



MENTAL HEALTH

OLDHAM YOUTH COUNCIL
ELECTIONS

2020



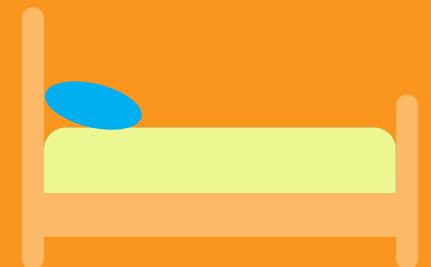
KNIFE CRIME

**WHAT
WILL YOU
CHANGE IN
OLDHAM?**



**EQUAL PAY FOR
EQUAL WORK**

**OLDHAM
YOUTH COUNCIL**



HOMELESSNESS

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT OLDHAMYOUTHOUNCIL@OLDHAM.GOV.UK

WHAT IS IN THIS PACK?

This resource pack will enable you to get fully involved in the Election Process and hopefully the Youth Council!

We have given plenty of information about what we do, how to write a manifesto, how to campaign and generally help you stand in the elections.

If there is anything we have missed, or you just want some more information, use the email address at the bottom of every page or phone us on 0161 770 3116



@OLDHAMYC



@OLDHAM_YC



OLDHAMYC.COM



**/OLDHAMYOUTH
COUNCIL**



OLDHAM YC



**The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service**



**OLDHAM
YOUTH COUNCIL**

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT OLDHAMYOUTHOUNCIL@OLDHAM.GOV.UK



HELLO FROM THE YOUTH MAYOR

In 2018, Oldham Youth Council became the first and the only Youth Council in the UK to be awarded The Queens Award for Voluntary Service, the MBE for volunteer groups.

WHAT IS OLDHAM YOUTH COUNCIL?

Oldham Youth Council is a group of elected young people who represent the young people of Oldham. We have up to 70 members who are aged 11 – 21 and live, go to school or work in Oldham.

WHAT DO WE DO?

We help Oldham's young people have their say. We work with loads of different services and organisations to make sure that young people are able to shape and influence decisions that affect our lives.

WE AIM TO...

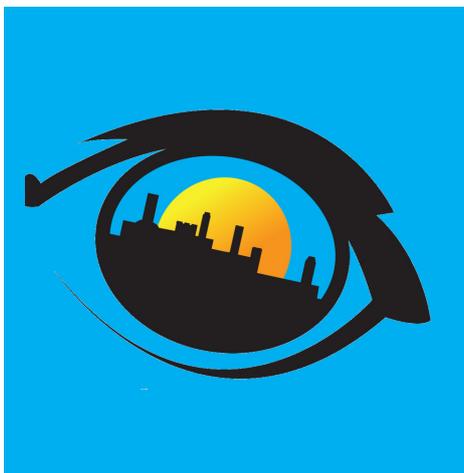
- Promote opportunities for young people
- Raise the profile of young people
- Represent Oldham locally, regionally and nationally
- Campaign on issues that affect young people

I've been a Youth Councillor for four years, and there is not a thing about it that I regret. It offers so many opportunities, ranging from debating in the house of commons and Old Bailey, to raising money for charity. It trains people to debate and consult with others and it allows us to influence big decisions being made.

Being part of something as big as Oldham Youth Council is an excellent thing you can put on your CV, but more importantly, 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.

So if you want to meet people, build up your CV and work to improve Oldham for young people, I would recommend you put yourself up for election, and hopefully I will see you soon.

Samah Khalil, Youth Mayor of Oldham



**The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service**

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT OLDHAMYOUTHCOUNCIL@OLDHAM.GOV.UK

EXPECTATIONS & OPPORTUNITIES

Oldham Youth Council doesn't have to be a massive time commitment and the only mandatory meetings that Youth Councillors are expected to attend are the full Council meetings that take place every 2 weeks on a Wednesday evening 6 - 8:30pm. You can even take an extended leave of absence if you have important exams to take. For the OYC to work as well as it does we do need Youth Councillors to get involved in as much as they can do. Below are just a few opportunities open to Youth Councillors.

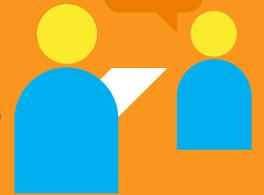
RUNNING CAMPAIGNS



OYC run campaigns each year and are currently working on climate change, put an end to knife crime and homelessness. We meet every Wednesday, that we don't have full council meetings, to plan.

INTERVIEWS

Youth Councillors sit on interview panels for Oldham Council, positions such as Director of Children's Services.



COMMISSIONING

Youth Councillors distribute money to commission projects and services.



TAKING ON A REP ROLE

Our 2 Members of Youth Parliament attend 3 meetings a year, a 3 day residential and have the opportunity to debate in the House of Commons. Our 2 Greater Manchester Youth Combined Authority reps attend monthly meetings and work with Andy Burnham, the Mayor of Greater Manchester.



EVENTS AND RESIDENTIALS

To take on training and promote the work of Oldham Youth Council, Youth Councillors will attend events and go on residentials. These are fun ways to learn about topics and to build friendships with other youth councillors.



CONSULT

Youth Councillors consult young people including running the largest consultation in the UK, **Make Your Mark.**



FOR MORE INFO CONTACT OLDHAMYOUTHOUNCIL@OLDHAM.GOV.UK

HOW TO GET INVOLVED!

- Read this pack, talk with friends and family and make sure being a Youth Councillor is something you want to do.
- Complete a Manifesto and fill in the Contact Details pages of this booklet.
- Once completed, either email or post them to us and when we receive them we will confirm you are a candidate .
- Before and during the election you can canvas voters. We have put some ideas on the right side of this page.
- On the election days you can still promote yourself to the voters but you won't be allowed to do it in the voting room. **Don't forget to vote for yourself!**
- All votes will be counted on **Monday 17th February 2020** and will send you an invite to the announcement that afternoon.
- We will then contact everyone after the count to let you know the results.

CANVAS VOTERS

Canvassing votes is used to gain support, and let others around know what you stand for, and what you believe in.

To do this you **CAN** make posters to put around school/college or even maybe hold an assembly! You **CAN** use social media and make a short film. You **CAN** also make some badges to hand out to your supporters.

You **CAN NOT** use gifts to 'bribe' people to vote for you. You **CAN NOT** 'bad mouth' other candidates to make you look good. If it is felt you have done either of these you will be removed as a candidate.



BE THE CHANGE



MAKE A CHANGE



SEE THE CHANGE

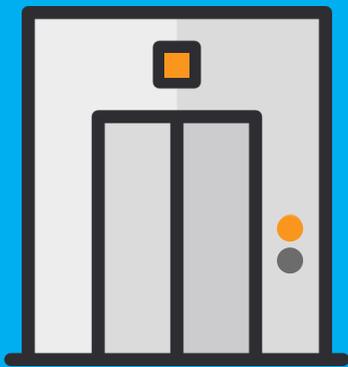
WHAT IS A MANIFESTO AND HOW DO I WRITE ONE?



CLEAR WRITING

A manifesto is a means of telling people what you are all about, and is also an opportunity to tell people what you want to see changed in Oldham.

To write a manifesto we suggest using our 'lift speech' model on the next page. A 'lift speech' is a short, pre-prepared speech that explains who you are and what you want to do, clearly and briefly. The idea is to convince someone to vote for you in the time it takes to ride in a lift.



LIFT SPEECH

These guidelines are meant as a prompt to give you an idea of what to write but you can write what you wish and is a great chance for you to express yourself. However, when writing your manifesto remember to be non-discriminatory and inclusive. We will not allow any candidates to stand who use hate speech or discrimination in their manifestos.



MAKE A POINT

Be clear and concise in your writing. People reading your manifesto must be able to understand it, so use common language. If it's too long people won't read it, so keep it short and to the point.

Think of it as several tweets rather than a blog post.

Lift Speech Model

Who You Are?

In one or two sentences talk about who you are. Is there something you feel strongly about; it can be a political or social issue, a cause/charity, or something else entirely. All you need is to have a strong opinion on it.

What Will You Do?

Try to have at least two points in your manifesto. This is your chance to say what you think needs changing in Oldham, the UK - even the world.

How Are You Different?

What makes you stand out as a representative? What skills and qualities do you have (see below for some ideas)? How does this help you represent other young people?

What is your slogan?

What attention-grabbing hook will be on your manifesto.

- *A vote for me is a vote for change.*
- *Your Way to Awesomeness.*
- *Yes, we can!*
- *I'll be the change you want to see in Oldham.*

Finally:

Add a photo of you or an image/logo so people can find your name on the ballot paper easily.



SKILLS AND QUALITIES

COMMUNICATION SKILLS
INTERPERSONAL SKILLS
CONFLICT RESOLUTION
PRESENTATION SKILLS
STRATEGIC THINKING
NEGOTIATION SKILLS
LEADERSHIP SKILLS

FUN
LOYAL
HONEST
DECISIVE
RELIABLE
FRIENDLY
CREATIVITY

TRUSTWORTHY
RESPONSIBLE
COMMITMENT
RESPONSIBLE
CONFIDENCE
KNOWLEDGE
ANALYTICAL

QUICK THINKER
HARD WORKING
APPROACHABLE
LISTENING SKILLS
TEAMWORK SKILLS
PROBLEM SOLVING
CRITICAL THINKING

MANIFESTO EXAMPLES



1

Who You Are?

I am an energetic person intent on making Oldham the best it can be. In my role as School Councillor it is clear young people have plenty of great, practical ideas and I want to encourage more of you to take an active role in changing Oldham. I know our views can be heard if we work together.

What Will You Do?

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

How Are You Different?

I have great communication and listening skills allowing me to represent others well. Voting for me will allow you to have your say and influence those adults that make decisions for us.

What is Your Slogan?

#TeamOldham

Who You Are?

There can be only one thing on our agendas and that must be climate change. We need to do everything in our power to try and reverse global warming. I am passionate about making this change, making Oldham a better place to live.

What Will You Do?

- Campaign to reduce the use of single use plastics.
- Fight for the use of more renewable energy forms.
- Improve public transport to reduce the number of cars on our roads.

How Are You Different?

I'm friendly and approachable with a great knowledge of the environment. I have great negotiation skills and willing to put these to good use on your behalf.

What is Your Slogan?

Climate Change is Worse Than Homework

2

Manifesto:

Name:

School/College: *(If not at college, please write the area you live in)*

Who are You? *(No more than 50 Words)*

Photo / image
*If submitting your form electronically, please send a copy of your image with your manifesto.
If posting or dropping off in person, the image will be scanned in*

What will you do? *(No more than 50 Words)*

How are you different? *(No more than 50 Words)*

What is your slogan?

Your Details:

Name:

Date of Birth:

Home Address:

Post Code:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Declaration

Having read the information given, I agree to my daughter/son/ward participating in Oldham Youth Council's Elections.

I confirm, my child is not participating contrary to medical advice.

I understand that Oldham Council's Young People's Services needs to collect and use certain types of information about the individuals they come into contact with in order to carry out their work.

I understand that the information given on this form will be used and stored in line with Oldham Council's data protection policy that follows EU General Data Protection Regulation and more details of can be found at <https://www.oldham.gov.uk/dataprotection>

I understand that I can withdraw my consent at any time by contacting pam.jennings@oldham.gov.uk. By withdrawing consent I understand that this will prevent my daughter/son/ward from participating in the elections.

Signature of Parent / Guardian:

(or signature of participant if over 18 – please note that all of the declarations above still apply - you must accept these yourself)

TIME LINE

NOV - DEC 2019 CALL FOR CANDIDATES

All manifestos must be received by Oldham Youth Council by Wednesday 11th December 2019

JAN 13th - FEB 14th 2020 ELECTIONS

Check dates for when your school will be holding the elections.

FEB 17th 2020 ELECTION COUNT

You will receive an invite to attend the count but if you can't make it we will contact you to let you know the results.

MAR 2020 PARENTS EVENING

If you are successful we will invite you and your parents to attend a meeting to let you know what will happen over the next 2 years

APR 1st 2020 1st YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING

Your first, official, Youth Council meeting will be on Wednesday 1st April, 6pm to 8.30pm.

WHAT NEXT?

REGISTER:

Photograph or scan in the 'Manifesto' and 'Contact Details' pages and email them to oldhamyouthcouncil@oldham.gov.uk. You can also post them to: Oldham Youth Council, Room 222 - Civic Centre, West Street, Oldham. OL1 1UL

If posting manifestos photocopy the original in case they are lost.

Manifestos must be in by 11th December 2019

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. 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.

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. 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.

