



YOUNG PEOPLE'S MANIFESTO 2023

Nottingham
citizens

#YPManifesto23

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THE JOURNEY TO OUR MANIFESTO



1

BROAD-BASED ORGANISING

All our work is rooted in our broad-based alliance of diverse civil society institutions across Nottingham working together for the common good. Our members include faith groups, schools, universities, unions, and local charities and community groups. We represent over 100,000 people from all backgrounds, making us the largest alliance of its kind across the city. Involvement in the Young People's Manifesto was open to members and non-members.



2

LISTENING

After organising our young people at a launch event in October 2022, the young people from 11 different groups ran listening campaigns until we reconvened in December. We asked them to listen to their peers about what was putting them under pressure in terms of their mental health and two other problem areas. Because we want to develop leaders, we've also been on the lookout for young people with stories to tell. The young people also needed the skills to build relationships with their peers as well as key decision-makers across our city.

4 PREPARING FOR THE ASSEMBLY

Our young people are connected to voting adults and key community leaders. We will be sharing our Manifesto and are confident of a full turnout for our Assembly hosted at St Nic's Church, with options to attend virtually online.



6 TIME TO VOTE!

On Thursday 4th May, residents across Nottingham who have the right to vote will cast their ballots to elect their Councillors. We will seek to work with whoever wins to make Nottingham more equal and fair for all.



3 ACTION TEAMS

Through our listening campaign, we identified three main problems:

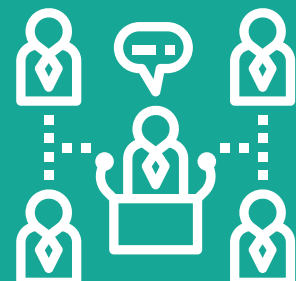
- Mental Health
- Cost of Living
- Safety

The young people set about identifying the key issues for each problem and worked in their action teams from January to March to plan a strategy which addressed these issues. This included what they could do to make change and local responses and projects for change.



5 HOLDING THE ASSEMBLY

At our Accountability Assembly on Wednesday the 19th April, a couple of weeks before people cast their votes, we will publicly negotiate with political leaders on the issues we care about. This will allow us to build working relationships based on respect and accountability.





COST OF LIVING

42,000 CHILDREN IN NOTTINGHAM ARE CLASSED AS LIVING IN POVERTY

AS THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS WORSENS, MORE CHILDREN ARE AT RISK OF BEING PULLED INTO POVERTY, OR INTO DEEPER POVERTY.

WE WANT THE NEXT COUNCIL LEADER TO

- Lobby the government and local politicians for Free School Meals for all children.
- Use their influence to work with Multi-Academy Trust leaders to build a cost-of-living action plan to 'poverty-proof' our schools.
- Work with Nottingham City Transport to extend the free bus travel for all under 18-year-olds in the city every school holiday.
- Play their part in tackling in-work poverty by ensuring that every Council employee receives at least a real Living Wage of £10.90 p/h, and commit to the annual rate rise.

AND WE WILL:

- Collate and share best practice across Nottinghamshire schools around school-specific interventions to address these issues.

“

I have 3 siblings and I unfortunately happen to be the oldest. Oldest means the most responsibility.

Both of my parents work, and we were very comfortable before the cost of living crisis. When inflation first hit we were not really affected but gradually it became a lot harder.

We had cut down on the things we wanted and I became a lot more aware financially. I had to top up my siblings dinner accounts and if I wanted something then I had to get it myself.

I'm not 18, I don't have a job, and I may not be directly affected by inflation but it still affects me because it affects my family.

I want the Young People's Manifesto to help schools support students and families who struggle with paying for school dinners, uniform and stationery.

Joanny, Nottingham Girls Academy

”



MENTAL HEALTH

WE WANT THE NEXT COUNCIL LEADER TO

- Ensure all community schools for which they are responsible have a named senior leader for mental health and well-being and to encourage all other schools in the city to do the same.
- Write to every Greater Nottingham MP in support of the Citizens UK campaign for schools-based counselling.
- Identify a named person to:
 - Work with Challenge Nottingham and Nottingham Business Innovation District to promote free summer arts activities and free travel.
 - Develop at least three new green areas for young people in the city and further support activities, e.g. Green Hustle, for young people to connect positively around the climate emergency.

AND WE WILL:

- Collate and share a toolkit of in-school interventions (e.g. well-being stations, outside reflective areas) to support well-being.
- Source training to develop peer to peer mental health champions.

“

“I once had a friend who was struggling with mental health issues and didn't find much support with systems in school, and didn't find much support in me.

In February last year, one of my best friends passed away. This made me concentrate less on school and more on grieving.

I wanted a therapist but because of my friend's experiences, I didn't feel like they could support me. So I kept to myself and used self-harm as an outlet for my emotions. I met someone who introduced me to their friendship group which gave me a chance to talk about my mental health.

I want the Young People's Manifesto to put better support in place in school to help those that are too anxious to ask.

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Magdalena, Nottingham Girls Academy

“One of the things people find helpful is participation, activism and connection with other people.”

Gareth Morgan, Clinical Psychologist



One of our many meetings with the young people to discuss our campaigns

SAFETY

WE WANT THE NEXT COUNCIL LEADER TO

WORK WITH US TO ENSURE THAT NOTTINGHAM BECOMES A SAFER PLACE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. WE ASK THE NEXT COUNCIL LEADER TO

- Work with Nottingham City Transport to find out from young people what their experiences are of bus travel, especially when travelling alone.
- Report back on their findings and action plan by the end of 2023.
- Increase the visibility and presence of community safety officers around schools re speeding and safe parking.

AND WE WILL:

- Work with them on the 'safe and secure' aspect of the UNICEF Child Friendly City initiative.



“

I am really concerned about road safety mainly because I am old enough to be really careful on the roads but I have a younger sister who has special needs and she would not be aware of the dangers on the road.

Around our school there is one road where cars come speeding round. Other cars are parked at the side in a way that blocks the visibility and drivers cannot see when people are crossing.

We have asked the PCSOs to come and they did, but after a while it all went back to the way it was. Luckily there have not been any accidents yet but I am sure that if this carries on this way, this may lead to a terrible accident.

I do not want this to be my sister or anyone else. We hope you will be able to help us with our campaign to keep our community safe.

Anaya, Radford Academy

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Young people meeting with Nottingham's Councillors to negotiate and build our relationship.

RELATIONSHIP WITH US

More important than any individual issue or ask is that we build a relationship with decision-makers so that our communities have a seat at the table.

That's why, on the 27th of March and 11 April, representatives from our Manifesto teams met with political leaders to negotiate how they would honour our manifesto pledges if they were to be elected as Leader. This was an invaluable opportunity for young people to have their voices heard by the people in power and to lead our community organising efforts. For the Councillors and political representatives it was a chance for them to hear direct accounts from the young people of their city about what issues matter most to them.

WE WANT THE NEXT COUNCIL LEADER TO

- Meet with us twice a year.
- Within 3 months, convene a City Council & Multi-Academy Trust forum, which includes Citizens leaders, to build strong working partnerships and ensure these asks are implemented.

"The most common way people give up power is by thinking they don't have any."
Alice Walker



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