

NEWHAM YOUNG MAYOR

Zuhayb Ahmed, First Young Mayor of Newham, 2007-8.



“Getting into youth politics was a natural step, as I was involved in youth work since the age of about 14. When I heard about the new young mayor scheme I wanted to make sure my voice was heard – so I decided to stand. From the position I have been able to observe the clockwork behind services for young people and influence decisions around this.

“I have learned that, on average, everyone in the community wishes for the same outcomes and future but breakdowns in communication sometimes create misunderstandings and a lack of confidence in service providers. That is why I think it is important to have a voice for young people, so we can build up a positive relationship once again and work together for brighter future. I have also come to realise how much talent there is hidden within today’s young people and how, often, this talent is not explored, shown off or celebrated.

“The times I enjoyed most as Young Mayor were when I was given the opportunity to congratulate young people on positive achievements and show my support to those young people who have managed to make a difference on their own. I am invited along to many events that are organised by young people, which are usually more interesting than the ones done by adults. There aren’t many aspects of the role that aren’t enjoyable,

although at times when you just want to laze about and do nothing, it does take a little push to get on with your duties!

“I would encourage young people to get involved in their local forums, youth committees, centres, school councils etc. It is vital that we as young people raise our opinions and voices to the level they need to be at. If we don’t speak up for ourselves then we will live in a situation where our lives are being dictated for us.”

“I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank the Youth Council for the excellent work they have done and the support they



YOUTH COUNCIL



have provided throughout my term as Young Mayor. I feel as if I have committed a lot of my time to the role and just hope young people of the borough feel the same.”

Zuhayb Ahmed was the first Young Mayor of Newham from 2007-2008

