

## Children's Commissioner: what the kids think

### Members of the Children and Youth Board give their views on the appointment of England's first ever Children's Commissioner.

*A panel of 25 children helped interview and recruit the first Children's Commissioner in England.* We helped shoot the starting gun on getting a voice for young people

They formed the Children and Youth Board (CYB) and spoke to other kids all over England to help them select the winning candidate.

Children's Express spoke to some of the panel members and asked their thoughts on being involved, what they think the Commissioner can do to help kids.

Here's what they found.

#### **Nathan, 14:**

"I think it's important that England has a commissioner because there are a lot of children and young people who don't belong to organisations and don't attend regular meetings and youth groups, or even have a voice like many young people do.

Having a Children's Commissioner will wipe out the stereotypical image of young people and "yob" behaviour."

#### **Adam, 13:**

"CYB was intriguing, fun and enjoyable. I think we helped shoot the starting gun on getting a voice for young people.

This job (Children's Commissioner) is not just about meeting people, this job is about going out and actually finding the real issues that need to be dealt with."

#### **Ebony, 13:**

"Young people want a Children's Commissioner who is easy to talk to, who pays attention to all the problems that are going on, and to get many different points of view. The Commissioner will have to go around the country talking to children, finding out what's affecting them and how their life could be better. They need to talk to the government but not take sides."

#### **Kirsty, 15:**

"We talked to many young people but the main ones were people who had been in care and people with disabilities. They said they wanted someone like a champion, someone who will listen and they can trust to do things for young people."

#### **Judith, 16:**

"It's important to me that we have a Children's Commissioner so that children and young people's views can be heard more clearly and acted on.

I found it very interesting meeting the candidates for the Children's Commissioner. I've become more confident in myself and have met new friends from around the country. I've also learned more about the government and how parliament works.

I've enjoyed myself thoroughly on the CYB and it has shown me that being disabled doesn't matter at all."

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### About the team

The young people in this article were interviewed by James Michael, 18, Tara Brown, 17, Samir Pasha, 15 and Ella Parry-Davies, 16. It was published by BBC Newsround website.

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