
An update from your Youth MP - Mohammed Hasan Ahmed



First of all I'd like you to keep an eye out for a magazine called 'Real Talk' that will be launched in early September through schools and youth clubs. It will give you loads of information about things that are happening in Luton that may affect you and has been written by young people for young people. Check it out!

The next thing worth mentioning is that Young Fundz has just released its new paperwork for young people to apply for money to do projects or buy equipment. Young Fundz is a group of young people who volunteer their time to assess applications for the Youth Opportunity Funding Stream. This money is aimed at young people who have ideas for projects but just need a little cash and support to get them going. You can download the forms from www.learning.luton.gov.uk/go/youngfundz

Last but not least – we need you as young people to step up and voice your opinions on issues that affect you and your friends. We need people to join LYTE (Luton's youth council). Applications are now available, so contact Christien Durant on 548046 or 07760 991 591 or email Christien.Durant@luton.gov.uk



To contact the youth MP email Christien.Durant@luton.gov.uk

The voice of youth - your MP



HI My name is Mohammed Hasan Ahmed, your youth MP for Luton and it's time to fill you in with the latest buzz on what I have been doing over the past month.

I attended and supported Luton's first Student Voice Conference on 21 May. Student representatives from both primary and secondary school councils and teachers attended this day long event. The conference created a space for all, to celebrate and share successes and to debate and learn about new and exciting approaches in this field. Along with other professionals, there were speeches and workshops led by School Councils UK, Professor Michael Fielding from the Institute of Education, and a very powerful talk by Haneefah Armstrong – a Year 11 Student.

The day ended on a really positive note where my colleague from Young Voice and Real Talk Magazine, Mahwish Arif, aged 15, and I were able to reward students and teachers for their achievements and efforts on their school council. There were eight awards and these were presented by Luton Town Football striker Ryan Charles.

In addition to the Student Voice conference I was busy with my own education events and held three seminars which were funded by the Young Funds programme. The seminars were aimed at Year 10 and 11 students from all Luton's schools, where they had been taught English, Maths and Science by different approaches.

And last but not least, I was involved in consulting other young people and the public about what play equipment would be good to have on the pavement just down from Bury Park Community Centre. They have since been installed and I will be part of the official opening in the next couple of weeks. Look out for the equipment and take time to enjoy!

Please have a look at this column from time to time to keep yourself posted on what is and has been happening.



www.luton.gov.uk/youth

Introducing your Youth MP

My name is Mohammed Hasan Ahmed, I'm 15 years old and I was recently elected Youth MP for Luton. Christina Powell, aged 16, is the elected Deputy Youth MP.



We will both hold our posts for two years and our role is to ensure that the voice of young people is heard by organisations that deliver services to young people.

This will be a big job and will take time. We cannot do it alone - we need to know what your issues or concerns are - so we need your help.

Luton has a youth cabinet called LYTE (Luton Youth Together for Everyone) whose members have been working over the last few years to raise the profile of young people. They are now in the process of restructuring and need lots of new members. To ensure all Luton areas are represented, we are looking for young people to apply to be a representative for their ward (eg, Challney, Stopsley, Farley etc).

The role will include attending council meetings, talking with other young people in the area, expressing youth views to key adults. Any interested young person aged 11-19 can apply, by completing an application form, and would need to be available to attend an interview in June, to make sure we get someone who can really make this role work.

It's not all about meetings, so we're not just looking for those who are academic; we want people who feel they can make a difference to the lives of the young people they represent.



If that sounds like you please contact Tariq Khan on 54 82 07 for more information. www.luton.gov.uk/youth

Mohammed - Luton's new Youth MP

Mohammed Hassan Ahmed was elected as Luton's new Youth MP earlier this month, (3 April), following elections in March where more than 9,600 young people turned out to vote for their representative in the United Kingdom Youth Parliament (UKYP).

Following the announcement of his election, Mohammed, 15, who currently attends Al-hikmah Bury Park Educational Institute (BPEI) said: "It will be a wonderful opportunity for me to represent



the youth of Luton. I am determined for my victory to live up to everyone's expectations."

Christina Powell 16, a pupil attending Barnfield West Academy was elected as Deputy Youth MP.

The UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) was established nine years ago to give young people a place to have their views heard and listened to by local and national government and the people who provide services for young people.

Mohammed's term of office will run for two years, when he will be expected to commit up to five hours per week on parliament activities. He will also attend between six and ten regional meetings per year where he can put forward issues that directly affect local young people.

Cllr Tahir Khan, executive member for children and young people said: "This is the highest turnout the town has ever seen, giving a clear indication that young people want to be heard and want to influence local and national decision making."

i For more information about UKYP contact Tariq Khan on 54 89 84 or email tariq.khan@luton.gov.uk visit: www.luton.gov.uk/youth