

My name is Elisabeth Abraham

Age: 16 years old

Connection to the borough: Schooling and residence

I am both proud and excited to share my candidacy for the role of Wandsworth Youth Mayor.

At the heart of all change, it always starts small, whether it's a great and undeniably influential or whether it changes the lives of a small group of people or even a single person. As a proud resident of the Wandsworth borough, it's so important to me to be able to provide a voice and platform for all voices but especially young voices to not only be heard but to grow and strengthen, which is one key reason I'd like to work as the Youth Mayor. Growing up in this borough for all of my life, I have lived, breathed and witnessed firsthand the unity and community within it, from the celebration of culture and the arts to the inclusivity and accommodation of the more vulnerable members of the community, and the support provided to them. As a member of the community I can acknowledge the issues faced by many young people in the borough, such as finding better ways of communication between the council and its residents, specifically the Youth Community and better accessibility to the available resources.

Key Priorities:

1. Strengthen the communication and the relationship between the council and the residents, specifically the young people of the borough

The aim of this would be to not only make the available resources more accessible, but to bridge the gap those that are less engaged with the events of the borough. One way this would be done is through promoting the local opportunities to work with and communicate the council to the community, allowing anyone to address issues concerning them.

2. Creating more spaces for young people to find super curriculars and opportunities that contribute to their futures

This includes work experience opportunities, youth events, career fairs and financial literacy initiatives to equip young people with real-world skills. Interactive events that would help them network and expand their options, as well as meet new people and learn about potential future pathways there are for them. A key project would be developing a centralized digital hub (website or newsletter) to streamline and promote these resources effectively.

3. Promoting eco-conscious initiatives

Promoting Wandsworth to be even less polluting and wasteful, as well as promoting lifestyle changes both beneficial for the planet and each person's individual lives. Advocating for plans including the expansion of cycle lanes, sustainable energy solutions, like solar panelling and launching community-driven projects like sports days, urban gardens, and school-led environmental competitions, allowing young people to be engaged in the events of the borough from a young age.

Young people embody the best of society, innovative, progressive, and deeply connected to the future that lies ahead. As the generation most impacted by today's decisions, it is so important that we strengthen our youth, amplify their voices, and foster a community that is fair, compassionate, and sustainable. I envision a Wandsworth where everyone, regardless of any circumstance, feels seen, supported, and empowered. The future is unwritten, and it is ours to shape together, united, we can create a borough where young people are not only heard but celebrated, where their ideas drive progress and real, tangible change. It would be my greatest honour to represent and collaborate with the brilliant, forward-thinking minds of Wandsworth.