

YOUTH PARLIAMENT

- 1 The Council has established a Youth Parliament to give children and young people a genuine voice in the affairs of the Borough, and to implement the Council's obligations under the Children Act 2004.

The terms of reference of the Youth Parliament are:

- (a) To discuss and debate issues that affect children and young people and explore potential solutions within the context of formal and informal meetings.
- (b) To represent these views and receive responses from the Council's Cabinet, Scrutiny Committees and Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership Board.
- (c) To evaluate the performance of service provision, recommending areas for improvement in the context of the Children and Young People's Plan.
- (d) To plan two consultation events per annum for children and young people to raise awareness of issues as agreed by the Youth Parliament.
- (e) To ensure that decisions taken as a result of young people's participation are fed back to young people through a variety of methods e.g. visits to schools, newsletters and websites.
- (f) Develop a training programme and materials for Youth Parliament members to enable effective participation.
- (g) To monitor progress towards implementation of the Hear by Rights standards across Council departments and other partner agencies represented on the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership Board.
- (h) To consider possible options for the distribution of the Youth Opportunities Fund.

- 2 Members of the Youth Parliament will be chosen as follows:

- (a) 10 members from locality based youth groups,
- (b) 24 members from school councils,
- (c) 19 members from target and community groups, and
- (d) 2 councillors appointed by Full Council.

- 3 One member of the Youth Parliament together with one member of the Council will act as Co-Chairs. One further member of the Youth Parliament together with one further member of the Council will act as Co-Vice Chairs.