

Meeting **London Youth Assembly**

Date **Friday 25 July 2025**

Time **3.00-5.00pm**

Place **City Hall**

Hugo Maxwell

Chair of the London Youth Assembly

Mia Mormah

Deputy Chair of the London Youth Assembly

Welcome from Chair

‘Last week, the government said that it would give the vote to 16- and 17-year-olds, marking the biggest shift in electoral policy in the UK in decades.

As most of you know, I’m Hugo Maxwell. I was elected as our Chair with the aim of ensuring that the voices of all young Londoners are heard and of making the London Youth Assembly the leading voice for young people in our capital.

This enfranchisement of teenagers means that now, more than ever, we need to do more to listen to and speak up for young people. We must seize our opportunity to work with decision-makers, engage at a local, regional and national scale and share our work through events, social media and more.

Since I joined the LYA a year ago, we have been revitalised. But the decisions, discussions and announcements today will take our organisation to a new level. Around this table today are talented young people from across London who care about the world we live in, and we must use this to our strength this year.

This year, as some of the pledges in my manifesto, the Shadow Cabinet is being expanded to include two new roles: Environment and Education, and we will be creating two new Sub-Committees to broaden the horizons of the LYA even further.

With that in mind, I want to give a very warm welcome to all of you – whether you are a new member or a veteran I am so excited for us to be working together.

Before we get started I just wanted to say that, alongside my other aims for us this year, I want us to be more inclusive than ever, and that extends to meetings like this, where I want more of us to speak and get involved – so please, speak up and I really look forward to hearing what each of you have to say on behalf of your boroughs.’

Shadow Cabinet Announcement

The new Shadow Cabinet appointments were announced as follows:

- **Police and Crime Committee:** Morgan Seward
- **Economy, Skills & Culture Committee:** Kwasi Agyekum-koranchie
- **Environment Committee:** Ishan Visvanath
- **Health Committee:** Iffat Bhuiyan
- **Transport Committee :** Isabella Tanner
- **Education (Oversight Committee):** Ealaf Al-Najar

The introductions of each Shadow Cabinet member will be sent round separately.

Sub-Committee Announcement and Discussion

Following the results of the survey of LYA members in which it was rated as the most important single issue with an average rating of 4.43 out of 5, a Sub-Committee for Political Education will be created.

Members discussed that this could include:

- Promoting political education
- Consultation about impact of votes at 16
- Working on democratic awareness
- Encouraging visits by politicians
- Review of PSHE and teaching material
- Interactive workshops and debates.

After a detailed discussion, Opportunities was voted outstandingly as the subject for the second Sub-Committee, members discussed that this could include:

- Addressing inequality in opportunities for youth
- Creating a work experience database and share career opportunities, to assist underprivileged communities
- Promote interest-based work experience through schemes such as Project Good
- Push for apprenticeship visibility and MPs' summer schools.
- Introduce a London Youth Assembly Award at local borough ceremonies.

Priorities

Priorities discussed by members included:

- Police and Crime Shadow Cabinet to focus on crime, knife crime, Violence Against Women and Girls, and youth-police relationships.

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- Health Shadow Cabinet Member to push for free period products and mental health access.
- Transport Shadow Cabinet to work on transport safety, accessibility, and TfL staff training.
- Environment Shadow Cabinet Member to raise awareness and engagement in environmental issues and link environment to transport, safety, and opportunity and address financial barriers to sustainability.
- Political Education - build awareness through social media and educational videos.
 - Social media
 - Educational videos
- Increase LYA social media presence:
 - Highlight top 3 points from meetings (not full minutes)
 - Youth-friendly, engaging content
 - Consider podcasts and events
 - Members potentially tagging the LYA in social media post
- LYA Members to have Training with comms team on appropriate content to post
- Encourage LYA members to attend more events to increase awareness of the LYA and to share events.
- Push engagement with London Assembly for change and each LYA Member to meet with their constituent London Assembly Member.
- Area Forums to vote on ideas for LYA to take forward, with a clear pathway for ideas to reach the main meetings and then achieve action

Accountability

- Members to submit contributions for meetings to improve written records and accountability.
- After LYA Meetings, members are requested to share contributions and Chair to draft a letter which can be pushed on social media and shared with Chair of the London Assembly
- Share events among LYA members
- Members can volunteer to be part of first Sub-Committees which will work until around Christmas

LYA events coming up:

Thursday 11th September – East Area Forum Online Meeting (5-7pm)vhv

Monday 15th September – West Area Forum Online Meeting (5-7pm)

Tuesday 23rd September – London Youth Assembly Main meeting at City Hall (5-8pm)

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Tuesday 14th October - Make Votes Matter event with London Assembly at City Hall **(TBC)**