

Zara Loyas's Manifesto

I am Zara Loyas, a 15 year old living in Camden. I love my community and I find joy in helping other people. I have been a Food and Climate Ambassador for three years in Somers Town and I have been volunteering at a community benefit society that recently led me to interview the last Mayor of Camden, Cllr Sabrina Francis. I was a Regional Finalist for the Speak Out! Challenge and I talk to both local and big businesses on how to prevent food waste and donate surplus food to food banks. **My passion for community work and the environment has driven me to run for the position of Camden Youth MP, and if elected, I will improve the social care and health of the youth by offering:**

- **More job opportunities and internships:**

Young people in Camden are so skilled and diverse, with aspiring actors, architects, people in STEM and young entrepreneurs, but they aren't given the chance to go out and show their skills. I can make the opportunities in Camden available by bridging the gap by making sure paid internships and higher level apprenticeships are available in a range of options from organisations on our doorstep such as Google, Youtube, and Francis Crick.

- **Better living conditions in social housing (unsanitary conditions etc) and learning spaces:**

Young people cannot focus on their studies if they are in cramped/poor living conditions. This plays a great influential part on education, and especially after COVID, exams are causing stress to the youth in our community. Therefore I will improve communication with Camden Council to deal with issues regarding the living conditions and source tuition support via free tutorials and study materials such as pre-loved subject workbooks for free.

- **More work experience, volunteering and extracurricular activities offered to the youth:**

This helps young people to gain knowledge and experience of the workplace and other skills. Work experience also offers time for young people to gain understanding of what different careers are available to them and the pathways to it.

- **I have learnt so much about helping the community and reducing food waste in Camden since making my connections, as well as learning about a more sustainable way of life and I know there are so many other young people who would love this experience if they knew about it. I can make this happen by **sharing my connections with the youth and by getting big businesses and brands to come to school and hold events.****

- **Free gym memberships and healthy eating plans:**

There has been a rise in obesity in Camden, and this is due to the fact that young people cannot afford to pay to go to the gym, so they resort to eating easier and unhealthier foods. If young people were offered to go to the gym for free, they would be healthier and happier. I can make this change by contacting youth centres and

gyms across Camden, and by approaching non-profit organisations that rely on numbers for funding such as AYBI.

- **Cheaper uniforms in schools:**

Uniforms in Camden are very expensive for a borough that isn't very financially secure. I can organise lower costs or pre-loved uniforms in schools, it would widely impact the stress on families struggling at home or living on benefits.

- **More community trips and giving young people the chance to explore other areas in the UK by going on funded residentials and trips with youth clubs and non-profit organisations:**

Young people like to be active and stay outside. By going on residentials, not only are they trying something new and having fun, but it also introduces teamwork, bonding and experiencing new adventures.

- **A more open curriculum where we look at the history of the roots of young people in school:**

Young people in Camden are tired of learning about Britain's history of colonisation, depressions in society and the mistakes made by the British government that led to society toppling. We want to explore our roots, we want to know about the history of our own countries. By having a more diverse and ethnic-infused education curriculum, young people will enjoy learning about their own roots as well as respecting other people's cultures.

- **More community officers on the streets of Camden to prevent knife and youth crime, and more mental health counsellors in school for youth to talk to:**

Camden is the second most dangerous borough in London, but I can change this and help us become a safer borough by having community officers patrolling the streets to prevent any fights or knife crime, and by having more mental health officers in schools, young people can talk to adults in school about stress or anxiety before it escalates. Young people can also become designated safeguarding leads as well, which will help them gain valuable skills and look fantastic on their CVs.

For more information or if you have any questions, give me a shout on:

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