

Candidate Name: Layan Bazuti

Age: 15

Connection to the Borough: Residence

My name is Layan Bazuti, I've had the pleasure of growing up in this borough and I am overjoyed to have the opportunity of running to be your next youth mayor. It is clear that the youth are the drivers of change, therefore I will work with decision makers to ensure young people's voices continue to be represented. I am committed to being a voice of progress and purpose, building on the positive work the Council is already doing to strengthen connections and build a lasting bridge between the Council and the youth community.

My key priorities are:

1. Equipping young people with practical knowledge - I will campaign for the introduction of specialised workshops focusing on providing young people with the opportunity to receive vital life-skills, including support on first aid training, self-defence, money management, career talks, and navigating the tax system. Additionally, I want to work with Wandsworth council to unlock a wider range of work experience opportunities. This will pave a path for our young people to gain knowledge first-hand and explore different industries. These programs would give us the head start we need to take on adulthood with confidence.

2. Building a safer Wandsworth through protection and prevention - I will work with Council Leaders and community safety teams to prioritise neighbourhood watch schemes, and community policing partnerships, in order to strengthen local safety measures. Through a youth-focused "safer streets" initiative and more accessible reporting tools, I will work to ensure that as young people in Wandsworth, we can continue to navigate our borough with the confidence and security we deserve.

3. Empowering Youth Spaces and Voice – I, like many young people in the borough have a deep-rooted connection to our youth spaces. Having grown up attending Alton Activity centre and being a regular member of Base, I've experienced firsthand how they build confidence and give us a space to belong. Youth clubs undoubtedly provide vital opportunities for young people. That is why I will work with Council leaders to advocate, on behalf of Wandsworth's Youth Community, for the importance of ensuring our Youth spaces continue to be accessible, high quality, and representative of what we need and love.

As Youth Mayor and a resident of the borough I will work hard to ensure that your concerns are met with unwavering commitment and a relentless drive to see our borough improve for every young person.

I wholeheartedly believe that safeguarding the youth means safeguarding the future. By prioritising safety, community, and education, we can form the foundation our generation needs to thrive. While youth voices are sometimes overlooked or disregarded, there is no reason for hopelessness instead I see these challenges as reasons for change.

My aim is to turn our concerns into meaningful progress - improving our present while securing our future.