

**UK  
PARLIAMENT  
WEEK**  
18-24 NOV 2024



# UK Parliament Week 2024 Feedback

Wednesday 20 November - Friday 22 November 2024



# Budget Consultation & Council Functions Event

## Key Attendees

**44**  
Children and Young  
People attended

**12**  
Officers, Members  
and Partners  
attended

- **Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources - Councillor Paul Moore.**
- **Executive Director for Finance and Transformation- Alex Thompson .**
- **Assistant Chief Executive of Sandwell Council - James McLaughlin.**
- **Waste Consultant - Heidi Marsh Geyton**
- **Cabinet Members**

## Overview of Event

- **The Key Attendees at this event gave a presentation on Council Services. The children at the event enjoyed engaging with this information and the subsequent quiz questions.**
- **A child-friendly overview of the budget and budget proposals was presented, including background information on the plans to move to alternate weekly collections.**
- **The Children took part in a debate on Sandwell Council moving to alternate weekly collections for waste services, asking really insightful questions and giving their opinions on the matter.**
- **A vote was then held, where the children unanimously voted not to adopt this change.**
- **The children were then given a chance to see the Mayor's Mace at the end of the event.**

# Budget Consultation & Council Functions Event

Feedback from Children, Young People and Staff

- The children at this event **enjoyed learning about how the council is formed** and were **fascinated by the intricate process behind allocating and managing budgets.** This unique opportunity not only deepened their understanding of local government but also **encouraged them to consider the importance of decision-making in their community.** This experience **left a lasting impression** on the children.
- The children especially **loved being able to see the Mayor's Mace at the end of this event!**
- The staff who attended along with the children felt this event went beyond their expectations and would be very likely to attend or recommend events similar to this in the future for students.



# Democracy Summit

## Key Attendees

- MP for West Bromwich – Sarah Coombes
- Director of Children & Education - Sally Giles
- Councillor Jalal Uddin (Cabinet Member for Children and Families)
- West Midlands Police – Inspector Najrul Ahmed
- 2 Sandwell UK Youth Parliament Members (Angela Hangero and Kashvi Khanna)
- Sandwell UK Youth Crime Commissioner (Ayyatulahi Adigun)
- Wood Green Academy Rights Respecting Schools Ambassadors

## Overview of Event

- The Youth Representatives spent the session presenting the issues they are passionate about to the panel.
- Issues presented; included Tackling Online Sexual Harassment; Women and Girls Misogyny; Children’s School Exclusions and Wood Green’s UNICEF Campaign for World Children’s Day.
- The young people presenting asked the panel questions and also answered questions, to help to ensure that more collaboration took place to tackle issues that affected young people.
- There was a chance at the end of the session for the young people to informally network with the panel members, to support those who want to be more politically involved.

**10**

Children and Young  
People attended

**12**

Officers, Members  
and Partners  
attended

# Democracy Summit

## Feedback from Children, Young People and Staff

- The children and young people at this event felt very positive after this event and felt proud of their presentation, with it being a **real boost to their confidence** and they **felt as they had achieved something representing the youth of today**.
- This was a **great opportunity for collaboration, co-production** and for students to have their voices heard and a **chance to meet with key decision makers**. They also thought the venue was great.
- It was **great to see youngsters from different schools coming together**, sharing their thoughts on common concerns **with the view of making Sandwell a better, happier and safer place to live in**.
- The staff who attended along with the children felt this event met their expectations and would be extremely likely to attend or recommend events similar to this in the future for students.

# An Audience with the Mayor

## Key Attendees

- **Leader of Sandwell Council - Councillor Kerrie Carmichael**
- **The Mayor of Sandwell Councillor Syeda Khatun MBE**
- **The Sergeant at Arms**
- **Sandwell Play Service**

## Overview of Event

- **The children toured the Mayor's Parlour and learnt about Mayoral duties in Sandwell over the years.**
- **Explored Local Governance and Democracy and the role of the Mayor.**
- **Made the longest mayoral chain and other craft activities.**
- **Participated in a Q & A session in the council chambers.**

**49**

Children and Young  
People attended

**7**

Officers, Members  
and Partners  
attended

# **An Audience with the Mayor**

Feedback from Children, Young People and Staff

- Some of the children and young people at this event **found it useful to find out about their local area as they are new to UK. It made them feel more confident to speak in an audience.**
- The children **most enjoyed the traditions and the visit to the mayor's parlour.** They also enjoyed the question-and-answer session with the mayor.
- The staff felt it was a worthy event, where **children learnt lots about democracy and law making.** Children asked relevant questions about things which impacted on them.

# Outcomes achieved at UK Parliament Week



A springboard to strengthening relationships with schools, school councils and student voice participation programmes.



Opening up a dialogue with children and young people, helping them to understand children's rights and democracy, as well as learning more about council functions, through meaningful debates and ongoing conversations.



Providing an opportunity for children and young people to look and learn about careers in local government.



Supporting young people who want to be more politically involved by introducing them to partners, elected members and MPs.



# Other Events that took place at UK Parliament Week

- The Child Friendly Sandwell programme was presented at the Business Growth and Employment Summit.
- Wood Green Academy and their Rights Respecting Schools student ambassadors went UNICEF Blue for World Children's Day Campaign. They have raised a total of over **£700** through the sale of blue cakes, sweets, lollipops and jewellery.
- The Careers in Local Government Event was cancelled due to adverse weather conditions and low turnout.
- The Child Friendly Sandwell Discovery Day was postponed due to adverse weather conditions and will now take place on March 5<sup>th</sup> 2025.



# Other Events that took place at UK Parliament Week

## Sandwell Council Leaders Meeting Takeover Challenge

- The National Takeover Challenge took place at the Sandwell Council Leaders Meeting on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024, during UK Parliament Week.
- The takeover was attended by 9 young people from SHAPE Youth Forum, Wood Green Academy, Shireland Biomedical UTC, Perryfields Academy and Sandwell Community School.
- The young people presented on issues important to them to the board, including Co-Production and Children and Young People's Priorities, Green Spaces and Mental Health, Non-Attendance due to Bullying and Bereavement Support, Knife Crime and Bereavement, Homelessness and Support for family members with neurodivergent children.
- The board, made up of the Leader, Sandwell Directors and Cabinet Members, were requested to listen to the voices of young people and decide upon a set of recommendations for the board to address the needs of young people.