

Election 2025



# YOUNG MAYOR OF LEWISHAM

20<sup>th</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY

## Candidate statements

Please read  
carefully  
before casting  
your vote

[lewisham.gov.uk/young-mayor](http://lewisham.gov.uk/young-mayor)

 [insta@lewisham\\_young\\_mayor](https://www.instagram.com/insta@lewisham_young_mayor)

 [@lewishamyoungmayor1](https://www.tiktok.com/@lewishamyoungmayor1)

## Message from Brenda Dacres , Mayor of Lewisham

Lewisham is a vibrant and youthful borough, full of driven and talented young people.

For 20 years, our Young Mayor Programme has been a shining example of their potential. Whether representing Lewisham

at major debates or taking part in historic moments like carrying the Olympic Torch, our Young Mayors have consistently made their mark and showcased the best of our community.

This year, we're proud to have 36 candidates representing 16 different schools across Lewisham. What makes this election even more special is that we're celebrating a major milestone: electing our 20th Young Mayor!

Democracy and civic engagement are at the heart of this programme. Our candidates bring all kinds of passions to the table. With exciting new plans for youth services on the horizon, it's the perfect chance to get young people stuck in, and help shape the future of Lewisham!

As Young Mayor, Bilvilyn Asamoah has engaged with young people speaking at schools, hearing their views, and launching a TikTok account. She's also partnering with Mayoress Leila Thomas and Urban Synergy to enhance career opportunities.

Paul, Deputy Young Mayor, has supported Riverside Youth Club by creating progress videos and participated in events like Remembrance Day and Armed Forces Day. Alongside Young Advisors, he regularly attends the Children and Young People's Select Committee.

This year featured basketball, football, and skating events, as well as Radio Lewisham, funded by former Young Mayor, Jentai, offering radio production training. Exciting plans for Radio Lewisham are coming in the New Year.

The Young Advisors group meets weekly and welcomes youth participation. They volunteer at the Bank of Things and lead inclusion initiatives to amplify voices of young people with special educational needs. Together, they've contributed to borough-wide changes, including discussions on Lewisham Town Centre's regeneration.

Lewisham's young people are passionate about their community and ready to make a real difference. The Young Mayor Programme gives them the chance to get involved in politics and turn their ideas into action. Take some time to learn about the candidates and cast your vote – democracy starts early here in Lewisham!

Best of luck to all the candidates standing this year!



Brenda Dacres,  
Mayor of  
Lewisham

For more information about the work of the young mayor and the election process visit [lewisham.gov.uk/young-mayor](http://lewisham.gov.uk/young-mayor)

**ONLY ONE** OF THESE  
CANDIDATES WILL BE  
YOUNG MAYOR.

**ONLY YOU** CAN  
MAKE THAT CHOICE.

## What is the role of the Young Mayor?

The Young Mayor gives young people in Lewisham a real say in the future of the area.

Lewisham young people have a lot to say about issues that affect them such as schools, youth facilities, the environment, mental health, crime and safety, and much more. It is important that they are involved when decisions are made that will impact on their lives.

This is why Brenda Dacres, Mayor of Lewisham, and the Council agreed that there should be a young mayor, someone who would represent young people and make sure their views are heard. In 2025–26, the Young Mayor will have a budget of £25,000 to spend on improving the lives of young people in Lewisham.

## How to vote

Anyone aged 11–17 who lives, works or studies in Lewisham can vote in the election. Everyone in a secondary school or sixth form college will be allowed to vote in a polling station at their school or college on polling day. You will be given a ballot paper and asked to cast their vote for first and second choices for Young Mayor of Lewisham. If you don't go to school in Lewisham but live in Lewisham you can have a postal vote. See page 23 for contact details.

The candidate who comes in second place will become the Deputy Young Mayor. Third and fourth placed candidates will have the opportunity to represent Lewisham as members of the UK Youth Parliament.

## Time to decide

In 2024, 9,485 young people voted, which was a turnout of 57.46% and Bilvilyn Asamoah, pictured above, was elected Lewisham's nineteenth Young Mayor. Now it's time for you to decide who you want to represent you and make a difference to young people in Lewisham.

There are candidates standing in this year's election. This booklet contains their election statements which explain why they want to be Young Mayor of Lewisham and what they will do for young people if elected. So, please read this carefully and make sure you vote on Wednesday 5 February so you can have your say on who will represent you.



Bilvilyn Asamoah  
Young Mayor of  
Lewisham 2024–25

For more information about the work of the young mayor and the election process visit  
**[lewisham.gov.uk/young-mayor](http://lewisham.gov.uk/young-mayor)**

## Noora Abdullah

Noora for Young Mayor of Lewisham: A Manifesto for Youth, by Youth.

Lewisham is home to a vibrant, diverse, and creative generation of young people. Yet, far too often, we are misunderstood, labelled, and sidelined. People may see our energy, our passion, and our voices, and call it “loud” or “disruptive.” They don’t always understand us, and instead of supporting us, they write us off as “gangs” or dismiss us as “crazy”. But this isn’t the full story. We are more than the labels others may put on us. We are the future of this borough, and we deserve spaces where we can thrive, grow, and just be young.

As Young Mayor of Lewisham, I am committed to making sure the youth of this borough are seen, heard, and valued. My manifesto is simple: create more spaces for young people, so we can be ourselves without judgment.



## Halimat Adebayo

Hello, my name is Halimat Adebayo and I am contesting for the Young Mayor of Lewisham because I believe that everyone should be able to live in a safe, secure place without worrying about getting robbed or stabbed on our streets. If I am elected as the Young Mayor, I would ensure that the safety of Lewisham improves massively, by prevailing on the Mayor Brenda Dacres to create safe havens (libraries and shops) for young people to go if they feel unsafe for uncomfortable. This is very significant, because I personally feel vulnerable when walking home from school as I am always looking behind to see if there’s anyone coming to hurt me, especially during winter. I will feed back to the young people of Lewisham by using social media such as Whatsapp, Snapchat or Tiktok, so you can be alerted when this action has taken place. I believe that I am the best person for the job because I was Deputy Head Girl in my primary school, my dad is a lawyer, who also encouraged me to run for this position and that Lewisham needs to become a better place to live in. Have a great day. Stay safe!



## Saja Albasha

I chose to stand as a candidate for Young Mayor of Lewisham because significant changes can be made to improve our community. This role will also help me develop my leadership skills and gain insight into the different perspectives of Lewisham residents on what needs to be improved, especially in our schools and local areas. One major issue I want to address is the rising cost of food in our schools. We all know that education is vital, and part of that education is ensuring children have access to healthy meals. With food costs increasing, many families are struggling to provide meals for their children, making it harder for them to focus on learning. I am committed to working on solutions to reduce food costs in schools so that every child, regardless of background, can enjoy meals that fuel their minds and bodies.

Additionally, a clean environment is crucial for students' wellbeing. That's why I propose hiring more cleaners in schools and throughout Lewisham. Clean classrooms and bathrooms promote a positive learning atmosphere.

Finally, heating issues in schools can cause discomfort, especially in winter. I am committed to investing in better heating systems, ensuring all students can learn in a comfortable environment. These changes will benefit everyone in Lewisham.



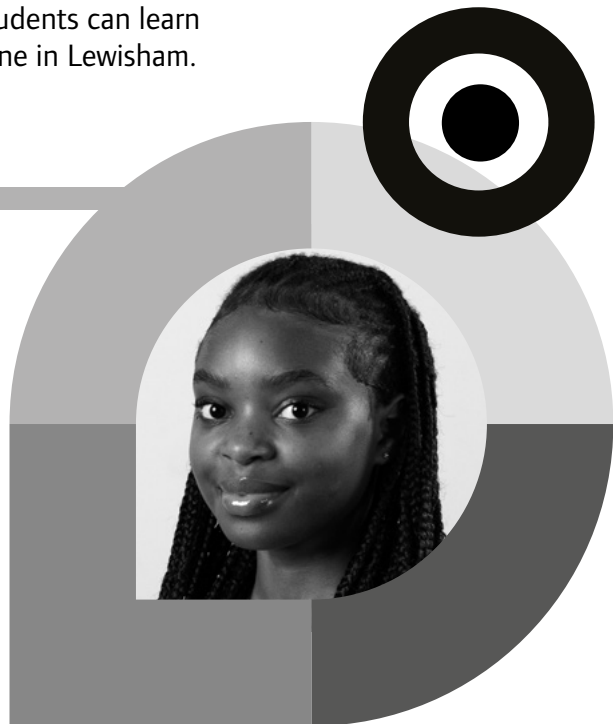
## Osasumwen Amadin

If I was elected, I would like to improve the life of young people in Lewisham. With your votes I promise to include you in decision making in order to make Lewisham a more inclusive and safer place to live in. I hope to do this by creating more clubs where you can voice your opinion and have a say on matters that actually affect you.

Secondly, I would like to include a larger area for extracurricular activity like basketball courts or even chess. This way you get opportunities to develop your skills and even socialise you with other young people.

Thirdly, I also want young people to understand diversity in Lewisham because I don't want anyone to feel left out just because of their race, disability or background. I could encourage natural hair day or cultural food sales day where everyone is allowed to take part, and I would give half the money to charity for people with disabilities so they can access the help they need.

Finally, I want to prioritise mental health by creating a safe space where young people can access free workshops and normalise conversations about mental health.



## Thades Apeiro

I believe that the future of a nation, a community, an area, is heavily dependant on the futures of the youth. During my primary school days my mother worked hard at home to raise me as best as she could, when she could; she worked hard out of doors well into the night. She couldn't do both at the same time, so as a result I went to Lewisham Library almost every day until it closed for the day and now for the foreseeable future. My time was spent with older figures so I differentiated from my age group. I want a youth club to be ran after school, giving kids like me a place to learn, play, thrive and belong. This will instil a sense of togetherness in the people and teach the young people invaluable life lessons which will become the foundations of their great character.

I am in the Future Leaders programme to give back to my people. I am a great public speaker. I will receive feedback via social media. My hopes are that one day Lewisham will be a household name that we can globally brag about.



## Joy Atanda

I want to run as the Young Mayor of Lewisham because I am passionate about making a positive impact in our community, especially for young people. Volunteering at Sommerville Youth Centre in New Cross has given me valuable experience with the youth, and I've seen firsthand the need for better facilities and more activities. I would focus on upgrading our youth centre to create a more vibrant space where young people feel welcome and engaged.

I envision adding new resources like a gaming area, art studios, and spaces for workshops that will help foster creativity and collaboration. We could also organize more events, such as talent shows, sports tournaments, and community projects that encourage teamwork and build friendships. Additionally, I believe we need more youth clubs across Lewisham to provide safe spaces for socialising, learning, and personal development.

I am hardworking, attentive, and dedicated to listening to the needs of my peers. My experience has taught me the importance of being approachable and understanding, which I believe are key qualities for a Young Mayor. I would work closely with schools to enhance programs that support students and promote mental wellbeing, such as mentoring and after-school activities. Furthermore, I want to create opportunities for young people to get involved in decision-making processes, ensuring that we have a say in the issues that affect us. I believe that by working together, we can create a community where everyone feels valued and empowered. Together, I believe we can create a thriving environment for all young people in Lewisham!



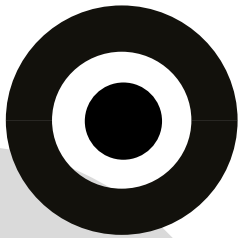
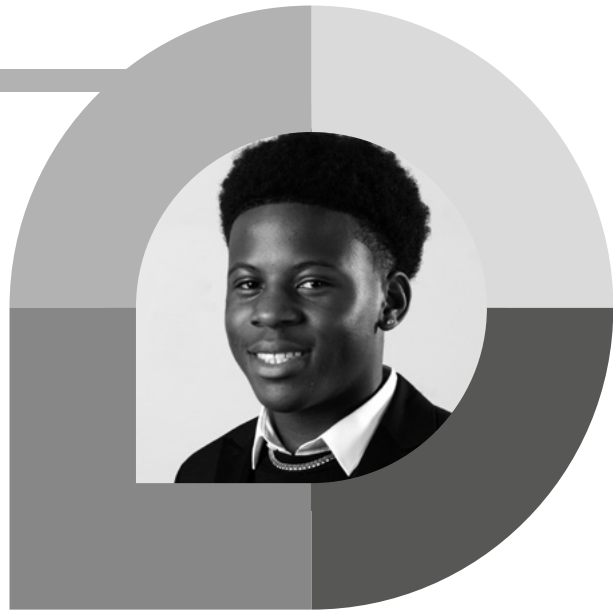
## Jeremiah Ayodele

My name is Jeremiah Ayodele and as a long-standing member of the Lewisham community, I truly understand the gaps, struggles and disadvantages that us as youth face. I am here to potentially put an end to it.

Firstly, I will bring to light the lack of our youth voices being acknowledged. I will amend this issue by going to schools around the borough and surveying students, then pass their opinions onto our councillors.

Secondly, I will improve how comfortable and safe we feel at school. I will do this by working closely with youth establishments and charities within our borough i.e. CC Foundation. As students we should never feel unsafe in a place of education as school is a key stage of life which allows young people to push themselves to their full potential.

Lastly, I want to and will open young people's minds to the various opportunities around England and even globally, so they are not limited to the surrounding environment. I will do this by normalising trips abroad and introducing young people to career paths which I have embarked on. I believe that every single member of our borough has a purpose of value and an ever so bright future. I want to help youth in Lewisham become future leaders and find their life purpose. Your vote is your participation to see the change we all want.



## Caprice-Maitai Barrett-Reid

Hi, my name is Caprice-Maitai and I'm running to be elected your next Young Mayor of Lewisham. I'm just like you. I've lived in Lewisham all my life. I know what it's like to be a young person in Lewisham, because despite me standing in front of you today, I am still one. I also know what it feels like to not have a voice, and so that's why I'm so determined to give all of you that chance. Some may see my age as a disadvantage, but I see it as an opportunity.

- To be able to create change, we must first adopt the idea of change. And the first change I want to make is to provide more mentoring and counselling for young people. I know how it feels to have no one to talk to, and so I want to give all youths the opportunity to speak their minds in a private and safe way. Doing this myself has benefited me so well and as the saying goes; a problem shared is a problem halved.
- Another thing I'd like to address as Young Mayor is crime prevention. Stats from Crimerate.co.uk show "Lewisham is the third most dangerous borough in London. The overall crime rate in Lewisham in 2023 was 135 crimes per 1,000 people." That was only last year knife crime and gang related incidents were such a big thing here in Lewisham. I want to put crime prevention strategies in place to aid young people in being recognised for the good things they can achieve.
- There are many young people struggling to obtain food, toiletries and school supplies. I want to expand on the bank of things organisation to provide as many kids with supplies as possible.

The C in my name stands for change. When Caprice is in charge, Lewisham transforms.



## Miguel Burgess-Williamson

My name is Miguel and one of the first things I'm planning to do as Young Mayor is to work alongside the Metropolitan Police. I will ask for police to be more around the place as there is too much violence on the streets. I will try to stop knife crime as too many people lose their lives by it. I'd also like to work with the NHS to stop vaping for young people as it will affect their health later in life.

Vote for Miguel. My future is your future.



## Atarah Charles-Chambers

Hello, my name is Atarah, and I am proud to announce my candidacy for Young Mayor of Lewisham 2025. One of my top priorities is improving safety within our community. I plan to advocate for additional streetlights, particularly during the winter months when darker evenings can create an environment where crime is more likely to occur. Everyone deserves to feel secure, no matter where they are in Lewisham.

Education is another critical issue I am passionate about. Having attended two schools in Lewisham, I have witnessed firsthand the stark differences in the quality of education. This disparity is unacceptable, as every young person deserves access to excellent education to equip them for a world increasingly shaped by inflation and economic challenges. Our youth must be prepared to thrive in the modern economy, and I will work tirelessly to ensure no one is left behind.

Most importantly, I want to hear from you—the youth of Lewisham. Your ideas and opinions matter, and I am committed to representing your voices in decision-making. This campaign is about creating a better Lewisham for young people, not just for adults.

I'm Atarah, and I hope to earn your vote as Young Mayor of Lewisham 2025. Together, we can create a safer, stronger, and brighter future.





## Ailbhe Cooke

Hi, I'm Ailbhe Cooke and I'm running for Young Mayor as I want to make an impact on the lives of young people across Lewisham.

A couple of ways I plan to do this is to introduce sessions in youth clubs for immigrant youths to help them socialise in an otherwise difficult time with youths who are experiencing the same thing. I also plan to assist underprivileged young people across Lewisham by providing gym memberships and cooking classes at soup kitchens for those who otherwise cannot obtain food.

Vote Ailbhe Cooke 2025, let's make Lewisham great together.



## Laynie Creffield-Grant

Hi, my name is Laynie and I'm from Trinity secondary school, and this statement will tell you what I am passionate about. I am passionate about helping understand Special Educational Needs more to help more people with SEN. If I am Young Mayor, I will open up more clubs for SEN kids and set up more assemblies and more interventions about SEN.

I will be holding assemblies informing people about the action that has been taken.

I think I am best for this role as I have grown up with and around SEN, so I feel I have an open minded perspective on the people of Lewisham and want to help them.

Another reason why you should vote for me is I am a very strong leader. Examples of this are I have been a buddy and I am a house captain, which are leadership roles. I am not afraid to speak for what is right.

Thank you for listening and remember vote Laynie for Young Mayor.



## Kyrrah Emanuel

Hello, my name's Kyrrah and I would like to be your 2025 Young Mayor. I've seen that young people are unheard and deserve to express themselves. In order for me to fix this I would like to propose three things:

1. Have community places where young people can socialise with their friends and even make new friends, so they have a sense of belonging e.g. more youth clubs.
2. Hold group sessions to help young people have an idea on what career paths to follow with the help of specialised career advisors.
3. Finally, have workshops that introduce young people to money management skills to help them in the future.



## Shane Grant

If I was elected as Young Mayor, there are three ideas I would like to work on within our community:

1. Programs that educate young individuals in our community on how to start their own businesses and create job opportunities within their own personal interests and ideas. The benefits of this are that it will allow young people to gain valuable skills outside of a classroom that they can use in the real world to aid their personal growth and development.
2. My second goal is to create an environment where young individuals, as well as the community, can express their faith and religion and gain awareness about other religion's boundaries, tolerances and traditions, which can help bring a sense of unity without violence and conflict brought about by religious differences.
3. Last but not least, my third goal is to improve the development of parks. Many residents, as well as young individuals, want to experience the parks they used to enjoy but cannot because of the poor treatment these parks have been left in. I will do this so that people are able to relive the moments they once had but in a safer, comfortable community they can enjoy.

This is my campaign statement and thank you for listening.

I want to be your symbol of change. Vote for me to make Lewisham a better place.



## Shinequa Grant

If I, Shinequa, were elected as Young Mayor of Lewisham, there are three key areas I would focus on to improve our community.

### 1. Youth engagement and opportunities

I would work to ensure every young person in Lewisham has access to opportunities, whether through more local job placements or youth clubs. I believe that encouraging young people to contribute to the community helps them feel valued and opens doors for future success.

### 2.Environment

We can do more to protect and enhance our local environment. I would push for more green spaces, better recycling facilities, and initiatives that engage young people in environmental awareness, ensuring a cleaner and greener future for everyone.

### 3. Mental health support

Mental health is one of the biggest issues facing young people today. I would work to ensure that mental health services are easily accessible for everyone, with more support in schools and in youth centres, creating a stronger team for those in need.

By focusing on these three areas, I aim to create an environment within Lewisham, where every young person has the opportunity to thrive.



## Miley Hoedoafia

Growing up in Lewisham has given me a strong love for our borough and its young people.

My greatest aspiration is to change the perception of young people in Lewisham. Finding work can be tough for many young people—I experienced this myself when I struggled to secure a job despite my determination. With a lot of free time and limited opportunities, young people often face unfair assumptions about their potential. I'm passionate about creating pathways for us to channel our energy and showcase our talents and ambition. Together, we can implement programmes and initiatives that reflect our potential. One example includes career workshops with local tradespeople and professionals, providing young people with insight into various career paths and practical skills. Another idea is creating mentorship programmes that connect students with inspiring role models from our borough, fostering confidence and ambition.

It's time to prove that we're more than what others expect—we're the future of this borough!



## Majeedah Ige

Hi, my name is Majeedah and I would like to be the next Young Mayor. There are many things that I strive to do if elected. One of them being, making Lewisham a more inclusive place in which young people feel confident enough to be able to reach their full potential. I would do this by introducing clubs and competitions so that young people are able to showcase their skills. I will also involve young people in decision making processes. I believe that confidence is one of the major factors stopping young people from maximising opportunities given to them and being able to make more for themselves. So, if I become Young Mayor, I would like to help young people build confidence. Another thing I would like to do if elected is make sure that young people don't suffer in silence. I feel that mental health is rapidly declining and if this is not taken care of it can lead to self-harm and even suicide. As a young person in Lewisham, I see what people around me experience on a daily basis.

If I am elected, I will try to make Lewisham a safer place for all.



## Mary-Kate Iheanacho

Hi, my name is Mary-Kate. I am here before you to address three key areas if given the opportunity of becoming a Young Mayor of Lewisham, to ensure the wellbeing and prosperity of our community. My time as a mayor will primarily focus on safety, community outreach and education support/career guidance.

- Safety is the foundation of a thriving community we must prioritise neighbourhood watch, community policing partnerships, and implement more community safety measures.
- Next, community outreach will play a vital role in closing the gaps within our community. By establishing stronger communities with the local organisations, we can extend our resources to create community-based work programs, aimed at helping people gain valuable skills and experience.
- Lastly, educational support and career guidance are crucial for the future of our youths and community. I will advocate and collaborate with schools to provide additional tutoring, career guidance, or coaching and employability. I will also advocate for after school programs and partner with local businesses.

In conclusion, by working together on these five key areas, we can create a stronger, more resilient community. Together, let us commit to fostering an environment where every individual feels safe, supported and empowered to succeed.

Thank you for your attention.



## Jeishan Kananthan

What's good, Lewisham?

My name is Jeishan, and I'm running this year for Young Mayor of Lewisham. One thing I will do when I get elected as Young Mayor is to have assemblies and lessons to help inform others about scams and dangers on the internet, as I believe that we don't get taught enough about this. I will also help to solve youth violence and help young people feel safe in Lewisham, by organising youth clubs, help stop vaping and making our parks more engaging. Lastly, I will organise a bike race across Lewisham to raise money for charity. I hope you vote for me.



## Annam Karim

When I become Young Mayor, I intend to implement the use of digital tools in all schools in Lewisham. This will hopefully encourage more happier and helpful learning for all young people. I want many to have access to high-speed internet and devices. I want to make sure that all pupils are given fair and equal opportunity to maximise their learning.

Secondly, I would like to set up more accessible first aid workshops as crime can never be prevented but its impacts can.

Finally, it is okay, to not know what to do in life. But I want to set up young people's futures for the better by introducing an educational scheme that will allow students to get a deep insight into university life, apprenticeships, and life outside school, available for all.

I know that I would make an ideal Young Mayor as I am someone deeply invested in the growth and prosperity of Lewisham. My priority is to ensure every voice is heard and every need is addressed. I can't change the past, but I can change the future.



## Sara Khalifa

I want to be Young Mayor: I have at least one thing in common with the young people of my community, we are students.

As a student, I want to improve the overall experience of school for kids, through campaigning to give our young people more opportunities such as scholarships, work experience, trips and what the students actually want.

Also focusing on the physical and mental wellbeing of students, by giving them the chance to do sports and creative activities, without being financially deprived, or demotivated and giving access to councillors and mentors within every school, so that every student can access support and advice when they need it. I want to campaign through charities, fundraisers and however else my community would suggest.

No child should have to give up on a big dream or a small passion for any reason. I want to give the young people of my community a pedestal for their voice to be listened to and their preferences to acted on.

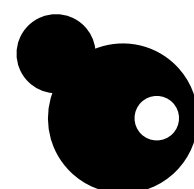


## Khadija Konie

Hi, my name is Khadija Konie, if I were elected Young Mayor of Lewisham, I would prioritise increasing funding for mental health services. I've personally experienced using CAHMS and I had a positive experience, however some have had negative experiences or are even unable to receive an appointment. I believe youth voices deserve to be heard. 59% of young people feel they would have benefited from support to help manage their feelings at certain points of their lives, therefore I would open more youth spaces to provide safe and inclusive environments for socialising such as skate parks, as it's a big part of young people's interest and so it's a way to relate with others in the same age group.

I would also promote community engagement in order to provide an alternative to gang involvement. Lewisham is among the boroughs most affected by youth violence. To try tackle this, I would develop programs that combine physical activity and mentorship.

Lastly, I would push for increased funding to improve school facilities and options for students, Lewisham has fewer opportunities for apprenticeships than other boroughs limiting pathways for students who don't or are unable to go to university or sixth form.



## Jimaine Lee

YO Lewisham my name is Jimaine Lee and as the Young Mayor, I would strive to create a place where young people feel valued and heard.

The top three things I would do if I was Mayor is help improve community engagement, which can mean getting young residents involved in local activities for charity which will strengthen our community.

My next point is promoting sustainability initiatives, which means working on projects that protect the environment like increasing recycling, supporting green spaces and encouraging the use of renewable energy.

My final point is about diversity. When it comes to fun and games, I will focus on stabilising safe spaces within the community where people can do public art projects that reflect the diversity of the community. Also, sports days featuring groups and activities from around the world which will encourage teamwork and friendly competition while celebrating different cultures.

As Young Mayor I promise to inspire change and bring our community together so vote for me Jimaine Lee.



## Hannah Lewis

When people think of Lewisham they think loud, rough and ghetto. But after living in Lewisham, I have realised that our 'loud' voices need a stage to be amplified.

My name is Hannah and to have your voice lifted and that stigma shifted you should vote me for Young Mayor.

We can all see Lewisham is changing and so is our future. But how much of a say have the youth really had?

Allow me to be your bridge not to walk on but to connect us with those who make decisions and the older generation so we can level with them, and they can reason with us.

I would focus on collaboration, to bring young people together to showcase and promote what young Lewisham has to offer and social events. Tapping into rap and lyricism, a language we all speak, sporting events in games we all play and hot topics we all talk about, through these events we can collaborate and celebrate.

Lewisham, we are all full of character, not everyone knows it, people usually roll their eyes and criticise but with this platform, I would give a true insight into the real Lewisham, hearing from those voices that structure and build our borough.

I've been Hannah and you should make the right choice. Help me, help you amplify your voice.



## Iqra Malakzi

I am standing for Young Mayor of Lewisham to tackle three major issues. The first issue I'd like to address is the lack of youth clubs. Children have nothing productive to do after school, hence, they end wasting hours on their electronics. In my opinion, this causes our youth to become unproductive. If they spent the same amount of time learning a new skill this could be beneficial for their future.

Another issue is to increase street lighting around alleyways and tunnels. This would ensure the safety of young children being aware of their surroundings. Last summer my friend was heading home but realised she was being followed. She panicked and ran to an alleyway. Due to poor lighting, she couldn't see if anyone was around to help. It was a horrifying situation for her to be in.

Lastly, I would like to raise an awareness about mental health for young children. I would work alongside community organisations, or schools to set up workshops, counselling, and peer support groups.

I am the best for the job because I am empathetic and easily approachable. I hope to make a real change.



## Shania Maloney

Hi, my name is Shania, I currently attend Trinity secondary school and I'm running for Young Mayor. My aim is to try and help young people within our community as I know there are pressing issues amongst people my age. I would like to help provide a safe space with adequate facilities for young people to thrive in. I also intend to try and bring awareness to things that are already available but don't get enough light.

Some of the things I would like to help provide are.

1. Counselling sessions, group activity and if possible individual sessions, as I have noticed an increase in the amount of people who are experiencing serious mental health issues. There are currently a lot of people who don't have outlets to express their thoughts and feeling a lot also lack the guidance and support at home.
2. I would like to do drop-in workshops / clubs offering a range of different activities and also something surrounding social media as it's where I feel a lot of my generation may flourish, an example being marketing and promotion.
3. I would also try and help with homelessness as there is an unbelievable amount of young people who currently don't have a safe and permanent place to live.
4. I wish to develop a project that will enable myself and my peers to find mentors facilities and counselling for those who need it.





## Henry Manh Tran

The first thing I want to change is making sure everyone feels safer by making police officers stay in the local area as crime has increased in the local area.

Another thing I would want to do is help charities raise money like the 999 Club who help people in poverty or about to be. This is because people who are struggling need some help getting back on their feet.

Lastly, I want to improve schools by getting better equipment to improve learning.



## Mohammed Miah

I believe that every young person in Lewisham deserves the chance to reach their potential. If elected I will focus on some key areas to improve our schools and community:

I believe it's important to have more diverse food options in schools that cater for all religious and dietary needs. I would ask school caterers to meet with pupils and to meet with pupil representatives from across Lewisham schools – it should be fair for all of us.

The youth of Lewisham needs more opportunities to engage in sporting activities that help develop teamwork and a sense of community, as well as physical health.

I'd also try to ensure more school pupils without money get the chance to go on school trips abroad to help develop their life experiences and independence with extra funding for those who need it.

I will campaign for young people with a learning difficulty or disability to have access to the support that they need. With the right support every student can reach their potential.

I'm not just talking about these issues. I'm passionate about making a difference and I'm ready to work hard for all of you.

I'm ready to be your voice and stand for the changes we need.



## Kye Mullings

My name is Kye Mullings. I'm 13 years old. When you guys vote for me, I will create a safer environment for the youth, encourage more of the youth to stay active and expand young minds. I'm here to turn dreams into reality.

My target is to create a safe space for children between the ages of 11–16 by providing a youth club in Lewisham borough. Here, my aim is to provide free hot meals for everyone, free tutoring, and a safe environment. It will also include sports equipment and inclusive activities to make it a fun and enjoyable experience for all of you to socialise with one another. I believe that this is important because firstly it gets our youth off the streets. Secondly, it could potentially reduce the rate of knife crime and robberies in the borough. Lastly, I aim to build confidence within our youth.

My second aim would be to encourage more young people to engage and participate in sports or additional activities to stay active. This would be achieved by implementing skateathons or charity events such as charity matches for both genders. This is important because staying active builds mental strength, endurance, and self-esteem.

My third and final aim is to provide free help with homework and tutoring to children who need or want it for them to excel in their education. I prioritise this because I believe that no child should be left behind in their journey to success.

When I'm Young Mayor I will ensure that all of my promises are fulfilled, and I'll make Lewisham the best it can be. Remember a vote for me is a vote for a better Lewisham. Vote for Kye Mullings to be your Young Mayor. Confidence is key so put your confidence in me.



## Isla Oswald

I am running for Young Mayor of Lewisham. I have three main topics I will focus on:

1. Mental health
2. Young people's rights
3. Our climate

Young people's mental health is a critical issue and more must be done to address it. Studies have shown that art therapy and yoga can boost mental health. I propose that schools are given funding to provide both, to support young people.

Young people need to know their rights. The number of young people having negative interactions with the police must be dealt with. I aim to improve community cohesion through working with local charities to deliver training to young people in schools, about stop and search and our legal rights. I would also work with the police on youth engagement schemes.

Lastly, our climate. I would organise litter picking groups and school workshops about how we can tackle climate change. I also want to introduce green pledges in schools. Every day our planet becomes more susceptible to the loss of animal habitats, super storms, droughts, rising oceans and melting ice caps. We need to act now!

As Young Mayor, I will ensure that young people's voices are heard as we are the future!



# Micah Spence

## 1. Skills4life

I will work to create more opportunities to prepare young people for the future. There are two ways I plan to do this:

- Build a service where people can receive support for basic life needs.
- Career support – I want to work with local organisations to build young people employment skills

## 2. Community events

Build a strong community by continuing our sporting events but adding new events such as music, dance and drama helping more young people connect with each other.

## 3. Health and wellbeing

There are two youth hubs for young people aged 13–19 where they can get support for physical, mental and sexual health but they are not well known; as Young Mayor I want to increase the advising of them and create another youth hub.

## 4. My final campaign point is celebrating achievements:

Lewisham has some of the most talented, resilient and capable young people and I want to recognise those achievements by building something called the ‘Young Mayor Award Scheme’.

Follow me on socials - Ms4\_ym



# Nielle Springer

Hi Lewisham! I’m Nielle Springer and I am running to be your next Young Mayor because teenage mental health matters. I’ve seen friends of mine struggle and I’ve felt the pressure myself. We deserve better support.

A friend of mine struggled with anxiety through schoolwork. They didn’t know where to turn and felt completely alone. This made me realise how many teens feel this way and that’s why I’m stepping up to be the voice of those who feel unheard – but I’m not just here to talk about the problem, I’m here to fix it. Here’s how:

1. **Safe spaces:** I’ll create teen-led support groups in schools where we can talk and connect without fear of judgement.
2. **Raising awareness:** I’ll lead creative campaigns – TikTok videos, social media challenges, school events, to make mental health an open conversation.
3. **Better support:** I’ll work to increase school counsellors and push for free access to online mental health resources. I understand the challenges we face, and I have the passion to make change happen. Vote for me, and together we will make mental health a priority!



## Olara Stoute-Bellamy

Hi, my name is Olara Stoute-Bellamy and I am running for Lewisham Young Mayor 2025 because I believe young people should have safe spaces where they're able to have fun, learn and socialise. I also think there should be more resources for students, using laptops and stationery that they may not have access to at school or home.

My third and last thing I would like to work on is making more opportunities for young people to get the experience of working in the community, with the pros of getting financial rewards. I will feedback to the young people of Lewisham and have an opinion on things that matter most. As a young person, I feel like we are not often heard, even though everything that goes on affects us and our future.

I believe I am a great person for the job because I am fair, confident, and kind, making sure I stand by my word. Everyone deserves to be heard and I'm the one to listen and represent your voice.



## Addis Toure-Mathys

Hello, my name is Addis and I am running for the Young Mayor of Lewisham. I saw the position of Young Mayor at school and I am running for Young Mayor of Lewisham because I want to make an impact in our community. I want to represent unheard people.

As a Young Mayor I want to change a few things. First, I will make sure that homeless people have food every day. I will help set up food stations to make sure every person gets a meal.

Secondly, I will focus on young people's mental health by doing mental health workshops to improve their condition.

Lastly, we need more youth clubs where people with SEN can have fun and feel supported. Also, there should be different varieties of youth clubs like art, music, board games, films, e-sports and so much more. Youth clubs allow for people to make long lasting friendships.



## Kyman Wheeler

Running for Young Mayor of Lewisham is something I've wanted to do since I started secondary school. As I would like to be the voice for Lewisham youth while making a contribution to my community.

If elected, I would prioritise the mental health of youth through positive activities. Being an aspiring footballer, I have noticed that there aren't any parks within Lewisham with public astro-turf pitches, meaning there is limited space for training and playing with friends. This is something I would like to address.

Additionally, being a year 10 student, I feel the work experience offered often places us at a disadvantage. I would aim to collaborate with local businesses to create opportunities to help gain more experience and create better opportunities for the future. Lastly, I would like to re-introduce fun in Lewisham overall. I would explore this by hosting community events such as sports tournaments and school competitions across the borough. I would engage with and update the young people of Lewisham through social media platforms and school presentations.

To conclude I am the best candidate as my face represents the youth of Lewisham and I would like to show others that they too can step out of the stereotype.



## Mia White

My first priority is ensuring free period products are available in female bathrooms across schools and public facilities. Period poverty is a silent crisis that affects many young people, and providing these essentials will help ensure dignity, equality, and comfort for all.

Secondly, I will champion efforts to support local food banks during the ongoing cost-of-living crisis. By encouraging donations of food and money, we can come together as a community to support those struggling to make ends meet. No one in Lewisham should go hungry, and collective action can make a difference.

Another vital part of my vision is empowering young people with the tools they need for adulthood. I propose creating projects that teach essential life skills, from financial literacy to self-care and independence. These programs will prepare our youth to face challenges and seize opportunities confidently.

Finally, I aim to tackle the litter problem and fly-tipping across Lewisham. By working with the council and encouraging community pride, we can create a cleaner, safer environment for everyone. Together, these ideas can make Lewisham a stronger, more vibrant borough.





## Voting for the Young Mayor

- You can make two choices for Young Mayor.
- Vote for your first choice candidate by marking a cross (X) in the first choice column.
- Vote for your second choice candidate by marking a cross (X) in the second choice column.
- If you give the same candidate your first and second choice, only your first choice will be counted.
- You must use your first choice vote or your vote will not be counted.  
You do not have to vote for a second choice if you do not wish to.

Election for the **YOUNG MAYOR** for LEWISHAM  
On Wednesday 5 February, 2025  
Vote **ONCE (X)** for your **FIRST CHOICE**  
Vote **ONCE (X)** for your **SECOND CHOICE**  
**REMEMBER: You cannot vote for the same candidate twice**  
You do not have to use your second choice vote,  
however you must use your first choice vote or your vote will not be counted.

Candidates are listed in alphabetical order

	First Choice	Second Choice
1		
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8		X
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Ballot Paper Number: 12345

## Voting by post

If you live in Lewisham but go to school outside Lewisham, you can have a postal vote; send your name, address, date of birth and school to [katy.brown@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:katy.brown@lewisham.gov.uk). You will be sent a ballot paper in the post. The deadline to apply is 5pm on Sunday 26 January 2025.

### For any questions please contact:

Electoral Services

Laurence House, Catford SE6 4RU

020 8314 6086 · [electoral.services@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:electoral.services@lewisham.gov.uk)

[lewisham.gov.uk](http://lewisham.gov.uk)

  
**VOTE  
BY MAIL**

## Are you 16 or over?

Remember if you are 16 years old you can register to vote online at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)

When you turn 18 you will then be able to vote in local and national elections.

**Make  
your  
mark**

**Don't forget to cast  
your vote for the next**

**YOUNG  
MAYOR  
OF LEWISHAM**

**5 February 2025**

For more information about  
the work of the young mayor  
and the election process visit

**[lewisham.gov.uk/  
young-mayor](https://lewisham.gov.uk/young-mayor)**

**Contact**

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