



# British Youth Council

## Candidate Statements and Honorary President nominations

CD12 - Council Document 12

Please keep this document safe, you will need it to participate in the British Youth Council's Annual Council Meeting 2019. If you need this document in another format contact [events@byc.org.uk](mailto:events@byc.org.uk) or call 020 7250 8373.

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Please note that candidates are listed in alphabetical order by surname.

## 1. Election Process

In British Youth Council elections we use Single Transferable Vote (STV). Each voting delegate will put numbers next to candidates, with their favourite candidate as number one, their second favourite as number two, and so on. Voters can put numbers next to as many or as few candidates as they like. To get elected, candidates need to reach a set share of the vote, known as the quota, determined by the number of positions to be filled and the number of eligible votes.

Each voter gets just one vote, but the numbering provides instructions for the counters to allow the vote to transfer. Once all the votes are counted, any candidates who have more than the quota are elected. In order to properly represent the view of the electorate, rather than waste votes over the quota, these votes are re-distributed based on the voter's instructions. If no candidate gets elected then the worst performing candidate is eliminated and their votes redistributed. This process continues until all seats are filled.

Along with the candidates, in each election there will be an option to select 'Re Open Nominations (RON)'. 'RON' is a democratic mechanism to allow voters to choose not to elect any of the candidates in the election. If RON wins the election, then nominations will re-open and this will give more people the chance to stand for the position.

You should vote RON if you feel the none of the candidates are up to the job. However if you think that only one candidate is worth your vote, then you may choose to vote RON as your second choice. If there are two candidates that are worth your vote then you may choose to vote RON for the third choice, and so on. You do not have to vote for RON at all if you don't want to.

At the Annual Council meeting we will be electing:

- One Treasurer
- Two trustees on a full three-year term (top two candidates)
- One UK Young Ambassador

## 2. Trustee and Treasurer Elections

Duties of the Trustee Board are defined by Memorandum and Articles of Association, and by the Rule Book of the British Youth Council. The Board is responsible for strategic planning, accountability and measurement of performance of the British Youth Council as a whole. This requires Board members to collectively have a wide range of skills, knowledge and experience.

These areas include:

- Governance;
- Financial knowledge and expertise;
- Fundraising and income generation;
- Developing external partnerships;
- Strategic planning and leadership;
- Advocacy;
- Marketing and brand promotion;
- Knowledge of youth participation;
- Human resource management.

The British Youth Council is particularly seeking a diverse range of Board members (in terms of experience, skills and background) to continue to embed the new governance arrangements and take forward our strategy.

It is important that candidates are able to adopt a UK-wide perspective on issues that will be addressed by the Board, and the ability to step beyond any member organisation that they may have come from. It is also important that Board members do not hold significant posts in Member Organisations or British Youth Council programmes, once appointed, both to ensure that there is no conflict of interest, and also to ensure that they are able to devote the time required to their role.

Nominations for the roles of Treasurer and Trustee were reviewed by a sub-group of the Board of Trustees, and the long-listed candidates were invited to interview. The short list that is being presented to the Annual Council Meeting consists of those candidates who met the minimum requirements, and the sub-group is happy to recommend that any of these candidates become members of the Board.

Two candidates for Treasurer were shortlisted, meeting the minimum standard and experience required to function as the Treasurer of a charity this size. Due to personal circumstances one candidate has withdrawn from the process, meaning that only one candidate is being presented to ACM.

At the Annual Council Meeting, two new trustees and one Treasurer will be elected by delegates of full member organisations. Trustees will serve for a term of three years and the Treasurer will serve for a term of two years.

### 3. Role of a Trustee

The Board of Trustees are legally responsible for the charity – this is a significant responsibility and one that should not be taken lightly. They have responsibility for ensuring it is well run, is financially secure, and doing the work it is meant to be doing. All those elected to the Board will serve as Trustees, and so will share the Board's responsibilities.

General duties of a Board (Charity Commission):

- Ensure the charity is carrying out its purposes for the public benefit;
- Comply with the charity's governing document and the law;
- Act in the charity's best interests;
- Ensure the charity is accountable;
- Manage the charity's resources responsibly;
- Act with reasonable care and skill.

As well as the legal duties and those detailed in the Charity Commission guidance, the British Youth Council defines the responsibilities of the Board in its rule book and these can be summarised as:

- to set the vision, values and objectives of the organisation;
- to develop the strategic direction of the organisation, sometimes using subcommittee to do this work;
- to act on behalf of the British Youth Council as a decision making body on some policy matters as set in Council Meetings;
- to appoint from its members and from member organisations, representatives as necessary
- to represent the Council to other bodies, and allocate representation opportunities to the most appropriate committees;
- to be responsible for all financial and legal aspects of the organisation, including buildings property and assets of the British Youth Council;
- to promote the British Youth Council to external organisations, and review and develop partnerships;
- to be responsible for the appraisal of their own work;

Trustees act collectively as part of the Board of Trustees. Together, the Board is responsible for all of the points above.

In addition to the role outlined above, the Treasurer has the following responsibilities:

- to chair the Finance Committee;
- to support the Chief Executive and other staff with the financial aspects of their role;
- to communicate financial information to the Board and assist them in understanding this;
- to oversee the production of the annual budget and propose its adoption to the Board;
- to support the board in ensuring proper records are kept and that effective financial procedures and controls are in place;
- to advise on the financial aspects of plans, proposals and feasibility studies;
- to lead on appointing and liaising with the auditors;
- to propose the approval of the audited accounts to a Council Meeting;

A full role description can be found in the Rule Book.

## 4. Candidates for Treasurer

### Candidate 1: Tom Clark

My name is Tom Clark. I'm a 22-year-old student and sit on the Board of two charities whilst studying and working part-time in aviation – a varied mix! I want to join the BYC as Treasurer to develop new opportunities – both for the BYC and for young people through the BYC – continuing my focus of increasing inclusion at all levels.



#### About Me – My Experience:

I have a varied background, though my main interests are in politics and the charity sector (although I'm also a keen football and cricket fan). Financially, I have extensive and growing strategic experience of financial management and budgeting through my Trustee Board and Finance Committee membership, and over recent years have seen success in the form of organisational growth and impact maximisation.

#### What I want to Achieve:

In and above the fundamental Treasurer responsibilities – namely ensuring financial effectivity / impact and sustainability – these are some key personal priorities:

- Exploring new corporate – and individual – engagement opportunities to open new doors for income generation and practical opportunities
- Ensuring members are fully informed on – and where appropriate involved with – BYC financial matters. I will always remain approachable to members and open to chatting about concerns or new ideas
- Solidifying risk assessment structures (particularly for income generation and budgeting sustainability)
- Consistent with my personal focus on inclusion and diversity, I will also continually seek to ensure the BYC remains accessible and attractive to as wide an audience of young people as possible

I'm fortunate to have an extensive network with connections across and at the top of finance, business, and government, and would seek to engage with and utilise this to open further opportunities for the BYC and its members.

I'm excited at the prospect of being the new Treasurer – working with the Board and BYC members to forge new future opportunities – and look forward to meeting everyone at the ACM.

<b>Skills assessment</b>		
Finance	Expertise	With experience as a Trustee (and Finance committee member), I have extensive experience in financial management and budgeting, and I'm capable in monitoring and maximising fund impact
Governance	Expertise	I'm a Board member at two charities and have a thorough understanding of charity governance. I'm a lead Trustee at one charity for governance issues (and for a recent governance / structural review)
Strategy/ Planning	Expertise	Again, as a Board Trustee, I have growing experience in strategic consideration and implementation. I additionally have panel experience in reviewing / advising on strategic plans
Leadership	Expertise	Leadership is part and parcel of Trusteeship; at the Alec Dickson Trust, I'm even part of the Leadership Team (group of four senior Trustees). My leadership approach is always inclusive and engaging
Communications	Expertise	I am also Board Secretary at the Alec Dickson Trust and PR&Comms committee lead. I am confident – with a sound track record – in internal (strategic) and external (PR and stakeholder) communications
Fundraising	Understanding	I am generally aware of fundraising strategically as a Trustee – and have led a committee aimed at exploring local fundraising opportunities – but am more limited in first-hand fundraising involvement
Digital	Understanding	I have previously helped strategically implement a new digital platform to enhance organisational effectivity and outreach
Youth organisations	Knowledge	A focus of my work – especially as a Trustee – has been in ensuring inclusion at all levels of business, providing opportunities for young people and supporting them to utilise such opportunities
People (Recruitment, Retention, Diversity)	Understanding	I cannot pretend to be a serious expert in this area, though I have been directly involved with HR issues ranging from various internal investigations to recruitment processes. Diversity is a personal focus
Policy	Understanding	I have helped ensure internal and external policies are followed as a Board member, and in some cases have helped construct / develop policy

## 6. Candidates for Trustee

### Candidate 1: Zara Khan

Hi, I'm Zara, a 21 year old from Walsall. I work at Walsall Council where I support businesses and organisations to have more diverse workforces. My team is part of a pilot integration programme with Central Government. I assess organisation's recruitment and employment practices and advise them on ways to improve. I have organised events, hosted events such as Remembering Srebrenica and Community Iftar dinners and liaised with partners to ensure that projects are completed effectively and efficiently.



I stumbled on my passion for youth voice when I attended my first Youth of Walsall (YOW) meeting in 2016. During my 2 years as Chair, I represented YOW at various events/panels which has helped me to hone my public speaking and networking skills. Due to limited resources, I suggested that we apply for funding to finance our 'Real Knives, Real Lives' knife awareness campaign which aims to educate young people around the dangers of knife crime. As Chair, I ensured that the money we were successful in applying for was spent responsibly. We were awarded the Police and Crime Commissioner's Community Thank You Award for our campaign!

I'm applying to be a BYC trustee because the charity is run by young people, for young people. I have seen youth issues being discussed without young people and I think BYC's approach is refreshing and logical. I will use my skills from my role, being Chair of YOW and being a Senior CSE Champion for Street Teams, such as partnership/team working, how to manage a budget, and being a great ambassador, to ensure that I am an effective trustee.

I have a keen interest in youth empowerment as evidenced through my work at YOW. Now I want to take my skills, experiences and knowledge and influence positive change on a regional/national level to ensure young people's voices are heard. We are the leaders of the future and should therefore have a say on the issues that affect us. I'm a big believer in partnership working because we can achieve more together.

### Skills Assessment

Governance <b>Knowledge</b>	As Chair of YOW, I ensured that the group was running smoothly and that we were fulfilling our mission of empowering young people.
Strategy/ Planning <b>Understanding</b>	I led on the planning of the 'Real Knives, Real Lives' knife awareness campaign. I needed to think strategically to ensure the campaign was effective and had a legacy.
Communications <b>Understanding</b>	In my current role as Positive Action Officer I keep staff up-to-date on the Walsall for All programme via an internal weekly bulletin and emails.
Finance <b>Understanding</b>	I managed how the funding for the 'Real Knives, Real Lives' knife awareness campaign would be spent effectively and responsibly.
Fundraising <b>Awareness</b>	I am aware that fundraising in the Third Sector is vital to ensure that an organisation is financially stable and fulfilling its aims.
Digital <b>Awareness</b>	I am aware of the importance of a charity having an online presence and being able to actively reach local, national and international audiences via social media and an engaging and informative website.
People <b>Knowledge</b>	I understand the recruitment process, the importance of staff retention and the importance of having a diverse workforce from my role as Positive Action Officer at Walsall Council.
Policy <b>Knowledge</b>	In my previous role as an Equalities officer, I advised colleagues on Equality Impact Assessments (EqIA's) to ensure they complied with the Equality Act and the Council's Equality Policy.



**Candidate 2:** Becca Moore

Hello changemakers! My name is Becca, I'm 19 and I am from Newcastle. Currently I work full time in a local high school, supporting vulnerable pupils, however I plan to study History at UCL in September.

The British Youth Council has been a huge part of my life, giving me countless opportunities to campaign for issues important to me. My experiences as a Member of Youth Parliament, within the Procedures group, as a member of the NHS Youth Forum, as vice-chair of the Youth Select Committee and as a UK Delegate to the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting, have allowed me to create positive change on issues like mental health, young people's confidentiality rights and poverty. More recently, I have worked as a Special Support Assistant in a high school where I must make extremely tough decisions about the welfare of some very vulnerable young people experiencing a range of issues.



Young people deserve a voice, and I believe the British Youth Council is an important vehicle in empowering young people to make a positive impact on their communities. As a young person myself and in my job working as a responsible adult for young people with some very complex needs, I have a unique position as an advocate and an activist, and this perspective gives me the responsibility and the passion to make an excellent trustee.

As a trustee I would focus on three key areas:

- 1) Make BYC more accessible to those from challenging backgrounds. Not all young people have access to the internet or the literacy levels to tackle long application forms. I would offer other ways of applying for our programmes.
- 2) Share YOUR successes. BYC members are doing some amazing things and I want this to be celebrated!
- 3) Offer clearer communication between members and trustees. I want to know what is important to YOU so I would ensure you have the opportunity to tell me!

Ultimately, I want to support young people to challenge themselves, help others, experience completely new things and find what they are passionate about.

**Skills Assessment**

<b>Governance Knowledge</b>	I chaired a group of young people in writing a report on Mental health services and launching an education campaign called "MIND YOUR HEAD", resolving conflict and supporting others throughout.
<b>Strategy/ Planning Expertise</b>	When I vice-chaired the Youth Select Committee, I organised other young people, allocated tasks, managed time and oversaw the process of evidence gathering, writing and launching the report.
<b>Communications Knowledge</b>	Within the UKYP Procedures Group, I co-wrote the Dispatch Box newsletter, and as an MYP I collected over 11,000 Make Your Mark ballots through effective communication with other young people.
<b>Finance Understanding</b>	In my job working in a school, I consider finances when implementing support strategies and requesting external agencies and buying in resources to support individual pupil needs.
<b>Fundraising Awareness</b>	As Chair of my Youth Council's Health and Wellbeing Group, I applied for and succeeded in gaining funding from the council, charities and companies for a Mental Health campaign.
<b>Digital Knowledge</b>	Within the NHS Youth Forum, I co-designed the #DearNHS Twitter campaign allowing young people to express to NHS bosses their vision of excellent healthcare and their own NHS stories.
<b>People Expertise</b>	Working in the SEN department of a high school, I am regularly involved in handling safeguarding incidents, interviewing staff, dealing with conflict and supporting a range of young people to succeed.
<b>Policy Knowledge</b>	In the Procedures Group, I led on organising the UKYP Manifesto, and contributed to improving the policy and procedure needed to keep this up to date with the issues important to young people.

**Candidate 3: Hatty Ruddick**

Having been in organisations that BYC represents such as the Scouting movement, the Girlguiding movement and having done work within the National Union of Students', I have started to learn about what BYC does for young people, and I want to be a part of that. Having worked in youth organisations such as NCS and local youth organisations, being a Students' Union Trustee and a representative of young people; in the roles of School Rep, Disabled Students' Rep and Student Voice on the Equality and Diversity Board throughout my time in education, I know I can bring a lot to the BYC board!



Please come and have a chat with me today and I'd love to get to know you all and what you feel that you want from a Trustee Board member. I have experience at this level and as someone that BYC has represented, I know that I can bring this experience to improve the board. One thing that I do really want to bring to the board is a level of self-reflection and evaluation that can help us look within ourselves and improve the board's performance.

If you were to elect me, I can guarantee that I would endeavour to make sure that this organisation is reaching out to all young people and improve youth voice and make sure that all young people feel empowered.

**Skills Assessment**

<b>Governance Knowledge</b>	When I was a trustee at Salford SU, I sat on the Human Resources and Governance sub-committee, where I contributed to the monitoring of the governance of the organisation.
<b>Strategy/ Planning Understanding</b>	I have sat modules on strategic management within my degree. I have also been involved in planning events and strategy for the year ahead as a society president at university.
<b>Communications Expertise</b>	I have facilitated workshops on communication for young people. I ran communication platforms for societies, and was the Marketing director for my young enterprise company.
<b>Finance Understanding</b>	I have sat modules on finance in my degree. I have also got two years of experience of challenging and questioning financial decisions while sitting on my SU trustee board.
<b>Fundraising Knowledge</b>	Being a graduate of the NCS Programme, who was later a staff member, I had to organise and overlook fundraising for social action projects.
<b>Digital Knowledge</b>	I have ran successful digital platforms for student societies. In my young enterprise company it was noted in the judges feedback of how well our digital marketing, which I was in charge of, was ran.
<b>People Expertise</b>	I have a 2:1 degree in Human Resources Management and I have experience of recruitment, and consulting on diversity schemes both professionally and voluntary.
<b>Policy Knowledge</b>	I have written four current policies at Salford SU and two current policies in the NUS. I have knowledge in adhering to policy in my workplace and on a Trustee Board.

**Candidate 4: Dom Smithies**

Hi, my name is Dom Smithies and I'm excited to be putting myself forward to be a trustee of the British Youth Council.



I'm a 24-year-old graduate based in Leeds where I work at Student Minds, the UK's student mental health charity, as the Student Voice and Equalities Lead. I grew up in South-East London before I went on to study Philosophy at the University of York where I got incredibly involved with my Students' Union, YUSU, and my College, Alcuin. I've kept up with my volunteering through being on the Pride In London core team as the Student Community Engagement Manager and through being involved with the NHS Youth Forum, a BYC project. I'm passionate about mental health, youth engagement and social justice.

I'm confident that I have a lot to bring to the role. At Student Minds I've been involved in strategy development, shaping our own policy stances, influencing government and other sector bodies, engaging students and young people in our work and managing a range of budgets for the various projects I've been involved with. As a trustee at YUSU I was trained and developed to understand how to fulfil a governance role effectively and through the HR & Audit subcommittee led on a piece of work to review the organisations approach to staff wellbeing, making several recommendations to the Board and CEO.

Over the last few years in Student Minds, as a member of the NHS Youth Forum, as a Sabbatical Officer and at university I have had the absolute joy and privilege of witnessing first-hand countless students and young people campaigning for causes they care about.

I have been afforded the opportunity to influence a range of decision-makers to make changes, support other young people through challenges and to inform professionals across all sectors to better understand what it is and means to be a young person today. And, if elected, I would be grateful for the opportunity to bring my passion and experience to this role so that BYC can continue to afford other young people those opportunities.

**Skills Assessment**

<b>Governance Knowledge</b>	I was a trustee during my time as a sabbatical officer, sitting on both the trustee board and the HR & Audit subcommittee. I also co-ordinate our Student Advisory Committee at Student Minds.
<b>Strategy/ Planning Knowledge</b>	I've managed many projects at Student Minds, including a year-long research project. I've shaped our organisation's approach to operational planning, project planning and strategy development.
<b>Communications Expertise</b>	I am confident in engaging stakeholders, beneficiaries and media. I've developed several presentations, spoken at conferences and written a research paper on LGBTQ+ students mental health.
<b>Finance Knowledge</b>	During my time at Student Minds, YUSU and university, I managed a range of budgets across a various. I currently lead on a 3-year project, Well Lads, managing a £150k budget at Student Minds.
<b>Fundraising Understanding</b>	I've supported numerous grant applications while at Student Minds. I've also worked with the team to shape our ethical fundraising policy. At university I organised several fundraising events in my College.
<b>Digital Awareness</b>	I've managed a range of social media accounts during my time at university as the President of Alcuin College, the Secretary of the LGBTQ+ Network and as a committee member in societies.
<b>People Expertise</b>	I lead on our EDI strategy and analyse our equality monitoring data at Student Minds. I'm experienced in recruiting both staff and volunteers. At YUSU I shaped our approach to staff wellbeing.
<b>Policy Knowledge</b>	I'm experienced in conducting research, developing policy stances, policy briefings and shaping external policy through influencing and lobbying – particularly in Higher Education and mental health.

**Candidate 5: Michael Woodland**

Hello! My name is Michael Woodland, and I am a Business Improvement Officer for Barnet Council's homelessness service. I'm originally from Gloucestershire, studied at Cardiff University to achieve a master's degree in politics and public policy, and moved to London a year ago to build a career in the housing sector. Having worked in homelessness and grown up in a working-class family, I have seen the impact of inequality and marginalisation on sections of our society. Nowhere is this starker with young people, whose needs and aspirations can often be side-lined or ignored. Subsequently, I want to help lead the BYC to champion further empowerment and engagement of young people in the pressing issues of the day.



Working for Barnet Council as a Housing and Business Improvement Officer has developed several skills that would allow me to excel in the trustee role. This includes developing my resilience and decision-making ability to help vulnerable people. I also have experience of project management, data analysis and team building from implementing several business improvement initiatives, notably to restructure the department. I am also a passionate campaigner, having been a columnist and strategy advisor for The Young European (TYE) News, a small pro-Remain media outlet. I am also a 2019-2020 Uprising Leadership alumni, having created a campaign to raise awareness of food poverty in Tower Hamlets. This volunteering has given me a professional background in strategic communications, grass-roots campaigning and networking with organisations to champion positive social change. If I were elected a trustee for the BYC, my three main priorities would be to:

- 1) Implement a campaign to raise awareness of youth homelessness and unaffordable rents for young people
- 2) Improve BYC's communication structure to become more responsive to member organisations and enhance visibility to external audiences
- 3) Increase training, development and collaboration opportunities for BYC's member organisations to enhance their leadership potential and social impact

**Skills Assessment**

<b>Governance Knowledge</b>	As a Business Improvement Officer for Barnet Council, I have supported service governance in analysing performance data, monitoring service provision and liaising with local government actors.
<b>Strategy/ Planning Knowledge</b>	I helped to research, design, pitch and implement a social action campaign to tackle food poverty in Tower Hamlets as part of the Uprising Leadership Programme.
<b>Communications Expertise</b>	I have written over thirty articles and produced a documentary on Votes-at-16 for The Young European (TYE) News. I am also an ambassador for the Lessons from Auschwitz Project.
<b>Finance Understanding</b>	I have helped draft bids for government funding, analysed financial data for service provision and written reports on the cost implications of key initiatives for Barnet Council.
<b>Fundraising Awareness</b>	I have awareness of fundraising processes through TYE News and Uprising, in that I have learned about different organisational income streams and helped to build relationships with potential donors.
<b>Digital Expertise</b>	As a strategy advisor for TYE News, I regularly managed the output of media on our website, produced online documentaries and maintained several social media platforms.
<b>People Understanding</b>	I have adhered to the legal duties of the Equality Act and promoted diversity through working for Barnet Council. Specifically, I have recruited new staff members and challenged negative stereotypes.
<b>Policy Expertise</b>	I have a master's degree in politics and public policy, with a specialist focus on British social policy relating to housing and homelessness, state welfare, education and economic inequality.

## 7. Current Trustees

Below is a list of the current Trustees and the date that their terms started and ends.

- Those members whose name has an asterisk (\*) are due to retire this autumn, either as their original term has come to an end or they have chosen to step down.
- (E) means that the Trustee was elected;
- (A) means that the Trustee was appointed. Under the revised governance arrangements introduced in 2017 the intention is to have a mix of appointed and elected trustees, although the Officers (Chair and Treasurer) and majority of the trustee will be elected to ensure that members of the British Youth Council have the majority stake in who leads their charity.

Name	Role	Term started	Term ends	Board meetings attended			
				10/18	2/19	5/19	7/19
Lewis Addlington Lee*	Trustee (E)	September 2016	October 2019	✓	✓	✓	✓
Abigail Ashmead	Trustee (A)	October 2017	October 2020		✓		
Aimee Castle	Trustee (A)	October 2018	October 2021	✓		✓	✓
Amanda Chetwynd-Cowieson	Trustee (A) Chair (E)	October 17 October 18	October 18 October 20	✓	✓	✓	✓
Larissa Kennedy	Trustee (E)	October 2017	October 2020		✓	✓	✓
Kira Milana Lewis	Trustee (E)	January 2019	October 2021	N/A	✓		
Kyle Parks	Trustee (A)	October 2018	October 2021	✓		✓	✓
Chisomo Phiri	Trustee (E)	January 2019	October 2021	N/A	✓		✓
Frankie Smith*	Trustee (A)	October 2017	October 2019		✓	✓	✓
Sarah Staples	Trustee (E)	September 2016	October 2021	✓		✓	✓
Joe Stockley	Trustee (E)	October 2017	October 2020	✓	✓	✓	
Luke Thornton*	Treasurer (E)	September 2015	October 2019	✓	✓	✓	✓
T Jay Turner	Trustee (E)	October 2018	October 2021	✓		✓	✓

## 8. Remaining Trustees



**Abigail Ashmead**

Abby works as an Executive Consultant at Harris Hill Charity Specialists, providing advisory, recruitment, and management solutions to charity Chief Executives and. She has a longstanding commitment to young people having been involved with young carers' organisations from a very early. Abby is also a delegate on the Patchwork Foundation, which seeks to promote, encourage and support the active participation of young adults from minority communities in democracy and civil society.



**Aimee Castle**

Aimee is a creative dynamic individual who has a passion for developing remarkable corporate partnerships that are built on shared purpose and vision. She has experience of delivering large scale, strategic and profitable partnerships at Girlguiding, Missing People and The Rainbow Trust Children's Charity. Aimee believes young people should be able to shape their own future, whatever their background, And that it is the diversity of thought and opinion, that will generate a better, brighter and stronger world.



**Amanda Chetwynd-Cowieson**

Amanda previously chaired the trustee board of Falmouth and Exeter Students' Union, where she was also the elected Student Union President. Amanda went on to found and run a campaign aiming to put young people's voices at the forefront of the Brexit negotiations, as well as sitting on the trustee board for the National Union of Students. She is interested in campaigns to end child poverty in rural areas and helping young people engage with politics in new ways.



**Larissa Kennedy**

Larissa is passionate about intersectional feminism and anti-racist activism. Barclays featured Larissa at Number 63 on the 2017 edition of their 'Future 100' List of the most influential women at UK universities. She has been the UK's Representative to the Global Secretariat at Youth For Change, a Plan International supported project that works on gender-based violence. Larissa is also an active member of Girlguiding, working on membership growth and retention, and campaigns. Larissa is currently reading Politics, International Studies and Hispanic Studies at the University of Warwick and is involved in the University's anti-racism and anti-sexism societies.



**Kira Lewis**

Kira, from Somerset, studies BA War Studies at King's College. She was elected as a Trustee after serving in UKYP's Procedures Group, and twice as an MYP. She is a Director of the Africa and Europe Committee of Commonwealth Youth Council, and is also a Trustee of a large theatre company in Devon. She was a Governor of one of the UK's largest FE Colleges, and was a Head Police Cadet and Mayor's Cadet. Kira was elected as a trustee in January 2019.



**Kyle Parks**

Kyle was appointed Trustee in October 2018. He joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office after graduating from Queen's University Belfast. He previously served as Honorary Secretary of the Northern Ireland Youth Forum and on the Steering Committee of the Open Government Network NI. He is a former UK Young Ambassador. Kyle completed the Washington Ireland Program for Leadership and is interested in leadership, education and social mobility.



**Chisomo Phiri**

Chisomo was elected to the British Youth Council Trustee Board in January 2019 after having previously chaired the trustee board of Swansea Students' Union, where she was also the elected SU President. Chisomo recently completed a term as the Women's Officer at National Union of Students Wales and sat on NUS Services board. Chisomo has a passion for student activism, collectivism and women and young peoples rights



**Sarah Staples**

Sarah was elected as a Trustee in September 2018, having already served a two-year term as an elected trustee. A former Member of Youth Parliament for Plymouth, Sarah has recently completed a degree in politics and is working for an MP supporting case work.



**Joe Stockley**

Joe has volunteered for several years in the Welsh charity sector, undertaking the Uprising programme, and working for WCVA in Cardiff. He became the Chair of Student Reps in his final year at university, winning two awards for his work. He was the UK Young Ambassador for Wales. He was awarded a Fellowship with the Royal Commonwealth Society, and has written for the Guardian. Joe was elected as a trustee of BYC in September 2017.



**T Jay Turner**

T Jay joined Oldham Youth Council at 14 and has been involved in local, regional and national youth voice. He was elected MYP in 2015 and has held positions on Youthforia's steering group. He was the youth rep for Voluntary Action Oldham - proactively conveying the interests of young people in decision making- and finance lead for the Oldham Youth Council's funding stream. T Jay was elected as a trustee of BYC in September 2018.



## 9. Honorary Presidents Election

Each year three MPs, one from each of the largest three parties in the House of Commons, are elected to this position. They champion the British Youth Council's work to other parliamentarians, and try to highlight the British Youth Council's work and your voice to decision makers and the Government.

In the event that 'RON' is elected for any of the Honorary President positions, the decision of who shall fill the vacancy passes to the Board of Trustees. When required to decide upon an Honorary President, the Trustees shall take into account the views expressed by the membership, and candidates who featured in the original election shall be excluded from consideration. The decision of the Board of Trustees is final.

### Honorary presidents 2018/19

1. Rt Hon Justine Greening MP (Conservative) – nominated by Girlguiding and The Scout Association
2. Danielle Rowley MP (Labour) – Nominated by Girlguiding and The Scout Association
3. Mhairi Black MP (SNP) – nominated by Girlguiding and The Scout Association.



## Conservative Party Candidates

### Rt. Hon. Justine Greening MP

*Nominated by Amy Clay (Girlguiding), Luke Patterson (The Scout Association) and Lewis Addlington Lee (BYC Board)*



Member for Putney May 2005 – present

Secretary of State for Education Jul 2016 – Jan 2018

Minister for Women and Equalities Jul 2016 – Jan 2018

Secretary of State for International Development Sep 2012 – Jul 2016

Secretary of State for Transport Oct 2011 – Sep 2012

Economic Secretary (HM Treasury) May 2010 – Oct 2011

Shadow Minister (Communities and Local Government) Jan 2009 – May 2010

Shadow Minister (Treasury) Jul 2007 – Jan 2009

#### Select Committee membership:

Public Accounts Committee Jul 2010 – Oct 2011

Work and Pensions Committee Jul 2005 – Oct 2007

#### Other posts:

Vice-Chair (Youth), Conservative Party Jul 2005 – May 2010

Voting record can be found [here](#); Twitter: [@JustineGreening](#)

## Labour Party Candidates

### **Danielle Rowley MP**

*Nominated by Amanda Chetwynd-Cowieson (BYC Board) and Lewis Addlington Lee (BYC Board)*



Member for Midlothian Jun 2017 – present

Shadow Minister (Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) Climate Justice and Green Jobs – Jun 2019 - present

Select Committee membership:  
Scottish Affairs Committee Sep 2017 - present

Voting record can be found [here](#); Twitter: [@DaniRowley](#)

### **Anna Turley MP**

*Nominated by Victoria Kincaid (Girlguiding) and Liyan Adnan (The Scout Association)*



Member for Redcar June 2017 – present

Shadow Minister (Cabinet Office) - Sep 2015 - Jun 2016

Select Committee membership:  
Member of the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee – Oct 2016 – present  
Home Affairs Committee – Jun 2015-Oct 2015

Voting record can be found [here](#); Twitter: [@annaturley](#)

## Scottish National Party Candidates

### **Mhairi Black MP**

*Nominated by Amanda Chetwynd-Cowieson (BYC Board) and Lewis Addlington-Lee (BYC Board)*



Member for Paisley and Renfrewshire South May 2015 – present

Shadow SNP Deputy Spokesperson (Disabilities) Jul 2018 – present

Shadow SNP Deputy Spokesperson (Equalities) Jul 2018 – present

Shadow SNP Spokesperson (Children and Families) Jul 2018 – present

Shadow SNP Spokesperson (Pensions) Jun 2017 – present

Shadow SNP Spokesperson (Youth Affairs) Jun 2017 – present

Select Committee membership:

Work and Pensions Committee Jul 2015 – May 2017

Voting record can be found [here](#); Twitter: [@MhairiBlack](#)

### **Angela Crawley MP**

*Nominated by Katie Waters (Girlguiding) and Ellie Broome (The Scout Association)*



Member for Lanark and Hamilton East May 2015 – present

Shadow SNP Spokesperson (Pensions) Jul 2018 – present

Shadow SNP Spokesperson (Youth affairs) Jul 2018 – present

Shadow SNP Spokesperson (Children and families) Jul 2018 – present

Shadow SNP Spokesperson (Family Support) – Jun 2017 – Jul 2018

Shadow SNP Spokesperson (Housing) – Jun 2017- July2018

Shadow SNP Spokesperson (Disabilities) Jun 2017 – present

Shadow SNP Spokesperson (Equalities, women and children) – May 2015 – Jul 2018

Select Committee membership:

Health and Social Care Committee – May 2019 – present

Women and Equalities Committee – Jul 2015 – present

Voting record can be found [here](#); Twitter: [@AngelaCrawley30](#)

## 10. UK Young Ambassador – European Youth Forum

The UK Young Ambassadors enable young people from across the UK to have a voice and influence in international decision-making and to campaign for change on local, national and international levels. The UK Young Ambassador programme is open to any young person (18-25) from across the UK (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales). The programme is divided into three main strands:

- Two UK Young Ambassadors representing the British Youth Council and our members in the Commonwealth Youth Forum;
- Two UK Young Ambassadors representing the British Youth Council and our members in the European Youth Forum;
- Four UK Young Ambassadors (one from each of the nations in the UK) leading our work on the EU Youth Dialogue.

The UK Young Ambassadors for the European Youth Forum and the Commonwealth Youth Forum are elected by our member organisations, while the UK Young Ambassadors for the EU Youth Dialogue are selected.

At the Annual Council Meeting we will be electing one male or non-binary UK Young Ambassador to the European Youth Forum. Our intention is to have a gender-balanced delegation, which is why we have only opened this call to young people who identify as male or non-binary. The term of office for the new UK Young Ambassador will be three years.

### Role of a UK Young Ambassador to the European Youth Forum

- Inform and influence European policy making through attending the European Youth Forum Council of Members Meetings (COMEM) as well as representing the British Youth Council at sub-regional meetings;
- Get involved in research and consultation with young people across the UK to gather their views, including workshops, focus groups and online research, whenever appropriate;
- Design and deliver advocacy actions, responding to UK young people's needs and concerns arising from the European Youth Forum;
- Share information from the European Youth Forum with the Member Organisations of the British Youth Council and with young people across the UK;
- Ensure the most current and pressing issues for young people in the UK are translated in European youth policy making;
- Liaise with the wider team of UK Young Ambassadors to align work and priorities and assist the rest of the team on relevant campaigns and advocacy on local, national and European levels;
- Raise awareness of European campaigns, policies and actions through reports, blogs, websites and social networks;
- Represent UK young people at European events and to UK decision makers;
- Provide policy feedback to the British Youth Council, member organisations and youth and networks;
- Be an active part of a European network, share information, ideas and actions.



The newly elected UK Young Ambassador will be working alongside the existing UK Young Ambassador to the European Youth Forum **Lucia Jones**. Lucia is from Wales recently finished studying Theatre and English at Brunel University London. She used to be a member of Powys Youth Forum and Funky Dragon and was elected to represent Wales at the 9th Commonwealth Youth Parliament in the British Virgin Islands in October 2017. She is currently in her third year representing the British Youth Council at the European Youth Forum.

## Candidate 1: Rory Daniels

As a 19-year-old Parliamentary Candidate in the last UK General Election, I sought to put the concerns of young people on the agenda. Before the campaign I led a non-partisan drive to register more students to vote, and my manifesto focused exclusively on issues that affect us. These include the scrapping of housing benefits for 18- to 21-year-olds and falling mental health funding. After the election, I decided to utilise the leadership and communication skills I had developed to multiply my impact beyond my constituency. Today, I hold an advisory role at the European Commission (on youth and industrial policy), sit on Amnesty International's global Youth Task Force board as the UK's representative and lead youth projects across London through my role as a Global Shaper for the World Economic Forum. I also get stuck in on the ground, conducting focus groups across Wales through my work as a Structured Dialogue Champion for the British Youth Council. Importantly, through these positions I have instigated real change. For example, just a few months ago I was recognised by Target Jobs as one of the UK's Top-10 Undergraduates of the Year for Impactful Social Action for my work with refugees and those left-behind by globalisation and technological change. Having recently completed a Political Economy degree at King's College London, reached the final of essay competitions run by the Royal Economic Society and European Commission and spent years working in the UK Parliament (in both the House of Commons and House of Lords), I believe that when confronted with a challenge, my skills lie in consulting stakeholders, establishing an academic grounding for my arguments and then communicating my position with confidence and authority. In this time of great political uncertainty, the British Youth Council is presented with an incredible opportunity to set the Europe-wide agenda on youth affairs and participation. It is my ambition to lead the charge in setting this agenda.



### Skills Assessment

<b>Representation Expertise</b>	I currently represent the UK on Amnesty International's global Youth Task Force board and as a Young Leader of Industry at the European Commission.
<b>Communication Expertise</b>	I spent years writing all speeches, press releases, publications and Parliamentary Questions for a Member of Parliament in the House of Commons and Lord in the House of Lords.
<b>Stakeholders Understanding</b>	As a Governor for my college, I spent 2 years representing over 2000 students on the corporation's governance board alongside the Principal and other senior stakeholders.
<b>EU/European administration Knowledge</b>	Serving as a Young Leader of Industry at the European Commission, I often give speeches and attend events in Brussels, affording me a sound knowledge of the EU's administrative processes.
<b>EU/European issues Knowledge</b>	I hold regular consultation sessions with young people through my European Commission role and recently studied European Politics & Economics at Utrecht University's Summer School.
<b>Youth organisations Understanding</b>	I run focus groups across Wales as a Structured Dialogue Champion for the British Youth Council and have led university societies including KCL's World Food Programme & Politics Societies.
<b>Campaigning Expertise</b>	As a Parliamentary Candidate, I delivered my leaflets to 40,000 houses and reached 170,000+ online. I also spoke on TV, to The Guardian, in my own documentary and at public events.
<b>Policy and Advocacy Expertise</b>	I advise the European Commission on youth and industrial policy and Amnesty International's global board on youth policy. I advocate for humanitarian policies by writing for socialprotection.org.

## Candidate 2: Tom Matthew

Hello! I'm Tom, the MYP for North Devon, West Devon and Torridge. I study Politics, Geography and Sociology at Exeter College; I sit on the board as Student Governor and I am the Under-Secretary General of Exeter College Model United Nations (MUN). I really enjoy debating and I have achieved my Grade 8 in Public Speaking from LAMDA. I love going to talks and lectures; one of the best I've attended was on leadership with Barack Obama! Aside from academic stuff, I play piano and run, cycle and swim. In April, I was one of the youngest runners to finish the London Marathon! I have used running to raise over £5,000 for a charity I volunteer at, Amigos Worldwide. In 2016, I visited Uganda with Amigos: this trip sparked my passion for social justice.



I began to see how the quality of life intrinsic to living in the UK, drastically differs from that experienced by billions of others. Since visiting Uganda, I decided to do everything I can to use relative fortune to better the lives of others. The role of UKYA to the European Youth Forum is an amazing opportunity to do this.

When young people's voices are listened to, society almost objectively improves. I see the principle role of the UKYAs as representing the views of young people thoroughly and meaningfully. This has been a key aim for me as a MYP. I've visited four schools and a youth centre where I discussed topics including the climate crisis, the curriculum and Brexit with young people. These discussions formed the basis for meetings with the two MPs for the two constituencies I represent, one being the Attorney General. I recently spent 45 minutes with him scrutinising his role in the Brexit process- a particular interest for my constituents. I have spoken to the full Devon County Council and with individuals to discuss specific concerns the young people raised.

I would relish the opportunity of working with the UKYAs to represent young people on a wider scale and to campaign for the changes they want to see.

### Skills Assessment

<b>Representation Expertise</b>	As MYP I have collected views of my constituents through face to face visits, then passed their views onto MPs, the DfE and the Council. I represent 13,000 students as Student Governor at my college.
<b>Communication Expertise</b>	Grade 8 in public speaking. Awarded best delegate of the Middle East committee at an international MUN competition. National Youth Speaks semi-finalist, best main speaker in Devon and Cornwall.
<b>Stakeholders Understanding</b>	As a MYP, I have been in contact with schools, youth clubs, MPs, councillors and the DfE giving me a good knowledge of the path from student opinion to local and national political representatives.
<b>EU/European administration knowledge</b>	Attended the Brexit Select Committee with D. Davis. Visited former MEP for the South West in Brussels. Regularly debate EU issues at MUN. Spoken to the Attorney General about his negotiations in Brussels.
<b>EU/European issues Knowledge</b>	Having spoken face to face with hundreds of students about Brexit, I have begun to gain a good understanding of the variety and complexity of young people's thoughts on Europe and the EU.
<b>Youth organisations Awareness</b>	As a MYP I have gained a strong understanding of the BYC and UKYP and some of the organisations it works with. I have a good understanding of the network of youth climate related groups.
<b>Campaigning Understanding</b>	Leading the curriculum for life campaign and working on the environmental campaign for Devon Youth Parliament. Member of the School Funding Advocates. Volunteer at the charity Amigos.
<b>Policy and Advocacy Knowledge</b>	I have passionately advocated for a diverse curriculum, which contains more life skills, to the DfE and MPs including Nick Gibb. I have been to lectures on social policy at the LSE and Cambridge.

### Candidate 3: Rory Moore

I applied to be the young ambassador to the European Youth Forum as I want to ensure that young people's voices are heard in the decision-making process on a European level, no matter what happens with Brexit! I recognise the value of young people and their ideas, and have shown consistently throughout a number of roles that I have the necessary skills to be an effective ambassador. For instance, I have given speeches in Parliament and at events in London, showing I am confident at speaking in public. I have also met with important decision-makers from the Cabinet such as Andrea Leadsom and Chris Grayling, securing a key reform to transport policy (something that was important to young people in my local area). This shows I am able to influence policy by lobbying those in power and representing the interests of those who I am elected to serve. Indeed, I am passionate about representing young people and ensuring they are taken seriously by those with power – as your ambassador, I would engage with young people from all over the UK to ensure their voices were heard in European decision-making.



I also have media experience, having been interviewed on platforms ranging from BBC radio to Turkish TV – I think this would help to project the views of young people and ensure that issues affecting us gain sufficient coverage. Beyond that, as a Parliamentary Ambassador for the BYC, I conducted research into important issues and produced a briefing paper for decision-makers. I also offered insight on policy recommendations at a roundtable, eventually helping to shape the Government's new Civil Society Strategy. This shows that I can deal with complex policy matters.

Most importantly of all, I love working with others – throughout my youth voice career, I have been a team player, working on campaigns with people from a diverse range of backgrounds. With pressing global issues such as climate change, there has never been a more important time for young people to work together, and I believe I am the best person to stand up for UK young people in Europe.

#### Skills Assessment

<b>Representation Expertise</b>	Across all of my youth voice roles, I campaign specifically on issues that matter to young people, for example launching a campaign on transport as it came top in my county's Make Your Mark results.
<b>Communication Expertise</b>	I am an experienced public speaker, having given speeches in Parliament and at events in London. I have also made media appearances on TV and radio, showing that I am an effective communicator.
<b>Stakeholders Understanding</b>	As a youth affairs advisor, I helped the company Accenture to develop a community engagement project, and as an Ambassador for Big Youth Group helped design an app to benefit young people.
<b>EU/European administration Understanding</b>	As part of my A Level in politics, I studied the institutions of the EU and how they operate. I also pay close attention to EU political affairs, such as the recent appointments of new officials.
<b>EU/European issues Knowledge</b>	As a part of the OFOC campaign, I have spoken to young people (with differing views) about European and EU issues, and in the climate change campaign I have seen the need for continental cooperation.
<b>Youth organisations Knowledge</b>	I have been a member of my local Youth Council for a number of years, while I have also been a Parliamentary Ambassador for the BYC. I also have a key leadership role in the Big Youth Group.
<b>Campaigning Expertise</b>	I have campaigned in many different ways, lobbying for change on transport policy, speaking at climate change rallies, giving assemblies at local schools on mental health, and providing insight at roundtables.
<b>Policy and Advocacy Expertise</b>	I met with the Minister for Transport to advocate for cheaper rail fares for young people and this work led to a new 16/17-year-old railcard. I also helped to shape the Government's new Civil Society Strategy.

**Candidate 4: Khalil Richard**

I am Khalil Richard and have been passionately representing people since I was sixteen years old. I am visually impaired and grew up in the care system so have learned first-hand the barriers which are faced by people in similar positions, and continue to challenge these for myself and others. This is a source of powerful drive within me to be successful when campaigning and representing constituents. I am incredibly passionate about helping others to overcome barriers they are faced with in society, whatever their circumstances, and wish to help inform and inspire them whilst fighting their corner on the political stage.



In February 2018, I joined the Sheffield Youth Cabinet and was chosen to take over from the leaving representative for young people in care/care leavers. After finishing the remainder of the term, I was re-elected as secretary for transport and children in care/care leavers. When in this role, I campaigned for more accessible public transport in the North which will introduce audio voiceovers in all transport by 2021, I have helped develop the South Yorkshire Transport Charter, and am actively challenging the environmental impact of Sheffield City Region's public transport.

Whilst I was in the care system, I started attending the Children In Care Council in September 2016. Here, I campaigned on a variety of issues that young people in care face, such as fairer financial distribution by designing an entitlement strategy guideline to provide direction on the fair share of pocket-money and personal expenses.

In 2016, the Sheffield Care Leavers Union (SCLU) was formed. Here, I worked on many different projects, for example campaigning on council tax exemption for care leavers, to help them become financially independent sooner. As a member of SCLU, I advocate for care leavers in a wide range of projects, and also became a member of Coram Voice as an ambassador for children in care/care leavers. This means I now represent all children in care/care leavers in Sheffield and attend monthly conferences in London, adding further gravitas and a wider audience to elicit greater support for those I represent.

**Skills Assessment**

<b>Representation Expertise</b>	I have represented young people in NUS Youth Cabinet, Youth Care Councils, and Care Leavers, from a local to national stage. I listen to information from groups, and represent details at national conferences.
<b>Communication Expertise</b>	I have demonstrated strong communication skills, for example when coordinating between management level and youth level to make sure people are fairly represented.
<b>Stakeholders Awareness</b>	As I am elected in the Youth Cabinet, I have been working closely in youth clubs to hear from young people affected by local knife crime.
<b>EU/European administration Awareness</b>	As I have been working on a national level, I have limited experience of European administration but am fascinated to explore this area in the future.
<b>EU/European issues Knowledge</b>	Key issues I hear frequently from young people and in the media are on global warming, the environment, the effects of Brexit, and immigration.
<b>Youth organisations Expertise</b>	I am involved in many different youth organisations, eg; Sheffield Futures, Youth Association South Yorkshire, De Paul & am supporting Social England in developing their two-year mental health strategy.
<b>Campaigning Expertise</b>	I campaigned with Transport For The North, which resulted in making transport more accessible, and by 2021 all public transport will have audio announcements to support those with impairments.
<b>Policy and advocacy Understanding</b>	I have advocated on policy for voting age, including debating this in London, and for care leavers to be exempt from paying council tax until the age of 25 to help them become independent.