

**OLDHAM
YOUTH COUNCIL**



ELECTIONS 2016

RESOURCE PACK

For Young People

Supported by



Support and Information Pack for candidates

We live in a society where more people vote in televised talent shows than on polling day and where column inches are devoted to celebrity gossip than topical issues. We are fast becoming a nation of non participants with young people a high proportion of those failing to take up their voting entitlement.

Although there is widespread concern that young people are disillusioned with politics there is also an acknowledgement that young people can be passionate about national, international and environmental issues as well as local community matters. Our challenge is to enable young people to enjoy discussing these issues and relate them to democracy and the ballot box.

This pack tells you about how to get involved in the Oldham Youth Council elections and provide information on how to develop you campaign.

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What is the Oldham Youth Council?

The Oldham Youth Council is made up of approximately 60 members aged 11-21, from all over Oldham. It is a borough wide organisation that enables and encourages young people to campaign to make a positive change for other young people from Oldham. They raise issues with the local Council and services that affect young people of Oldham.

This resource pack will enable you to get fully involved in the Oldham Youth Council election process and enable you to understand and see the benefits of voting and being a candidate.

Hello from the Youth Mayor

“Oldham Youth Council is an internationally recognised and award-winning youth council that allows the young people of Oldham to influence key decisions that are made which affect them.

I've been part of Oldham Youth Council now for four years, and there is not a thing about it that I regret. It offers so many opportunities, ranging from things like travelling down to London to debate in the house of commons, to abseiling off the Civic Centre to raise money for charity. It trains people in things like debating and consultation plus helps to inform them on things that will affect them later in life. Not only does it allow us to influence decisions being made at council, but the youth council can actually propose motions at full council meetings.

Being part of something as big as Oldham Youth Council is an excellent thing you put on your CV, but more importantly, its fun. Its an enjoyable way to make new friends, learn more and involve yourself in what's going on in Oldham. Its a life changing thing to do, but if you want to meet people, build up your CV and work to improve things for young people in Oldham I would recommend you put yourself up for election, and hopefully I will see you soon.”

Saskia Edwards-Korolczuk, Youth Mayor of Oldham





A word from the Chair

Who is involved in Oldham Youth Council?

Any person aged 11 to 21 who lives, works or are educated in Oldham can become an Oldham Youth Councillor. We are elected by district to make sure every area of Oldham is represented plus the Youth Council will also have members who represent young carers, young people in care, young people with additional needs, LGBT young people, young parents, young people from the travelling community and young asylum seekers. The Oldham Youth Council strive to ensure that every group/community of young people from Oldham have representation.

What do I expect Youth Councillors to do?

I chair a fortnightly meeting to discuss local issues, campaigns, and meet with various members of the local authority and visitors from local services. These are compulsory and every Youth Councillor is expected to attend.

In addition to these meetings Youth Councillors also attend meetings, sessions and events. Such as:

- Attend Full Council meetings to put motions forward to Oldham Council
- Plan, run and evaluate campaigns
- Distribute funding such as youth opportunity fund known as Kerrching
- Attend overview and scrutiny meeting with Oldham Council
- Attend local events to be visible and accessible to young people
- Interview panels for high ranking members of Oldham Council
- Training sessions that are provided for Youth Councillors
- Attend regional youth forum meetings known as Youthforia
- Be involved with the British Youth Council and consult young people on their behalf

Although these are not compulsory, without Youth Councillors attending, the good work that Oldham Youth Council is recognised for would not happen.

We are one of the most successful and well respected Youth Councils in the UK, and need dedicated young people willing to give their time to ensure we continue to be so. If that's you then please stand in our election.

T.Jay Turner, Chair of Oldham Youth Council

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What happens in Oldham?

Oldham Youth Council is all about Young People. The Youth Council was officially formed in Oldham in Feb 2006. Youth Council members are democratically elected but we also have a number of places for co-opted Youth Council members for young people who are under represented e.g. young people with disabilities or looked after young people.

The Youth council aims to represent the views of all young people in Oldham. We meet up every fortnight to discuss important issues and to plan and deliver our work. Our main aim is to give young people in Oldham a voice in all matters that affect our lives.

We have 6 members of the Youth Council who attend the Youthforia – Northwest regional youth forum and represent Oldham at a Regional level

From within the Youth Council we also elect our 2 Members of UK Youth Parliament. These young people represent Oldham at a national Level.

How do you get involved?

1. First of all read this pack and make sure being a Youth Councillor is something you want to do.
2. Fill in the 'Contact Details' and the 'Manifesto' pages (10 & 11). If you need any help filling in these pages contact the youth council at the details below.
3. Once you have filled in these pages send them to the email address below and we will confirm you are a candidate.
4. Before the election you can canvas voters. Perhaps do an assembly at school or produce some posters to put up in school/college. Make sure that everyone who can vote for you knows what you stand for. Again contact the Youth Council for help and ideas
5. On the election days a polling station and ballot box will be delivered to the schools/colleges. You can still promote yourself to potential voters but you won't be allowed to do it in the voting room. Don't forget to vote for yourself!
6. We will be counting the votes on the first Monday of February half-term and will send you an invite to the announcement that afternoon. We will then contact you as soon as possible after the count to let you know the results.

How to contact Oldham Youth Council

Email:

oldhamyouthcouncil@oldham.gov.uk

Phone:

0161 770 3116

Like and post on our facebook page:

www.facebook.com/OldhamYouthCouncil

Follow us on Twitter:

[@OldhamYC](https://twitter.com/OldhamYC)

Check out our website:

<http://oldhamyc.com>



How to Write a Manifesto

So, you want to write a manifesto? Congratulations, you're about to join such distinguished company as Martin Luther King and Karl Marx, as well as dozens of other individuals who've felt the need to express their views publicly.

A manifesto is a public statement of intentions; this simply means you telling people publicly what you are all about. In this case it is also an opportunity to tell people what you will aim to do should you be elected onto the Oldham Youth Council.

The following is a brief outline of things to consider when writing your own manifesto. These guidelines are meant as little more than a framework for you to hang your ideas on, so don't worry if they don't cover everything. A manifesto is a highly personal thing; you may want to alter the framework to suit what you have to say.

Remember, above all else, this is your chance to express yourself.

Have something you feel strongly about:

Doesn't really matter what it is. It can be a political or social issue or cause, your opinions on a sport, a hobby, or other activity, or something else entirely. All you need is to have a strong opinion on it.

Have some points you want to make:

Try to have at least two points in your manifesto as you must remember you will only have about one hundred words to sell yourself

Be clear and concise in your writing:

Nobody is going to care what you have to say if they can't understand what you are saying. Know what you want to say and say it. Get someone you trust to proof read for you to make sure you're saying what you want to say.

Example Manifestos

CANDIDATE 1

I feel very strongly about the environment the effects we have on it and how we can save it.

- Some ways to reduce carbon emissions are to lower bus fares so that more people would use buses more and stop using cars for the 'school run'.
- The council could set an example and ban bottled water on it's premises and encourage reusable bottles that can be filled with tap water, therefore reducing CO2 emissions from importing water from elsewhere

CANDIDATE 2

Last year was my first year as a School Councillor. It is clear from that experience that young people have plenty of great, practical ideas and I want to encourage more of you to take an active role in changing Oldham for the better. I know our views can be heard and we can make an impact - but only if we work together. So elect me to the Youth Council and vote to make a real difference.

Last year the key issues seemed to be

- Cheaper, more reliable public transport for all under 18s.
 - More activities designed for young people by young people
 - More recycling in schools
-

CANDIDATE 3

I feel there are lots of things that need improving for Oldham's youth and we're sometimes overlooked. I'm already an active member of my district youth forum and have organised two community events for young people. I'm open minded, hard working and very responsible. I'm also trust worthy and honest and would take all opinions and views into consideration.

If I were elected I would work tirelessly for Oldham's Youth because I know how much needs changing and I feel that I am the right person for the job.

CANDIDATE 4

I think we as young people should have a say in everything from how the country is run to what we can do about climate change. I believe that people need to do their best to reduce pollution now, so that when we become adults and have families of our own we will still have clean air to breathe.

- It is important that issues such as cleaner, safer, cheaper transport for young people and safer places for kids to hang out are recognised by the Council
-



Contact Details

These details are so that we can contact you when the elections are over. Once the results have been verified we will use the phone number or email to contact you immediately and let you know if you have been successful. We will then write to you and formally invite you to join the youth council.

If you would prefer you can put your parent's/guardian's phone number and email address down but please make sure and let us know this is what you have done. Also make sure to tell your parent/guardian so they won't be surprised when we contact them.

YOUR DETAILS			
Full Name			
Date of Birth		Gender	Male / Female
School/College & school year			
Home Address			
Postcode			
Contact Phone Number Is this your number?			
Email Address Is this your email?			

If you are unsuccessful in the elections we may still contact you to let you know about other ways to get involved with youth voice in Oldham. We will NOT pass on your details to anyone else.

If you or your parent/guardian would like more information on any part of the elections please contact either

Chris Lewis - 0161 770 3121 chris.lewis@oldham.gov.uk
or
Jodie Barber - 0161 770 3117 jodie.barber@oldham.gov.uk

MANIFESTO

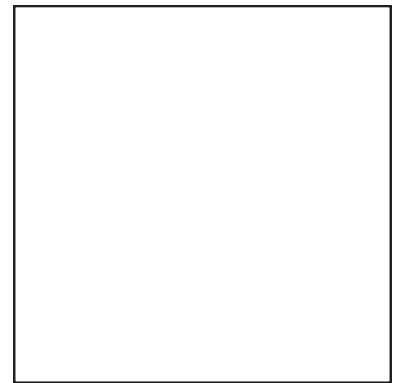
Name:

School/College and where you live:

Something I feel Strongly About:

My Points:

-
-
-



Please pick a logo or picture to represent you in the elections.

This will help the voters to identify you quickly and easily, matching your manifesto to your name on the ballot paper. Please do not pick anything that would cause offence. Remember these are going up in school so anything representing drugs or violence such as guns are not appropriate. If you don't want to draw it please describe it in the box and we will do our best to find a logo for you.



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What will happen next?

CANDIDATES

Once you have sent in your manifesto we will reply, letting you know that you are a candidate in the elections and for which district of Oldham you will be standing for. The district you will be standing for will be decided, firstly, by where you go to school (please see the list below). If you are not in school/college or go to school outside Oldham then you will stand in the district where you live or where you work.

Where you go to school	District you will stand for
Blessed John Henry Newman RC College Collective Spirit North Chadderton School and 6th Form The Radclyffe School	CHADDERTON
The Blue Coat CofE Secondary School and 6th Form Iqra High School Kingsland School Waterhead Academy	EAST OLDHAM
Failsworth School Hollinwood Academy Newbridge School and Learning Centre Springbrook Upper School	FAILSWORTH & HOLLINWOOD
Crompton House CofE Secondary School and 6th Form Oldham Academy North Royton and Crompton School	ROYTON, SHAW & CROMPTON
Saddleworth School	SADDLEWORTH & LEES
Dural Hadis Latifah Northwest The GM UTC The Hathershaw College Oldham Hulme Grammar School Oasis Academy Westwood High School	WEST OLDHAM

As Oldham 6th Form College and Oldham College have borough wide catchment areas, students from these colleges will stand for the district where they live.

ELECTIONS

The elections will be carried out mainly in schools and colleges, however, every young person aged 11-21 studying, living or working in Oldham will be entitled to vote. The school pupils will be able to vote for candidates standing in their school's district (please see above table). Students at the Oldham 6th form and Oldham College will vote for candidates based on where they live. Those not in school or college in Oldham will have the opportunity to vote at the Mahdlo Centre and Youth Council Offices in the Civic Centre.



Check List

	Fill in page 10 - Contact Details
	Fill in page 11- Manifesto template
	Email the completed pack to oldhamyouthcouncil@oldham.gov.uk
	Have you received a confirmation that you are a candidate and which district you are standing

If you have ticked off all the above then you are standing in the Oldham Youth Council Elections 2016. Congratulations and Good Luck.

If you have any problems with anything on this checklist or if you have any questions relating to the elections, then please contact:

Jodie Barber - jodie.barber@oldham.gov.uk	0161 770 3117
Chris Lewis - chris.lewis@oldham.gov.uk	0161 770 3121



