



Make Your Mark 2018 Report



United Kingdom

Youth Parliament
MAKING OUR MARK

Introduction

Make Your Mark is the annual nationwide consultation of young people where they cast a vote against 1 of 10 issues which are put forward by the Members of Youth Parliament at their annual conference.

2018 was a special year as over 1,000,000 young people in the UK cast a vote in this campaign. The purpose of this vote is to inform national government and local decision makers of the priorities of young people; to work with youth councils and representatives on these issues



MEDWAY'S TURNOUT!

10186

c.37% OF YOUTH POPULATION

100% INCREASE FROM 2017

Medway had yet another record breaking turnout from it's young people in this campaign. Over 10,000 young people made their voice which was an increase of over 100% from 2017.

This represents approximately 37% of the youth population, meaning a truly fantastic engagement with this consultation.

There is a clear mandate to decision makers of the priorities for young people.

2018 Ballot Paper

BALLOT PAPER

Who makes decisions about what issues?

Decisions that affect things like your education, healthcare and transport are made by different groups of people depending on where you live in the UK. The power to make some decisions is shared between the UK Parliament in London, the Scottish Parliament, the Assemblies in Northern Ireland and Wales, and some Mayors in England (**Devolved issues**). However, other decisions that affect all of the UK can only be made by the UK Parliament in London (**UK issues**).

place a cross next to the ONE issue you wish to vote for

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mental Health – Devolved Mental health services should be improved with young people's help; and should be available in schools. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | End Period Poverty – Devolved Sanitary products are an essential item. The Government and the NHS should make them free and accessible for all who need it. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Votes at 16 – UK Give 16 and 17 year olds the right to vote in all elections/referendums. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Put an end to Knife crime – Devolved Too many young people's lives are lost to knife crime; the Government need to do more to help end the knife crime epidemic. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | A curriculum to prepare us for life – Devolved Schools should cover topics like finance, sex and relationship education and politics. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Support Youth Services – Devolved Youth services help young people but in recent years they have been cut. Youth services need better financial support and security. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Equal Pay for Equal work – Devolved Give young people the same amount of pay, if they are doing the same work as adults in the same job. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Let's tackle Homelessness – Devolved Every person should have a place to live and the opportunity to live comfortably. Let's make it happen and put a stop to homelessness. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Transport – Devolved Make public transport cheaper, better and accessible for all. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Welcome Refugees – UK Everyone deserves the right to live without fear of death and persecution so we believe that refugees should be welcomed into communities in the UK. |

The Top 5 Issues

Too many young people's lives are lost to knife crime; the Government need to do more to help end the knife crime epidemic.

PUT AN END TO KNIFE CRIME



2334

Services should be improved with young people's help and mental health education should be compulsory and challenge stereotypes.



MENTAL HEALTH

2253

Give young people the same amount of pay, if they are doing the same work as adults in the same job.



EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

1003

Every person should have a place to live and the opportunity to live comfortably. Let's make it happen and put a stop to homelessness.

LET'S TACKLE HOMELESSNESS



965

Sanitary products are an essential item. The Government and the NHS should make them free and accessible for all who need it.

END PERIOD POVERTY



887

Full Issue Breakdown

Rank	Issue	Votes
1	Put an End to Knife Crime	2334
2	Mental Health	2253
3	Equal Pay for Equal Work	1003
4	Let's Tackle Homelessness	965
5	End Period Poverty	887
6	A Curriculum to Prepare Us For Life	837
7	Transport	787
8	Votes at 16	522
9	Welcome Refugees	351
10	Youth Services	246
	Spoilt Ballots	1

2018 Analysis

Every year in which the Make Your Mark campaign has been run, Medway's Young People have increased the turnout, as shown by votes cast. 2018 was no exception and turnout increased by 100% on 2017. 10,000+ young people voted one issue, from a choice of 10, which was most important to them.

Medway's YP voted 'End Knife Crime' as the most important issue with 2334 votes making it the most popular.

This was followed by 'Mental Health' with 2253 votes, a consistently voted issue of importance. A 165% increase in the number of votes for this topic on last year. The remaining top motions are new for this year.

The third most voted issue was 'Equal Pay, Equal Work' with 1003 votes. This referring to the principle that young people should be paid the same as adults – if they are doing the same job.

The fourth most highly voted issue was 'Homelessness'. This motion was submitted by Medway's own MYP – Ore Emmanuel. This choice refers to the efforts made to end rough sleeping and homelessness.

The fifth most voted issue was 'End Period Poverty' with 887 votes. This referring to the view that the government should provide sanitary products for free.

School turnouts as a percentage of students

- 1) **Strood Academy – 94%**
- 2) Thomas Aveling – 87%
- 3) SJWMS – 72%
- 4) Walderslade Girls – 69%
- 4) Medway UTC – 69%
- 5) Rainham Girls – 63%
- 6) Holcombe Grammar – 61%
- 7) Rochester Grammar School – 59%
- 8) Hundred of Hoo – 38%
- 9) Robert Napier – 36%
- 10) John Fisher – 32%
- 11) Rainham Mark Grammar – 27%
- 12) Brompton – 20%
- 12) Fort Pitt – 20%
- 13) Mid Kent College – 17%

We would like to take this opportunity to thank those who helped give Medway's young people the very loudest voice.

To schools, colleges and youth groups across Medway who organised the opportunity for young people to vote in this national consultation.

To the Medway Youth Service for their endeavours to have young people from all areas of Medway to vote in Make Your Mark; and for supporting schools in having their students vote.

You can find the nationwide report [here](#)

