opportunity to commend Lewisham's young people who have contributed to making the scheme a success over the years, to the point where it is regarded, both nationally and internationally, as an exceptional example of ensuring young people have an opportunity to get involved in democracy and that their voices are heard.

Sir Steve Bullock, Mayor of Lewisham

History of the young mayor programme in Lewisham

Lewisham Council has a history of encouraging and supporting children's and young people's participation in local democracy. Over a 20-year period there has been a series of different programmes and forums for engaging children and young people in citizenship activities, including the planning, implementation and evaluation of services.

These initiatives included a number of neighbourhood forums, youth service-led projects and community-based networks, as well as more formal engagement with school councils at secondary schools in Lewisham.

Starting point

The starting point for the young mayor programme was working with local young people to find out their views of the world in which they live through meetings at youth clubs and annual conferences in the Civic Suite, Catford. It was also to engage with them in a process that would value their experience and aspirations and help them to participate, challenge and shape their own futures.

As this work developed, and in keeping with the Council's modernisation programme, it was considered essential to have a more formal structure which would enable children and young people to engage directly with key decision makers.

Directly-elected mayor

Following a public referendum in 2001, Lewisham residents opted to have a directly-elected mayor. Steve Bullock was subsequently elected in May 2002 as the Mayor of Lewisham. He believed it was important to adopt a similar model for the children and young people's programmes for participation and agreed to a directly-elected young mayor, which would be supported by a young adviser's group and a young citizens' panel. Lewisham's first young mayor, Manny Hawks, was elected in April 2004, starting the longest-running young mayor programme in the UK.

Future

Elections have continued to take place annually, and Lewisham's 10th young mayor will be elected in October 2013. All of Lewisham's young mayors have brought tremendous enthusiasm and commitment during their time. The Young Mayor and Young Advisers have helped to spread the word, and have hosted and contributed to initiatives about youth engagement and democracy, both nationally, and across Europe.

Recognition

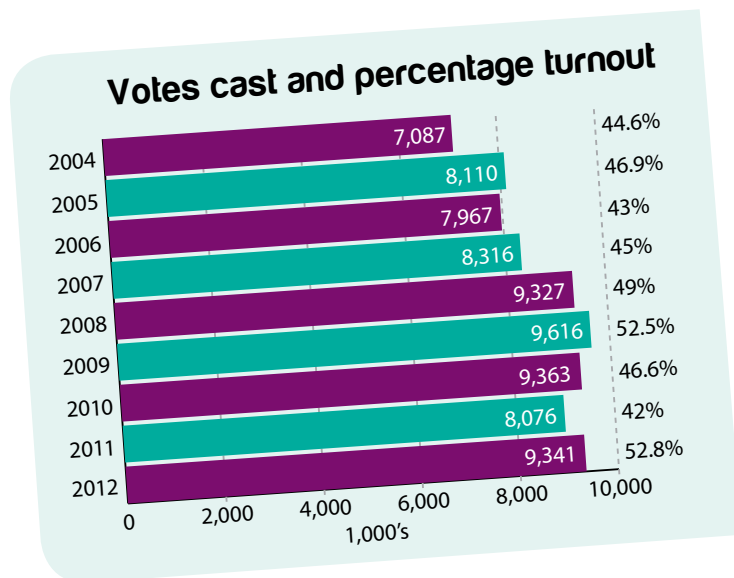
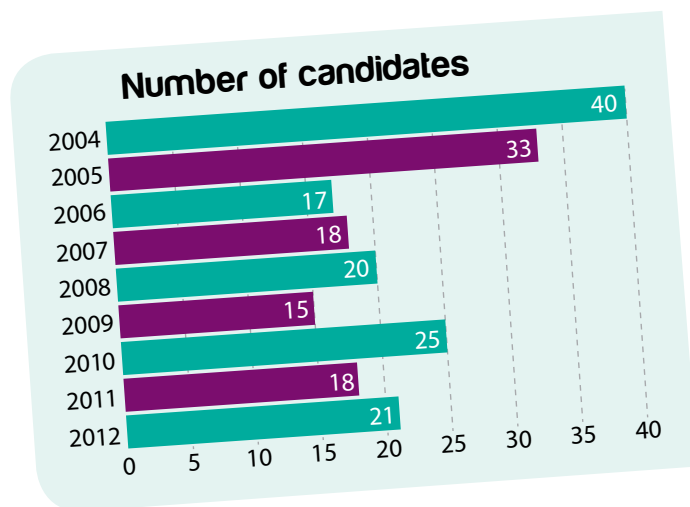
The young mayor programme was nationally recognised when Lewisham Council was awarded Beacon Status in 2006-07 by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for its positive youth engagement.

Elections

Every young person aged between 11–18 years who lives, works, or attends a school or college in Lewisham can vote in the Young Mayor of Lewisham elections.

Process of becoming Young Mayor of Lewisham

Breakdown of Young Mayor elections 2004–2012



Election day

During election day, which usually happens in October, voting takes place at around 40 different sites in Lewisham, at polling stations in every Lewisham secondary school and college. In addition to this, young people who go to school outside the borough can vote by post.

Voting is carried out using a preferential ballot system. Voters are able to cast two votes for their first and second choice candidates. In the event of no single candidate achieving an overall majority from first choice votes, the second preference votes are counted and added to the first round totals to reach a final result. Over the years, counts have often been close, and no election has yet been won at the first round.

The election count and administration is carried out and overseen by the Council's Electoral Services, and the final results ratified and formally announced by the returning officer for Lewisham Council.

The first four candidates are announced and serve in the following roles:

- First place:** Young Mayor of Lewisham
- Second place:** Deputy Young Mayor of Lewisham
- Third and fourth places:** Lewisham representatives at the UK Youth Parliament

Standing to be Young Mayor of Lewisham

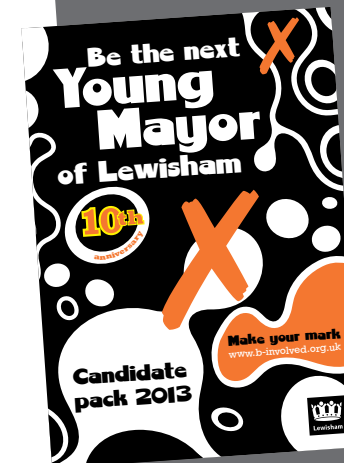
Young people can only put themselves forward and stand for Young Mayor of Lewisham if they:

- are aged between 13–17 years on the day of the election
- live, work or go to school or college in Lewisham.

Candidate pack

If candidates meet the above criteria, they then need to complete and submit a candidate pack which includes:

- parent or guardian's consent and signed agreement
- school, college or employer's consent and signed agreement
- 50 young people's signatures supporting the young person to stand.



Campaign training

Once candidate packs are received, the young people standing are required to take part in training with the Council's Young Mayor Team and former young mayors and young advisers. Roles and responsibilities are outlined and agreed and support is provided for candidates to:

- produce a manifesto outlining ideas or proposals for their budget which is published as an election statement
- have photographs taken for use with free promotional materials such as t-shirts, flyers and stickers
- produce a video message for the Young Mayor's YouTube channel
- get tips and advice on public speaking and campaign techniques
- arrange to talk with young people across the borough at schools, youth clubs and hustings events.

Election day

Once candidates have campaigned for votes, the election takes place and young people across the borough vote for their preferred young mayor. Once the count has taken place the results are then released and Lewisham has a new young mayor.

Young mayors over the years

There have been nine young mayors to date, all of whom have shown enthusiasm, creativity and ambition. The next few pages give a snapshot of the young mayors over the years, what they spent their budgets on and what they did in the borough during their time as Young Mayor of Lewisham.

2004
Manny Hawks

2005
Wilf Petherbridge

2006
Siobhan Bell

2007
Justin Cole

2008
Miguel Gutierrez Astudillo

2009
Jacob Sakil

2010
Kieza Silveira de Sousa

2011
Kieran Lang

2012
Jamel Higgins



Manny Hawks Young Mayor of Lewisham 2004

Election day:	23 April 2004
Total number of candidates:	40
Turnout:	44.6%, 7,087 votes cast
Election results for first and second preferences:	
1. Manny Hawks (Young Mayor)	1,017
2. Camilla Dickson (Deputy Young Mayor)	937
3. William Smith	515
4. Daniel Chambers	444

Young Mayor's projects

Budget £25,000

Feel Safe, Be Safe

A series of practical workshops and discussions in schools and youth projects were set up to improve awareness of crime and the fear of crime.

TxtBk

The Young Mayor and Young Advisers designed, produced and distributed the TxtBk guide to services for young people in Lewisham, developed after consultation with young people and providers.

www.b-involved.org.uk

A website was developed to provide information on the work of the Young Mayor and Young Advisers. Its aim was to signpost ways in which young people could get involved with participation and citizenship activities.

Band Space

Free and subsidised rehearsal space was made available to encourage new bands to write and play live music, and safely practise for public performances.

Young Mayor's 10 x 10 cricket competition

A new primary school sports competition was introduced to promote active and healthy lifestyles and to tackle growing levels of child obesity.

It was an incredible honour and privilege to be elected the first Young Mayor of Lewisham at the age of 15. It was an incredibly enjoyable role and was fascinating to get to know my borough better. Ten years on I am amazed by what the project has achieved: a testament to the hard work of the young people and workers involved.

Some of the Young Mayor and young advisers events during 2004–05:

- launched the Positive Activities for Young People summer holiday project
- met with MPs and forthcoming general election candidates at Westminster Hall to discuss improving young people's involvement in the political process
- met American visitors to discuss 'Read My Day', an e-democracy blogging project
- launched a series of events and workshops to celebrate Lewisham International Women's Day
- visited a Lewisham primary school to talk with children about democracy and getting involved
- joined the Mayor of Lewisham to meet the Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, to share ideas about what is important to young people across London
- visited the Greater London Authority to discuss 'Help Plan', a London-wide summer youth forum event at City Hall
- launched the Young Mayor's Music and Performance Showcase at Lewisham People's Day.



Wilf Petherbridge Young Mayor of Lewisham 2005

Election day:	19 October 2005
Total number of candidates:	33
Turnout:	46.9%, 8,110 votes cast
Election results for first and second preferences:	
1. Wilf Petherbridge (Young Mayor)	1,229
2. Dami Benbow (Deputy Young Mayor)	803
3. Yasmin Ali	617
4. Dawit Demissie-Kum	563

(Third and fourth places elected to represent Lewisham at UK Youth Parliament)

As a Young Mayor it takes a large amount of commitment and time to fit everything in and takes time to adjust to it. I met a lot of new people, and was terrible with names so I'd like to apologise to anyone I called Dave, Rick, or Andy by mistake! I took on a lot and gave up quite a bit, but I loved every minute of it!

Some of the Young Mayor and young advisers events during 2005–06:

- led a young people's consultation event, preparing a submission for the Government's green paper, Youth Matters
- hosted a bid presentation for the Beacon Scheme, run by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister to identify excellence and innovation in local government (Lewisham Council went on to win the Beacon award for positive youth engagement)
- hosted a street dance event, raising funds for a charity supporting people with sickle cell disease
- opened and contributed to Lewisham's police stop and search conference
- attended the 'Votes at 16' young people's parliamentary debate in Westminster, organised by the British Youth Council and MPs
- co-chaired a meeting at 10 Downing Street with Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, to discuss the Make Space Youth Review on ways to address antisocial behaviour and youth crime.

Young Mayor's projects

Budget £25,000

Young Mayor's Stage and Youth Village at Lewisham People's Day

A young people's stage was funded for young people to showcase their talents and views through music, arts and drama. The Youth Village brought together service providers and information on a wide range of activities available to young people.

My Lewisham

A series of creative exhibitions was put together and shown in different venues around the borough. The performance and showcasing opportunities enabled young people to share their visions of what Lewisham means to them through the use of art and media.

Tag rugby in primary schools

A new tag rugby competition was set up for Lewisham primary schoolchildren, both boys and girls, to promote active and healthy lifestyles and help tackle growing levels of obesity in children.

Environmental calendar project

An environmental education, action and information calendar was created for young people to understand the importance of taking personal and collective action to help the environment.



Siobhan Bell Young Mayor of Lewisham 2006

Election day:	11 October 2006
Total number of candidates:	17
Turnout:	43%, 7,967 total votes cast
Election results for first and second preferences:	
1. Siobhan Bell (Young Mayor)	1,948
2. Luziane Tchiegue-Nouta (Deputy Young Mayor)	1,434
3. Margaret Oyabambi	684
4. Jasmine Jarvis	583

(Third and fourth places elected to represent Lewisham at UK Youth Parliament)

Young Mayor's projects

Budget £25,000

Celebrating young people's creativity

Regular club nights were set up across the borough to reflect the diversity of young people's cultural interests and showcase their skills and talents. These fed into the annual Lewisham People's Day.

Celebrating young people's achievements

A project to celebrate young people's achievements and promote positive, creative images of young people from across the borough was created. The project aimed to challenge negative stereotypes and acknowledge the positive contributions made by young people to society. A contribution was also made to the Mayor's 2020 vision for young people.

Voice and choice workshops

To further youth involvement, an 'open mic' initiative was set up to build on the work of the young advisers and their youth-led conference. A series of 'voice and choice' workshops took place across the borough in partnership with other services, providing consistent, varied opportunities for young people to engage with issues of interest and concern to them.

When I was elected, and during my term, I have had some of the best and most challenging times of my life! Being Young Mayor has changed my outlook on life. I've realised that everyone has the opportunity to make positive changes to the young community in Lewisham. Lastly, I just want to say thanks to everyone who's had an input into the Young Mayor project. Take care!

Some of the Young Mayor and young advisers events during 2006–07:

- participated in the National Children's Bureau conference
- presented awards at the Looked After Children Awards
- launched the Young Commissioners programme
- contributed to the 4 Youth Make Space Review, a national initiative to create more places for young people to go
- attended the LCPCG knives and guns consultation and conference
- planned and developed young people's activities with the Leybridge Tenants Association
- participated in Catford Girls' School council meetings
- participated in the Lewisham carers' fun day.



Justin Cole Young Mayor of Lewisham 2007

Election day:	17 October 2007
Total number of candidates:	18
Turnout:	45%, 8,316 votes cast
Election results for first and second preferences:	
1. Justin Cole (Young Mayor)	1,984
2. Naz Ramadan (Deputy Young Mayor)	1,749
3. Samson Adeyemi	914
4. Tope Ajala	799

(Third and fourth places elected to represent Lewisham at UK Youth Parliament)

The Young Mayor project has been one of the best and most profitable experiences of my life so far. Having the opportunity to be a voice for young people in my borough gave me a real sense of responsibility and accountability. I was privileged to speak at numerous events, sit on various discussion panels and meet with people of great influence to represent the young people of Lewisham.

Some of the Young Mayor and young advisers events during 2007–08:

- attended a neighbourhood assemblies consultation meeting with elected members and local people to discuss how young people could put forward their views and ideas
- attended a climate change conference for children and young people
- contributed to a Holocaust Memorial Day event
- led discussions at a Citizenship Foundation conference at the British Library
- participated in a Deptford Green School role model event
- looked at young people's participation as part of the Government's Citizenship Commission
- organised a planning meeting with young people and council staff to discuss setting up a mentoring event for looked after children
- organised a four-day visit to Prague to meet young people and their advisers, discuss and compare democratic involvement and organise an exchange visit
- attended Band Night auditions for Lewisham People's Day.

Young Mayor's projects

Budget £25,000

Interactive website

The existing b-involved website was replaced by a more interactive 'wiki' site.

Mix tape/CD

A mix tape/CD of music and poetry by the young people of Lewisham was produced, addressing the issues of safety, and gun crime and knife crime for use on local radio stations.

Police hotspot

Originating from an idea used in central London, police 'boxes' were located in hotspot areas to deter crime and address antisocial behaviour.

Block parties

Events including music, refreshments, games and local neighbourhood led activities were organised to improve community involvement and participation.

Young people's debate

A public speaking event was organised to help young people learn new skills and develop confidence.

Drama production

A theatre and drama production project was piloted, looking at issues of concern and interest to young people. The project included workshops in schools targeting students in Years 3–8.



Miguel Gutierrez Astudillo Young Mayor of Lewisham 2008

Election day:	15 October 2008
Total number of candidates:	20
Turnout:	49%, 9,327 votes cast
Election results for first and second preferences:	
1. Miguel Gutierrez Astudillo (Young Mayor)	1,705
2. Natalie Powell-Davies (Deputy Young Mayor)	1,152
3. Justyn Amechi	794
4. Kaileigh Green	663

(Third and fourth places elected to represent Lewisham at UK Youth Parliament)

Becoming Young Mayor was one of the best things I've ever done. I don't regret doing any of it. At first I was quite nervous about speaking in public. Now, though I still get nervous sometimes, I find it much easier because I am speaking to young people as a young person about issues that matter to us. My advice to anyone wanting to get involved in democracy is to just go for it.

Young Mayor's projects

Budget £25,000

Performing opportunities

A showcase event was launched for young musicians, artists and poets to perform and promote their work. Artists were also given the chance to audition and perform at Lewisham People's Day.

Alternative sports provision

A pilot project was undertaken in summer 2010 for young people to try out alternative sports such as archery, fencing, hockey and skateboarding, many of which are not readily available in Lewisham.

Publicity of available activities

A marketing campaign was created to boost the work of PLINGS (Places To Go, Things To Do), a dedicated website providing updated information on events and opportunities in Lewisham. This enabled young people to access information on upcoming events, clubs and volunteering activities via Facebook and Twitter.

Intergenerational events

Informal and social events were organised to encourage better understanding between young people and elderly residents of the borough and address any negative stereotypes that existed about both sections of the community.

Some of the Young Mayor and young advisers events during 2008–09:

- helped organise and contribute to an anti-bullying conference
- alongside elderly residents, attended and contributed to the Lewisham Celebrating Retirement conference
- addressed the Greater London Assembly, contributing to a 'participation masterclass' event encouraging democratic involvement
- hosted an exchange visit for young people from the Czech Republic and Bulgaria, as part of a European youth democracy initiative
- attended meetings and events supporting the Lewisham Youth Action Group initiative and their anti-knife campaign
- organised meetings at Mayow Park, Forest Hill, to plan local sports events and activities in lead up to London 2012 Olympic Games
- attended Northbrook School council meeting to discuss and feedback on budget proposals
- participated in a Goldsmiths University panel event about young people and politics.



Jacob Sakil Young Mayor of Lewisham 2009

Election day:	14 October 2009
Total number of candidates:	15
Turnout:	52.5%, 9,616 votes cast
Election results for first and second preferences:	
1. Jacob Sakil (Young Mayor)	2,836
2. Lola Mustapha (Deputy Young Mayor)	2,738
3. Kieza Silveira de Sousa	711
4. Imani Jawarah Lindsay	658

(Third and fourth places elected to represent Lewisham at UK Youth Parliament)

During my time as Young Mayor I enjoyed all the experiences. It allowed me to come out of my comfort zone and understand the responsibility as a role model and elected leader. The biggest challenge was getting as many people in our borough to understand that ANYTHING we want can be achieved by supporting each other from the beginning to the end.

Some of the Young Mayor and young advisers events during 2009–10:

- participated in a London LGBT and bullying awareness event
- went on a three-day exchange visit to Poland, meeting young people as part of a European Democracy initiative
- participated at Bellingham and Lee Green ward assembly meetings about the needs of young people locally
- took part in a debate on capital punishment at Deptford Green School
- attended a drama production, written and performed by young people, including a discussion on gun and knife crime
- met the South African president to discuss the programme and how young people can get involved in democracy in other countries and communities
- attended fringe meetings at all party political conferences
- attended Sedgehill School council meetings to discuss issues students have
- attended Politics Outside In course to do with young people learning about politics.

Young Mayor's projects

Budget £30,000

Role model and mentoring programme

Role model seminars were set up for young people to meet achievers from the local community and local businesses, to help young people learn about career paths and participate in an e-mentoring scheme.

Positive stories

A project to research, publish, publicise and celebrate the achievements of young people in Lewisham was created.

Performing and learning new skills

A performance showcase event was organised for young musicians, artists and poets to perform and promote their work. They also had the chance to learn skills in backstage and front of house management.

Sports tournaments

Community football and sports events were set up involving young people from across the borough, giving them the opportunity to be scouted by sports clubs, raising aspirations and increasing opportunities to participate.

Block parties/community events/intergenerational work

Community days were organised in different neighbourhoods, bringing together younger and older people to build community understanding.



Kieza Silveira de Sousa Young Mayor of Lewisham 2010

Election day:	13 October 2010
Total number of candidates:	25
Turnout:	46.61%, 9,363 votes cast
Election results for first and second preferences:	
Kieza Silveira de Sousa (Young Mayor)	1,441
Jawan Sakil (Deputy Young Mayor)	1,383
Sarah Jinodu	711
Chris Weddsz	659

(Third and fourth places elected to represent Lewisham at UK Youth Parliament)

As challenging as it was being Young Mayor I enjoyed it a lot. It's a priceless opportunity to not only represent the young people of your borough, but also build your contacts and personal development. But it's important to maintain a balance, manage expectations, enjoy what you're doing and make sure you remember why you're doing it.

Young Mayor's projects

Budget £30,000

Work with young people with disabilities

A consultation for young people with disabilities was organised to identify priorities and work with partners to take forward ideas that improve awareness, access to activities and routes into work.

Musical showcase

A showcase for performances to acknowledge the musical talent of young people in Lewisham was organised, providing an opportunity to learn backstage skills.

Working with young women in Lewisham

Working with a group of young women in the borough, and building on the success of a previous International Women's Day event, a series of smaller events, workshops and seminars was set up to explore the needs, interests and aspirations of young women.

Social enterprise and business awareness

Support and resources were provided for young people to develop entrepreneurial skills, interests in business and social enterprise.

YouTube channel

A YouTube channel was created to provide a focus for young people's ideas, interests and concerns, and promote services and opportunities for young people in Lewisham.

Some of the Young Mayor and young advisers events during 2010–11:

- participated in a Sydenham Girls change makers event
- organised a Young Advisers meeting to discuss proposals and prepare a young person's response to local plans for the NHS
- as part of the Youth Advising Police, joined police representatives to discuss concerns about young people and policing
- participated at a Greater London Assembly round table discussion on plans and ideas that would engage young people in national politics
- co-hosted an intergenerational festival to encourage greater understanding between young and elderly people in Lewisham
- took part in a six-day exchange visit to Sofia, Bulgaria to meet young people from other parts of Europe to discuss issues of the European Economic Community (youth engagement and democracy)
- attended and spoke at an event to open formally the new Ladywell Adventure Playground.



Kieran Lang Young Mayor of Lewisham 2011

Election day:	12 October 2011
Total number of candidates:	18
Turnout:	42%, 8,076 votes cast
Election results for first and second preferences:	
1. Kieran Lang (Young Mayor)	2,187
2. Chezney Speed-Skyer (Deputy Young Mayor)	1,286
3. Valence Festus	757
4. Humza Raja	536

(Third and fourth places elected to represent Lewisham at UK Youth Parliament)

As Young Mayor you get pressure when people keep asking what you have done for young people – you have to be patient as things take time to get right, and I know patience is a virtue. The most positive thing for me was the opportunity to help people and be able to visit and talk with other young people in this country and abroad.

Some of the Young Mayor and young advisers events during 2011–12:

- contributed to meetings of the UK Youth Parliament at the House of Commons, Westminster
- contributed at a Public Health Conference in Sweden about young people's participation
- participated in a Pendragon School Council meeting
- participated in a Deptford Green School conference to discuss the riots and street disturbances during summer 2011
- took part in a Unison/Operation Black Vote event at Conisborough College to encourage young black people to register to vote
- made exchange visits to meet young people in Poland, Sweden, Denmark and Norway to discuss initiatives relevant to European youth democracy
- contributed to the London 2012 celebrations, with the Young Mayor carrying the Olympic Torch in Lewisham, and Young Advisers hosting celebrations including an intergenerational tea dance in Blackheath.

Young Mayor's projects

Budget £30,000

Health and wellbeing

Several initiatives to support and engage young people in healthy activities were organised. This included promoting gyms to young people, making cooking classes accessible and organising competitions that promoted and encouraged healthy eating. Support was arranged for young people's mental health and wellbeing through peer key workers and mentoring.

Roller skating

A project was created to support skating as a positive, safe and healthy activity. There was also the opportunity to further develop and promote skating by providing maps, events, presentations and advice on safety issues and clothing.

Hall of Fame

To establish public recognition that young people play a positive, constructive and creative role in Lewisham, plaques were installed in the Civic Suite, Catford to record and celebrate achievements of young people in the borough. Plans were also made for other permanent displays across the borough to be explored as part of regeneration projects.



Jamel Higgins Young Mayor of Lewisham 2012

Election day:	10 October 2012
Total number of candidates:	21
Turnout:	52.8%, 9,341 total votes cast
Election results for first and second preferences:	
1. Jamel Higgins (Young Mayor)	1,931
2. Kojo Kankam (Deputy Young Mayor)	1,857
3. Alice Schweigert	1,009
4. Fola Afolabi	931

(Third and fourth places elected to represent Lewisham at UK Youth Parliament)

Being Young Mayor of Lewisham has been a mind-blowing experience for me, and something I will treasure for a lifetime. I feel privileged to have represented all young people in Lewisham and have met some great and wonderful people and been a part of fantastic projects and events across the borough. I'm looking forward to the celebrations around the 10th Young Mayor election.

Some of the Young Mayor and young advisers events during 2012–13:

- visited the commune of Antony in Paris, twinned with Lewisham
- took part in discussions with local primary school councils about how to get involved in decision making
- promote the Young Mayor's Enterprise Project, supporting young people to create business opportunities
- participated in the Lewisham Job Fair, encouraging and supporting young people applying for jobs and training opportunities
- hosted young people visiting Lewisham from Poland, the Czech Republic, Norway, Germany and Sweden
- attended and helped launch Lewisham Girls Talk, an initiative to promote and develop provision for girls and young women in Lewisham
- contributed to events that promoted the City Safe Haven campaign and the 10,000 Hands project, aimed at involving every secondary school student in Lewisham in promoting street and community safety
- visited the Lewisham Memory Service, offering support to anyone over 18 who experiences memory problems likely to indicate the onset of dementia.

Young Mayor's proposed project Budget £30,000

Mentoring and work experience programme

In response to continuing concern about the opportunities for young people to gain work, the Young Mayor's proposal is to support young people's aspirations to be successful and have meaningful work experience that will help them when looking for work. Young people in the borough have shown they are highly aware of the competitiveness and lack of real work opportunities which are available to them, and want to be able to maximise their opportunities.

The programme will include:

- identifying a range of partners and possible mentors to take part from corporate, public and community sectors
- recruiting young people from schools/colleges and community organisations to take part in a mentoring scheme, to gain new experiences, develop understanding of different careers and raise aspirations.

A framework and programme will be developed with opportunities and support for young people including one-to-one mentoring, shadowing and work experience from the partners and organisations recruited. The programme will include inspirational events so young people can interact with employees and gain a realistic idea of what different careers entail.

Young advisers

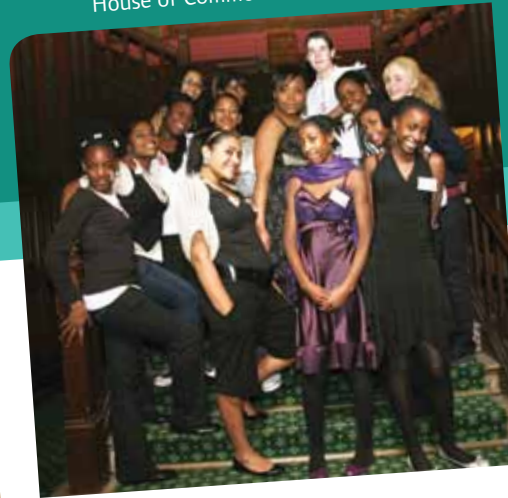
The Young Mayor is supported by the Deputy Young Mayor and a team of young advisers – similar to a cabinet but very informal and always open to new members and visitors.



Intergenerational work



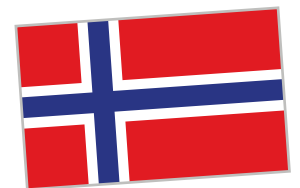
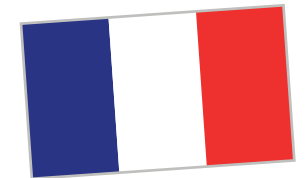
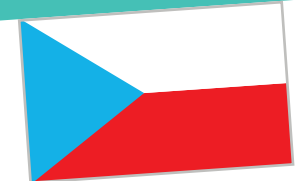
Bellingham gateway launch



Young advisers at the House of Commons



Luziane Tcheigue-Nouta, Deputy Young Mayor 2006, speaking at the launch of the "make space" programme



Who are the young advisers?

Young advisers come from a wide range of young people's involvement initiatives including youth and community projects, specialist groups, neighbourhood forums, volunteering initiatives and school or college councils, as well as those from Lewisham's Young Citizens' Panel. In addition to this, any young person who is interested in politics or getting involved in the community can attend the young advisers' meetings which happen every Monday from 5-7pm at the Civic Suite, Catford.

Many of the young advisers initially stood as candidates for Young Mayor and, although not successful, continued their involvement with the initiative.

What young advisers do

The young advisers meet weekly at the Civic Suite, Catford, and have the opportunity to influence and advise the Mayor of Lewisham and Cabinet.

The work of the Young Mayor and young advisers includes looking at key decision-making reports and engaging with service managers, policy-makers and elected members to both hear and comment on plans and strategies for the delivery of services. Young advisers have a direct involvement in the process of determining council grant allocation to youth service initiatives, experiencing some of the real complexities of political decision-making and public service delivery. Elected representatives and service managers have also benefited from direct exposure to enthusiastic young people eager to make their views and opinions known. This has included policy and service delivery across directorates, not just young people's services.



Jacob and Kieran participating in group work in Poland

Work outside of Lewisham

In recent years, the young advisers have been key to the development of wider networks concerned with youth participation and democratic involvement. They have represented Lewisham's young people at a range of regional and national organisations such as the British Youth Council and the UK Youth Parliament, and have attended events and spoken in the Houses of Parliament.

The young advisers have also been at the forefront of developing similar networks at an international level, mainly through the European Union-funded initiative, the Youth in Action Programme, supporting exchanges that enable them to engage in debates and initiatives around issues of European youth democracy. They have also been invited to speak at conferences in different European countries. They have made visits to Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, France, Norway, Poland and Sweden, and have also hosted delegations of young people from those countries visiting Lewisham.

Young advisers saying goodbye to Manny who had come back to work with the group



Support

The young advisers are critical to the success of the young mayor programme, and have always provided the energy and commitment that has been crucial to the development of the project. Over the years, they have continually supported successive young mayors to determine spending priorities and to carry out a programme of activities. Young advisers provide an important function in peer support when a new young mayor comes into post. There are existing advisers who support and explain how the programme works as well as new advisers who will come with the Young Mayor. This means there is both experienced and new input in the group.



Lewisham Young Citizens' Panel

The Young Citizens' Panel (YCP) consists of hundreds of young people aged 11-18 living, working or studying in Lewisham. It gives young people in the borough the opportunity to have their say on how decisions should be made and how money should be spent in Lewisham.



Young advisers Lulu Fundi and Sarah Jinodu with Cllr Helen Klier and Cllr Crada Onuegbu at the launch of Baseline



Intergenerational Christmas event with St Dunstan's choir at Seniors



Young advisers in Prague



Jacob taking part in the UKYP sitting at the House of Commons

The YCP has been running for over five years and has achieved a lot. Young people can have their say on issues that affect them directly including crime and safety, leisure facilities and simply whether or not there is enough for young people to do.

Through questionnaires, online surveys and discussions via Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and the Young Mayor and young advisers' website 'b-involved', the YCP engages with young people in decision-making. Also, through the YCP network young people are invited to attend meetings, discussions and events where they can meet and talk to like-minded young people.

The Young Mayor and young advisers use the YCP to communicate and consult with a wide range of young people and the Young Mayor directly consults the YCP to seek their views, opinions and suggestions of how his or her budget should be allocated.

Use of the internet and social media has always been viewed as an important tool by young people involved with the young mayor initiative and the Young Citizens' Panel, not just to inform people of their work, but also as a way of letting other young people know where they can find and take part in a range of social, leisure and creative activities.

 www.facebook.com/LewishamYCP

 www.twitter.com/LewishamYCP

Evaluation research project

The Young Mayor of Lewisham 2013 is the 10th young mayor to be elected by the young people of Lewisham. While many young people have grown up in Lewisham with the right to vote for a Mayor to represent them, this is not the case in many other parts of the country, or even parts of London. So, 10 years on from the election of Manny Hawks as the first Young Mayor of Lewisham, Lewisham Council is gathering interviews with people who have been involved in the young mayor scheme over the decade to evaluate its influence and identify what has changed.

If you have been a candidate or would like to testify to how your organisation or service has been impacted by the young mayor programme, please contact the Young Mayor Team:

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Manny handing over to Wilf, 2005



Miguel and Natalie with the Mayor of Lewisham, 2008



Jacob jumping for joy, 2009



Siobhan and Luziane, 2006



Justin and Naz, 2007