



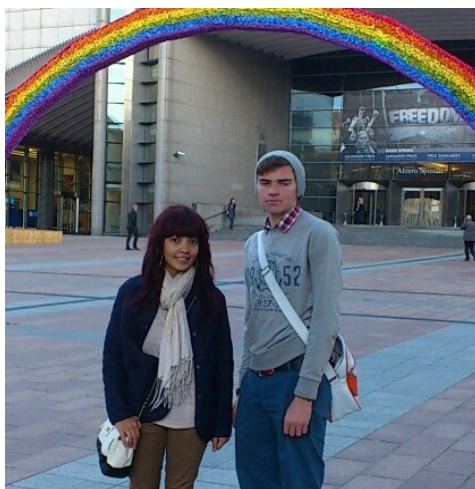
# Introduction

Southend Youth Council was first established in 1951, and has had hundreds of members over the years since.

The Youth Council is endorsed and supported by Southend Borough Council, and regular meetings are held once a month to discuss and act upon local issues that affect the lives of young people across the Borough.

The Youth Mayor and Deputy have an important role within the Youth Council, chairing monthly meetings and attending various events across the Borough, representing the Youth Council in many different settings.

The Youth Mayor and Deputy are elected democratically in February, and will hold office for a term of one year, during which time they will take on these responsibilities as representatives of young people across Southend.



Jake Inwood and Bronte Boulton, Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor 2011



# Martin Skam

17 years old  
From Prittlewell

My name is Martin Skam, I am 17 years old, and I wish to be the next Youth Mayor of Southend. I have been a member of Southend Youth Council for a considerable amount of time, and have a **passion** for the youth council and its concepts, how it gives a **voice** to the youth of Southend, and gives **opportunity** to make change for the good of the youth in Southend. I am a cadet at St. John ambulance, a Young Ambassador for Haven's Hospices, and am extremely **eager** to become the next Youth Mayor of Southend. I've attended two very different schools and have seen Youth of Southend from more than one angle. The team work, communication and leadership skills gained from my volunteering, my Head boy duties and prefect experiences, make very suited to the demanding role of Youth Mayor of Southend.

My aims are to **inspire**, **include**, and **integrate** the youth of Southend wherever it is possible, and therefore, my main objectives are:

**The 2012 Olympics** – I aim to **inspire** young people in Southend to become involved with 2012, by updating Southend Youth Council with the many events within Southend that will be occurring around the time of the Olympics,

**Accessibility of Youth Council** – I will **include** Southend schools and their school councils with youth council updates and events, by opening communication channels with all local secondary schools, in doing this I will try to access the wider population of youth in Southend.

**Charity** – As an ambassador, I will **integrate** Southend Youth Council with **Haven's Hospices**, as a charitable group where event proceeds go towards the much needed funding the hospice.

**Publicity** – I aim to **integrate** local newspapers and media with all of youth council's events, by approaching newspapers whenever an event is going to be happening, my aim being to encourage youth in Southend to attend youth council,

**Jobs and opportunities** – I will help and **inspire** youth by opening up a network of information where the youth can become known of current job vacancies, by working with local authorities so vacancies are regularly updated and accessible.



## Chris Page

16 years old  
From Leigh

My name is Christopher Page I am 16 have been an active Southend Youth Council member since 2010. I have lived in the Southend area all my life and because of this I feel that I will be effective in tackling problems faced by local young people today. I am approachable and if anyone has an issue facing them or anyone else I can represent it on a Southend wide scale.

I was a key component in raising the adult age on buses to 16 and will give any other campaigns my full commitment. In my term as Youth Mayor I aim too:

**Combat negative stereotypes** of young people to help people feel safer in the community.

**Give proper representation** to young people to help air the views and issues.

**Increase the opportunities** for young people to introduce new activities and hobbies such as helping with the Olympics and getting involved with new opportunities.

**Put people in contact with local figures** such as local MP's and voice and influence workers.

## Youth Mayor Elections 2012

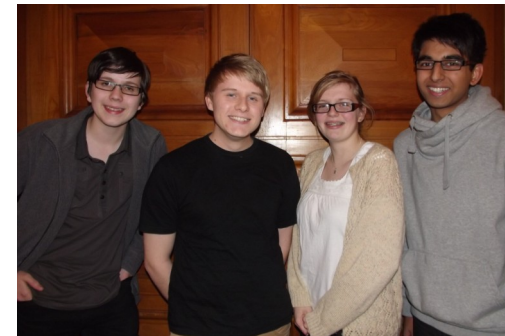
Voting for the new Youth Mayor and Deputy will take place between Saturday 14th January to Saturday 28th January, during which time you will be able to cast your vote. Any votes cast outside of this time frame will not be counted, so make sure you get your vote in!

For the first time this year voting will be entirely electronic, and your votes will be cast and counted via the following website:  
[www.southendchildren.org.uk](http://www.southendchildren.org.uk)

The votes will work on a one student, one vote basis - once you have used your unique log on and cast your vote, you will not be able to vote again.

The candidate who receives the most votes will be elected Youth Mayor 2012, with the candidate receiving the second highest number of votes becoming Deputy Youth Mayor.

Our candidates for this years elections have prepared manifestos, detailing what they plan to achieve should they be elected, which can be found in the following pages.



The candidates for Southend Youth Mayor 2012 (left to right):  
Chris Page, Martin Skam, Josephine Fisher and Zeeshan Mitha



# Josephine Fisher

16 years old  
From Shoebury

‘Be the change you want to see’ Mahatma Gandhi.

My name is Josephine Fisher I’ve been a member of Southend Youth Council for over 3 months. During which time I have been elected producer for the promotional DVD of Southend Youth Council. I have also been elected as the School Representative Manager.

My plan:

**Community:** I want to make Southend Youth council a bigger part of the community. To do this the Youth Council must play a bigger part in schools. To ensure that every young person’s voice will be heard throughout the Southend Borough.

**Public transport:** For many places around the country the adult age on public transport is 18. I want to work with the transport departments in Southend and the Youth Parliament to make this possible in Southend.

**Teenage image:** Since the summer riots young people have had a lot of bad press. I want to change this by running events to highlight the talent and personalities of many young people. In the hope this will alter the media stereotypes. One of these events will be the Young Person’s award nominated and voted by for young people.

**Youth Bank:** I would like to create a Youth Bank so that other young person’s groups can fund their projects. The Youth Bank will be for young people, awarded by young people.

**Campaigns:** Finally I want to support Anti-Bullying by supporting Anti-Bullying week 2012.

As Youth Mayor I want to make every young person’s voice in Southend heard, as I believe everyone’s voice and opinion count and should be valued.



# Zeeshan Mitha

15 years old  
From Shoebury

My name is Zeeshan Mitha, I am 15 years old and I live in Southend-On-Sea. I am passionate about giving young people in Southend a say in what goes on in the local area. It is only fair that we are given a voice to make some changes within our town. I have been involved in the promotional DVD project for the Youth Council, which has been great fun, but I would love to work towards making Southend a better place. I would ensure that all of your views are listened to in a **FAIR** way, so everyone can make a difference.

My main aims as Youth Major would be to:

Kick start an annual festival in Southend to promote music and culture within the local area. This could be done in parks such as Chalkwell Park.

Introduce a ‘Boris Bike’ scheme within Southend, to enable young people to use bikes for a certain amount of time for free. This would also encourage **environmental sustainability**, as well as making transport easier and more fun.

Set up a ‘Taste Southend Card’ system, where full-time students can get discounts at certain restaurants.

Reduce the cost for teenagers using sports facilities.

Make information about apprenticeships more accessible and launch careers advice for young people.

But the Youth Council is not about me, it is about **YOU** and ensuring that **YOUR VOICE** is **HEARD** so a real **CHANGE** can be made.