

Tips for Youth Parliament candidates

Wakefield's UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) candidates got to meet some local politicians at a specially organised event on 3 February 2007. The young hopefuls gained lots of useful advice about starting a career in politics.

The politicians who attended the event were:

- Mary Creagh – local MP
- Wayne Jenkins – Wakefield Council Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
- Olivia Rowley – Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion

Top tips

- get involved in your local community
- always represent the people who are voting
- effective communication is essential
- provide feedback on progress
- enjoy what you're doing – have fun

Mary urged the candidates to find other ways to get involved if they did not win the election. Both councillors gave their commitment to helping the successful candidates work on the issues they would like to address.

Campaigning

Current UKYP members for the district offered their experience on how to run a successful campaign. Workshops were organised for parents and election campaign supporters.

The campaign includes a 30-second video of the candidates addressing potential voters. The videos, along with a 200-word manifesto from each candidate, are available on a special website. The website is aimed at more than 26,400 young people who are on the UKYP electoral register in the Wakefield District.

The UKYP

Richard Moulson, the Regional UKYP Coordinator, provided an overview of the commitment that will be required from the successful candidates during their year of office. He also highlighted some of the important campaigns current member of the UKYP are working on, including:

- anti-racism
- transport
- sex education

The election

Voting for the election opens at 7am on Monday 26 February and closes at 4pm on Friday 16 March. Young people can vote by ballot box, via the Internet or by text. The result will be announced at 7pm on Friday 16 March in Wakefield Town Hall.

Further information

For more information about the UKYP election process in Wakefield, contact Andrea Golding:

Telephone: 01924 305745 Email: ajgolding@wakefield.gov.uk

