

# **London Youth Assembly**

## **Shadow Cabinet 2025-26**

### **Introductions**

#### **Foreword**

Following the election of Hugo Maxwell and Mia Mormah as Chair and Deputy Chair of the London Youth Assembly respectively for the 2025-26 term, a competitive selection process in which all members were invited to put themselves forward for roles was used.

The Shadow Cabinet is the leadership team of the London Youth Assembly, and each member of the Cabinet takes the lead on one specific subject area, and coordinates directly with the Committees of the London Assembly.

Following his election as Chair in 2025, Hugo Maxwell expanded the Shadow Cabinet to include two new areas: the Environment and Education. This is in order to recognise their importance to young people in London, and to work more closely on these issues with the London Assembly.

#### **The Shadow Cabinet**

‘Standing here today, I want to share my personal passion for the environment, and the vision I hope to pursue through this role.

My interest sparked a couple of years ago, becoming an environmental youth ambassador for a sustainability charity called Global Action Plan. Through this role, I aided in the delivery of an environmental youth summit, which discussed the importance of equitable environmental education, as well as speaking at the Chester Zoo Youth Symposium, where I discussed the power of youth social action in the context of environmental progress.

Since then, my passion for the environment has grown. I thoroughly enjoyed a position as a youth judging panellist with IKEA and charity Let's Go Zero, where I helped to allocate over £10,000 in funding to various schools across the UK, championing biodiversity through community projects.

I'm also really enjoying a current position as a research advisor with the University of Bath where I'm advising research into the social impact of climate change, with this including supporting brainstorming sessions on the effects of environmental engagement on young people.

Overall, through my new position at the LYA, I really want to focus on the intersection between education and the environment, increasing awareness of environmental issues amongst the young people of London, but also driving the action which will help create a more sustainable future for tomorrow.’

**Ishan Visvanath – Shadow Cabinet Lead for The Environment**

‘Hello everyone. My name is Kwasi, and I’m pleased to be your new Shadow Cabinet member for Economy and Culture!

Just a little bit about me: I’ve been playing the guitar for four years now, and I captain my basketball team! I’ve been a member of Merton’s Youth Parliament since November 2022, and have been at the forefront of subgroups as well as being a Youth Commissioner.

I see the immense potential that the LYA has to create real change. I’m here to serve young people and ensure that all young Londoners can access every opportunity.

Two of the things I wish to work on in my role, amongst others:

1. Ensuring that work experience opportunities are accessible to all young Londoners
2. Ensuring that all young Londoners are financially literate

If you’d like to contact me about anything to do with Economy and Culture, don’t hesitate to reach out!’

**Kwasi Agyekum-koranchie – Economy and Culture**

‘Good afternoon everyone, and many apologies, I couldn’t make it today as our social clashes with the UK Youth Parliament Annual Conference, but I hope it goes well!

By way of introduction, I got here by running to become the Young Mayor of Tower Hamlets – I faced incredible competition and met so many new friends and faces. By securing second place in the election as the Deputy Young Mayor, alongside the Young Mayor Fetuma who is in attendance today, we both also work to represent the fantastic borough here and nationally.

I’ve always been eager to represent young people, change lives and make meaningful changes to our great city – and I hope to do so as your new Shadow Member for Health!

In this role, alongside being the Chair of the Education, Health and Wellbeing Committee at the UK Youth Parliament, I hope to bring light to two pressing issues I have long campaigned for – mental health and period dignity. Earlier this year, I spoke at the House of Commons to push the government to distribute free menstrual products to women and give dignity to those who experience menstrual difficulties. I hope that in this role I can push for London to be an example in this field and start the work of making free period products more accessible, as well as raising awareness of mental health issues prevalent in young people and hopefully pushing out more reliable, accessible mental health tests and support so all young people are informed on their needs. These are issues I recognise are mammoths to deal with, but together I am affirmative we can deliver the change the young people of London need! I also hope to use my role as the Chair of the EHW committee to propel our work in the LYA to a national level and make sure the priorities the country’s youth have recognised are met at London!

I look forward to working with you all – and I look forward to meeting you all in the future!’

**Iffat Bhuiyan – Health**

‘I am Morgan, I represent the youth assembly as the member for Lewisham as well as being your new Shadow Cabinet Member of Police and Crime. Now I have the same brief as I had last year because I feel like it is important to continue in the brief that you feel that can help you a lot. Part of my portfolio

will be to listen to issues in relation to crime in London (knife crime, violence against women and girls, public order policing,) and on how we can build working relationships between the police and young people.

Last year I helped with the development of the Mayor's policing plan in conjunction with MOPAC and the London Violence Reduction Unit.

My aim this year is to continue on with the work as well as hopefully meeting with the Deputy Mayor for Police and Crime (Kaya Comer-Schwartz) and the Met Commissioner to give them the views of what young people think and how they can guide them in making the decisions.

I cannot wait to continue on with this work and I know we can do this together. Thank you.'

**Morgan Seward – Police and Crime**

'Hello everyone, I'm really sorry I can't be with you in person today as I am currently at a UK Youth Parliament Conference, but I wanted to take this chance to introduce myself and share how excited I am to continue to be a part of the London Youth Assembly.

My name is Ealaf, and I'm really proud to be the Lead for Education, and I have been a part of the London Youth Assembly for a year already! Outside of the London Youth Assembly, I am really engaged in youth politics: from chairing the Hammersmith and Fulham Youth Council to being a Member of UK Youth Parliament, I am always eager to empower and represent youth voices.

I'm really passionate about my role because I believe education and information available for young people should be of a high quality for everyone, it should empower us to navigate the world, question it, and improve it. In addition, a young person should not be disproportionately disadvantaged with the information they receive depending what type of schooling they receive.

One of my main focuses this year is political education, especially in the recent news about Votes at 16 – where I actually represented young people by being on Channel 4 News! I believe it's vital that young people are taught how democracy works, how policies affect our everyday lives, and most importantly, how to make our voices count. Too many times young people's voices are restricted, and I truly believe that that needs to change! I'll be pushing for better political literacy in schools, as well as better quality of education across London overall. This also includes looking at PSHE lesson standards, diversity of the curriculum, and more!

I'm really looking forward to working with all of you. Whether it's tackling inequality in education, improving access to opportunities, or rethinking what we're taught and how we're taught it – I know we can make a difference together.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have ideas, questions, or want to collaborate – I'd love to hear from you.

**Ealaf Al-Najar – Shadow Cabinet Lead for Education**