

Candidate Name: Elisabeth Abraham

Age: 15

Connection to borough: Residence

My name is Elisabeth Abraham, and 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 powerful 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 community for all of my life, I have lived, breathed and witnessed firsthand the unity and camaraderie within it, from the celebration of culture and the arts to the inclusivity and accommodation of the more vulnerable members of the community, being supported in especially tough times like covid. Nonetheless, I can acknowledge the issues in the borough, such as a lack of communication between the council and residents and the challenge in accessibility to the available resources.

My Key Priorities are:

1. Strengthen the communication between the council and the people, not just young people, but all residents.

The aim of this would be to not only make the available resources more accessible, but to bridge the gap those that struggle to receive the available support, this applies for all, ranging from the Wandsworth Youth to retirees! In short, one way this would be done through frequent, local opportunities to work with and/or communicate with the council and the rest of the community, to amplify those that would like to be heard and receive a platform.

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. Making Wandsworth even less polluting and wasteful, as well as promoting lifestyle changes both beneficial for the planet and each person's individual lives

Maintaining Wandsworth's status as one of London's least polluted boroughs (currently 7th!) while pushing for further eco-conscious initiatives. Plans include expanding cycle lanes, advocating for sustainable energy solutions, and launching community-driven projects like sports days, urban gardens, and school-led environmental competitions—fostering both individual and collective responsibility.

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 essential 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 gender, age, ability, race, sexuality, religion, or class, feels seen, supported, and empowered. A community where no voice is silenced, no dream is dismissed, and no ambition is out of reach. 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 and their potential is limitless. It would be my greatest honour to represent and collaborate with the brilliant, forward-thinking minds of Wandsworth.