

From the Youth System Map to Practical Application

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Case Study: Greenwich Young People's Council 2025

Greenwich Young People's Council [GYPC] is a group of democratically elected young people who represent the views, concerns, and aspirations of children and young people in London's Royal Borough of Greenwich. Following elections in their schools and youth hubs, members serve a two-year term to improve outcomes and influence decision-making. The 2025–27 Greenwich Young People's Council is comprised of 20 members across 13 local schools. As a collective, they've determined their manifesto priorities, for which they develop action plans to make a difference in their schools and wider communities, from running campaigns to collaborating with councillors.



Greenwich Young People Council 2025

In their work to shape manifesto priorities GYPC used the [Youth System Map](#) developed by London Met and commissioned by the GLA and were informed by our report [Understanding Youth Social Action](#), which highlights the seven conditions underpinning youth social action participation, namely:

- Epistemic Privilege
- Voice
- Trust
- Agency
- Social Justice
- Relationships

- Sense of Belonging

“We found the Youth Systems Map very interesting in its visual representation of youth social action and driving factors. Our members joined Greenwich Young People’s Council (GYPC) for a wide range of reasons, and seeing these reflected in the map helped put our diverse backgrounds and motivations into context. Alongside this, understanding the broader challenges faces by young Londoners deepens our awareness of the significance and scope of our roles, both in Greenwich and beyond.” (Eden Martin, Co-Design and Engagement Officer, Children’s Services, Royal Borough of Greenwich)

The GYPC 2025–27 manifesto, comprised of four priorities, is grounded in **social justice**: 1) Life Skills in Preparation for Adulthood advocates for equal access to opportunity; 2) Cost of Living Support calls for poverty-aware policy; 3) Safety for Young Women demands gender justice; and 4) Spaces for Young People champions young people’s rights to safe spaces.

GYPC is structured around the principle of **epistemic privilege**, centring the lived experience of young people in Greenwich. Each manifesto priority is rooted in real-world issues identified directly by the members and their networks. Members are not only consulted but positioned as decision-makers who shape activities for themselves and hold the council to account. **Agency** is embedded through youth-led ownership. Members design and deliver their own campaigns, supported with clear leadership and training from the participation team, to ensure they play an active role in decision-making rather than symbolic consultation.

To strengthen **voice and trust**, GYPC operates with a culture of accountability and follow-through. Open communication is maintained with the community through regular updates to schools and in joint forums with councillors, designed to build relationships and advocates of GYPC’s mission. Behind the scenes, the participation team leverages connections to progress proposals to the right decision-makers. When members can see the pathway from idea, to influence, to outcome at every stage, they see that speaking up leads to action and that the system is listening.

Relationships are intentionally at the heart of GYPC. Members develop new friendships, connections across the council, and links through schools and communities. This, alongside the special experience of shaping outcomes for their communities, is key to creating a **sense of belonging** rooted in pride of place and shared purpose.