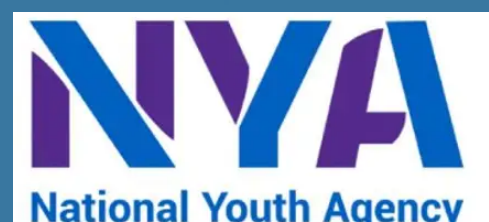




Youth Parliament Report 2024-2026 Term



To find out more about Suffolk Youth Parliament, at:
www.thesource.me.uk/youthparliament

You're Invited...

Suffolk UK Youth Parliament Meeting

When: Tuesday 9th April 2.30pm - 4.30pm

Where: King Edmund's Chamber, Endeavour House, Ipswich

An opportunity to welcome new members of Suffolk Youth Parliament and say goodbye and good luck to current members! ...and use the council chamber microphones...

RSVP to jess.walker@suffolk.gov.uk by 22nd March

Places limited (possible to join online via MS Teams or in person)

<https://thesource.me.uk/our-groups/uk-youth-parliament/>

Youth Parliament
MAKING OUR MARK

Spring 2024

We introduced ourselves and thanked our retiring members during a 'Hello and Goodbye' Session in King Edmund's Chamber.

We met on 29th May at Endeavour House following some online Induction Sessions on 13 and 20 May.

We had Councillors Bobby Bennett and David Roach attend to tell us more about their roles as well as hear about the MYPs campaign ideas – Mental Health and Additional Needs.

We had a photo shoot and recorded a video to put on thesource.me.uk and social media channels to introduce ourselves to our constituents.

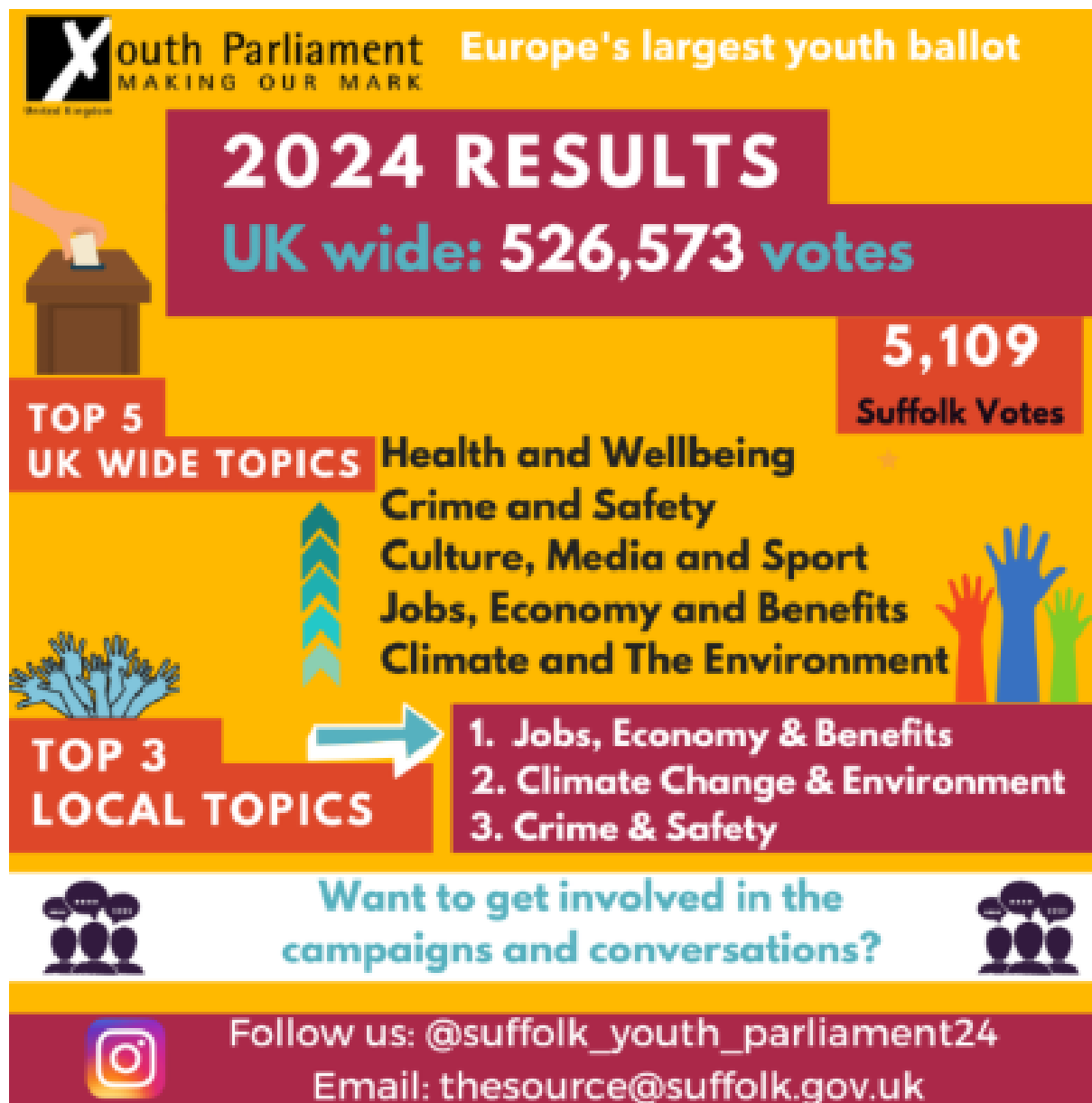


Mohamad Ismail – MYP for Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury
 Mohamad's focuses are: Decreasing Domestic Abuse of Young people, more 'Everyday' Information in our Curriculum, Improving Mental Health in Educational Settings

Hermione Cartwright – MYP for Mid Suffolk
 Hermione's focuses are: Support when supporting or reporting Mental Health, Drugs and Alcohol Awareness, Bringing the Community Together

Henry Clark – MYP for Ipswich and Babergh
 Henry's focuses are: Ending Youth Violence, Tackling the Cost-of-Living Crisis, Helping to Improve School Attendance.

Kayleb Wright – MYP for Suffolk Coastal and Waveney
 Kayleb's focuses are: LGBTQ+, Mental Health and Special Educational Needs



Summer 2024

We received the results of the 2024 Make Your Mark

We set up our own Instagram page in order to make sure young people in Suffolk could find out what we're doing to help them and what we're campaigning on.

Suffolk_youth_parliament24 - https://www.instagram.com/suffolk_youth_parliament24/



We promoted Youth Parliament and Suffolk Youth Forum at Suffolk Youth Climate Conference and YouthWatch's Event this month.

We attended workshops on how to communicate with MPs, Mental Health and Healthwatch's My Health Our Future Survey Results.

We gathered views from young people at the events as well as participating during the Volunteering Matters Hackathon and giving radio and TV interviews.

This month we networked with MPs, Suffolk Mind, Crown Prosecution Service, Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership, Youthwatch, East Suffolk Council, SCC's Schools Engagement Manager and SCC's Senior Skills Policy Officer in Youth Participation!

All this networking supports our work on our individual manifestos as well as the local and national priorities.

Summer 2024

We attended the YouthWatch Suffolk Open event at the University of Suffolk on the 9th of July, organised by HealthWatch Suffolk.

The Healthwatch event was in partnership with local NHS services and aimed at engaging young people (15+) in health and care support and help young people to explore opportunities .

The event was open to young people via their school or college and included talks from guest speakers about young people’s health and wellbeing, with a presentation from Healthwatch which highlighted the results from their latest 2023 ‘My Health, our Future’ survey with schools which gave an interesting insight into the different factors and worries which are impacting the lives of young people across Suffolk, such as, the cost of living.

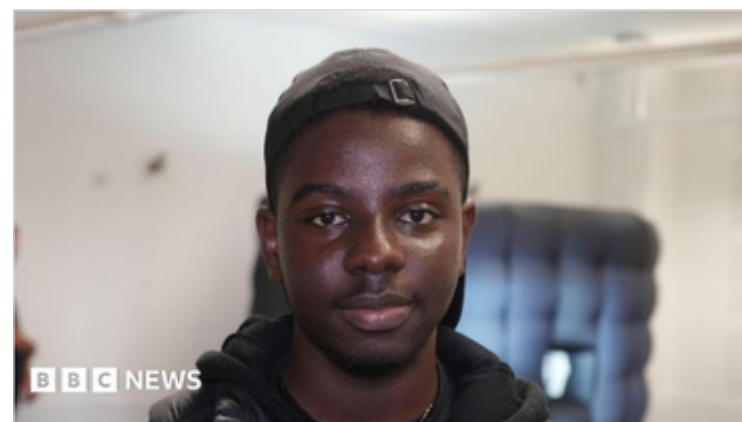
Read the results of “My Health, Our Future” and the BBC article here:



My Health, Our Future (phase seven)

The wellbeing of young people in 2023 has been revealed after more than 13,000 young people took part in our latest 'My Health, Our Future' (MHoF) survey. Download our full report to explore our key findings now. Download our reports...

Healthwatch Suffolk / Jan 11, 2024



Young Ipswich students on what they want from the new government

Young people outline how they want help with mental health and securing housing

BBC News / Jul 10, 2024



Summer 2024

We had two meetings during August, one in Endeavour House and one at West Suffolk House.



Mohamad Ismail (MYP West Suffolk)

“For the foreseeable future, I will be gathering and analysing data on students' experiences and views regarding PSHE/RSHE.

Currently, I am in the process of creating a survey form that will initially be distributed locally in West Suffolk.

After this phase, I plan to refine the form for broader distribution across Suffolk.

If you have any suggestions on how I can collect data, or if you are interested in becoming a beta tester for the survey, please feel free to email me at mohamad.ismail2058@gmail.com”

Kayleb Wright (MYP Lowestoft and Waveney)

“I am linking up with Sam Kenward, a Community Officer’s from East Suffolk Council, to work on getting young people’s opinions heard regarding the Holidays Activity Programme, alongside

Mental Health.

I feel there needs to be more funding for the HAP, to support young people’s voices being heard so that next time they are able to get the funding that they need.

I am going to do this by linking with local youth groups such as scouts, brownies, and mental health support projects, and send out a form for young people to partake in to share what has worked out for them.

I met with Jess Asato, The MP of Lowestoft, and James Fisher, Senior Parliamentary Assistant to Jess Asato MP, within the past week and had a lovely conversation with the both of them.

We share a passion towards Mental Health and Special Educational Needs within the youth of Suffolk, and they said they are looking forward to keeping in touch”.

Autumn 2024



We attended our first annual sitting at the University of Warwick.

During the conference, MYPs engaged in discussions, presentations and debates about issues affecting young people today.

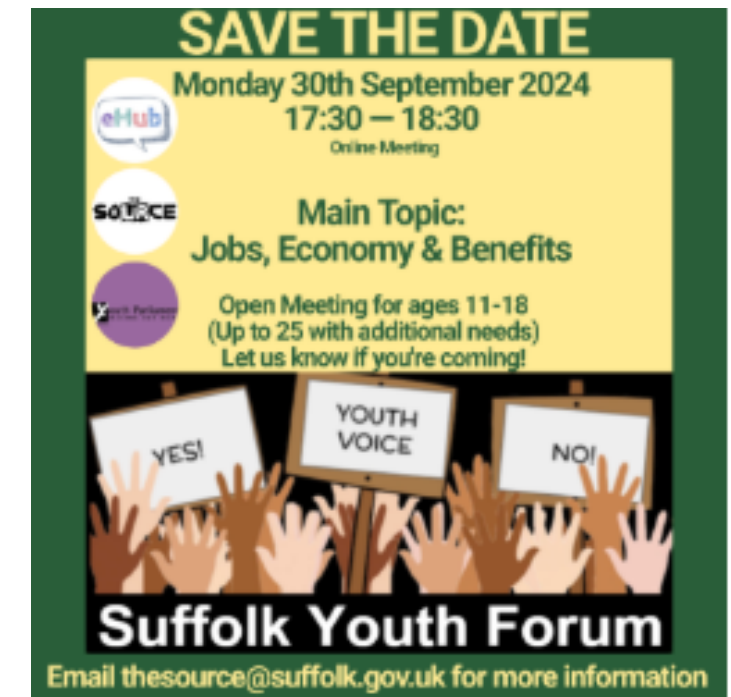
A primary aim of the event is for MYPs to debate policy motions as part of the process of creating the new UK manifesto.

We gave our views on subjects like knife crime and support for young people's mental health.

We hosted Youth Forums on the topics of Jobs, Economy and Benefits (No.1 Make Your Mark Topic in Suffolk) and Crime and Safety (voted 2nd most important)

The group was invited to give their input into the Local Economic Strategic Plan by Josie Finch in the Skills Team.

We were joined by Shorolla Allen, Youth Justice Assistant Operations Manager who leads on Co-Production in their service. Henry was invited to join her future meetings.



Winter 2024



Kayleb (Member of Youth Parliament for Suffolk Coastal and Waveney) presented on 16th January at Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board alongside Castle Manor Academy SEND Young Person's Network group, Members of Suffolk Family Carers Young Carers Committee and Grace Pearson (YouthWatch Co-ordinator).

Winter 2024



We visited the House of Commons and sat on the green benches to debate 5 key topics, from the UKYP manifesto that was agreed at the summer sitting.

Two of us were chosen to speak. Hermione Cartwright (Mid Suffolk) spoke on Votes for 16 and 17, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hV_pxDQ-KHg around 53.50.

(Rt HON Rushanara Ali MP announced the government would be backing this in her speech to them).



Mohamad Ismail (West Suffolk) spoke on free public transport https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hV_pxDQ-KHg around 6 minutes in.

16- and 17-year-olds should be allowed to vote in all elections and referendums, accompanied with more political education throughout school.

That the National Minimum Wage for every worker under 22 be raised in order to match the National Living Wage for those over 22.

All public transport should be free for young people.

All young people in the UK must have access to a standardised level of political literacy and democratic education to improve engagement in politics on a local, national, and international level to develop critical thinking skills.

To establish period dignity, there should be free, accessible, good quality period products available in public spaces for everyone

Spring 2025



At a meeting of Suffolk's Youth Parliament, Cllr Bobby Bennett, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services signed the Power of Youth Charter, alongside Cllr Liz Harsant, Chairman of Suffolk County Council and Cllr Nathan Wilson, on behalf of Suffolk County Council.



To learn more about the Power of Youth Charter, visit www.iwill.org.uk or visit The power of youth (Kayleb talking with Councillor Bobby Bennett)

Later on, that afternoon we met with the Leader of Mid Suffolk District Council and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resilience Andrew Mellon and other fellow Mid-Suffolk Suffolk District Councillors to talk about green initiatives in the area.



“In a joint statement, we said: “We are delighted to be involved in this movement, as youth representatives. We believe that this could move the future of youth voice and empower young people in making decisions that affect their futures.”

Summer 2025

At the University of Sussex, this year's UK Youth Parliament (MYP) Annual Conference brought together over 300 elected MYPs from across the UK.

Key themes included:

Votes at 16 and political education.

Free public transport for young people.

Raising the minimum wage for under-22s.

Period dignity and access to menstrual products.

Mental health support in schools and communities.



The conference also celebrated the Youth Parliament's 25th anniversary and marked its first full year under the leadership of the National Youth Agency, following the closure of the British Youth Council in 2024.

Here's a video of the weekend:

<https://youtu.be/GYqamnlVhvE>

The event focused on finalising the 2025–2026 Youth Manifesto, with workshops, debates, and networking sessions designed to empower young voices in shaping national policy.



Autumn 2025

Nicola Beech held a Q&A Session and presentation about One Suffolk at October's Suffolk Youth Forum (27th October).

Kayleb then shared all the young people's views with James Cartilage about Suffolk's Local Government Reorganisation at a meeting in The Houses of Parliament.



HAVE YOUR SAY!

ON Local Government Reorganisation in Suffolk

Are you aged 11-18 (25 with additional needs)?

Do you live in Suffolk?

Join: SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE, Nicola Beech

Topic: Local Government Reorganisation in Suffolk

Online: 27th October 5.30pm - 6.30pm

Email: jess.walkersuffolk.gov.uk For MS Teams Link

Suffolk Youth Forum

SOURCE HELP • ADVICE • INFORMATION for young people in Suffolk thesource.me.uk



Hermione, Kayleb and Henry attended the House of Commons on 6th November for the annual sitting. Kayleb very bravely gave a speech which you can see below, along with their blog.


UK Youth Parliament - Kayleb speaks at the House of Commons

https://www.instagram.com/p/DQ6bulGCBS_/?igsh=ODZoMWNzaGQycG05




Winter 2025

The Annual Public Health Report was published which features Kayleb who attended the Hackathons in Bury St Edmunds, Ipswich and Lowestoft
<https://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/jsna/annual-public-health-reports/annual-public-health-report-2025>



Annual Public Health Report 2025

In April 2025, Suffolk County Council signed the Power of Youth Charter. This means we are part of a national UK movement that supports young people to have a stronger...

 Healthy Suffolk



Final Thoughts



Kayleb Wright – MYP for Suffolk Coastal & Waveney

"Being a part of Youth Parliament gave me confidence that I didn't think I would ever have, and has given me so many great opportunities which I wouldn't have come across. Youth Parliament introduced me to so many incredible people from all over the UK, many that I consider my friends now. Being an MYP gave me a huge step into social action that I was previously too scared to take, and I'm grateful that the Engagement Hub supported me and helped me advocate for myself, so I could be a better advocate for everyone in my area, and all of Suffolk"

Hermione Cartwright – MYP for Mid Suffolk

"Being an MYP has made me see a different part of life. I have a new understanding of how the council works and how systems work in government. We got lots of amazing opportunities that not many people get to say they have done. Becoming an MYP has given me a great confidence which I can now use to strive further in life. Best of all I got to meet loads of different young minds from all different backgrounds and represent them in the best way I could 😊"

Mohamad Ismail – MYP for Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury

"The opportunity to be a part of Youth Parliament is an opportunity I will forever be grateful for. I've met lots of people from so many different backgrounds, different life experiences, different struggles and yet still fascinate me with amazing stories. And being an MYP means I can stand up for people. For example bringing their voices with me to the Annual conference meetings or the House of Commons sitting, in which I was fortunate enough to speak the opinion of the youth. Such experiences have honed my skills, from public speaking and communication to just listening to what people had to say be as sympathetic as possible. Moving forward I will continue to help those who have been ignored and neglected to the utmost of my ability."

Henry Clark – MYP for Ipswich and Babergh

"Since joining youth parliament, i have met and interacted with a whole host of interesting people from conferences at nearby schools to Westminster. I have thoroughly enjoyed representing Ipswich and Babergh and the youth MPs as a whole empowering young people and further enhancing democratic legitimacy. The program has led to various new relationships and developed my understanding of politics and how it can be improved. I can only express huge gratitude to all those who made it possible!"

To find out more about Suffolk Youth Parliament, go to: thesource.me.uk/youthparliament and thesource.me.uk/suffolkyouthforum