

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Young Mayor will be a children's figurehead, representing young people in leadership roles in Medway. They will play a key celebratory role in local events and celebrations and be an inspiring role model for children in Medway. This position will be supported by Deputy Young Mayors who represent core themes raised by children and young people in Medway. These roles are voted by children and young people, to represent their voice.
- 1.2 These elected individuals would also play an active role with participation and engagement with their peers at events like Child-Friendly Medway City Hall, discussing with peers what matters most to children. They can also support council teams in a consultation role and as a judge for projects such as helping to shortlist designs for 'Signs of Youth'.

2. Concept for the Young Mayor role

- 2.1 This role would be a figurehead position playing a key role of including children and young people's voices at key events and relevant consultations that are suitable for a child figurehead to be involved with. The purpose of their role is to inspire their peers, and to ensure children are represented at milestone events in Medway. This will be a celebratory, not a political, role.
- 2.2 At these events, the Young Mayor of Medway might be included to play a role in the event or celebration, such as handing out awards and photo opportunities. They also may have small speaking opportunities at events, and possibly press opportunities.
- 2.3 The Young Mayor would champion a theme from the Child-Friendly Medway action plan set by children and young people.
- 2.4 As part of this role, we would like to create a public relations angle – with videos for social media and CFM website, and updates for schools - vlog or blog.

3. Criteria for the Young Mayor role

- 3.1 Children and young people applying must meet these criteria to become a Young Mayor.
 - Passion for the role
 - Based on attributes
 - School Year Age
 - Living in Medway
 - Availability to support the role
 - Ability to do public facing

- Parent/Carer support for transport (CFM can provide free bus passes)
 - School/Community Reference
 - Champion for children and young people.
 - Must meet the job description for Young Mayor role – i.e., ability to be public facing.
- 3.2 This is a universal opportunity available to all children in Medway to apply. To ensure all children and young people feel represented by this figurehead role we would encourage children who are SEND, ethnic minorities or those living in areas of deprivation to apply.
- 3.3 To apply, the children and young people must live in Medway, and be in year five in school (Home educated children - the age of year five pupils can also apply. The Medway Young Mayor winner will officially take the post when they are in year six.

4. Notes

- 4.1 Please note that this position is set at this age range to represent junior school's pupils and will complement the Medway Youth Council and two Youth Parliament Members which is for secondary school age pupils
- 4.2 Voting is for children and young people up to 18 years old.
- 4.3 No mayor or deputies in post during September.
- 4.4 Young Mayor could work alongside the Adult Mayor or in isolation when approved by the democratic services.
- 4.5 This role will not replace the Member of Youth Parliament or the Medway Youth Council.

5. Young Mayor and Deputies

- 5.1 Alongside the Young Mayor, there will be seven Deputy Mayors. The Deputy Mayors would be selected based on following highest votes and would ideally be selected as champions based on their passion and interest in one or more of the Child-Friendly Medway core themes set by children and young people.
- 5.2 These core themes are Creativity & Culture, Health & Wellbeing, Community Focused, Cleaner & Greener, Safety, Engaging, Aspirational
- 5.3 The additional seven deputies would ensure delivery of the Young Mayor of Medway initiative as stand-ins if required or provide additional cover for competing events on the same day.

6. Annual Timeline

- Nominations Open – Beginning of May

- Nomination Closing Deadline – End of June
- Shortlisting (top 20) – July
- Young Mayor Voting - August and September
- Young Mayor and Deputies announced – October
- Duties take place from October – August

7. Child Friendly-Medway and the Engagement Officer Role

- 7.1 The Child-Friendly Medway team would be expanded to include the Young Mayor programme and the officer to support this work, and the team would collectively support leading the Young Mayor programme. For larger scale Young Mayor events and activations additional members of the Child-Friendly Medway team will support when required.
- 7.2 The Young Mayor Engagement Officer will lead schools' engagement with schools, council teams and home education students. As part of this role, the engagement officer would lead the new Child-Friendly Medway Young Citizen programme that weaves into the Young Mayor initiative. They would lead on a future strand of youth voice work with schools and other school projects like 'Signs of Youth', as well as leading on correspondence, social media, marketing, and comms with parents/carers, teachers, schools, internal and external partners and community organisations. The engagement officer would be responsible for coordinating work with democratic services, Mayor of Medway, and Medway Youth Council, and for safeguarding the Young Mayor and deputies at events and activities. They would coordinate administrative functions for the Young Mayor, working with the democratic services, Mayor's office, Medway Youth Council and event and activity organisers. The engagement officer would be the liaison to parent/carers to coordinate Young Mayor participation at events. At events, they would also be responsible for photo consent and may be required to accompany the Young Mayor and Deputies and be their chaperone. This person (or another Child-Friendly Medway team member) will be attending all the events with the Young Mayor and Deputies and will be the lead for script writing and providing outlines for events (briefing note about the event, show flow, and speeches).
- 7.3 The line management of the officer would sit with the Child-Friendly Medway team.
- 7.4 This initiative will grow Medway's profile on a national and international level for supporting and showcasing children and young people, for example, we could host Young Mayors from other cities.

8. The legacy of this initiative

- 8.1 This initiative will provide a young role model in Medway and showcase how Medway is child friendly.

- 8.2 This programme will also provide an opportunity for children to have a leadership role in their community and encourages and promotes a knowledge of Medway Council's role in the community.
- 8.3 The Young Mayor introduces children and young people to democracy from an earlier age, as well as building profile and public relations for Medway on a national and international level.
- 8.4 Please note This would be piloted as a 5-year programme. That we would revisit and make adjustments as required.

1. Financial Implications

1.1 The Child-Friendly Medway team is requesting £35,000 annually to run this initiative and looking for a one-off payment for the Mayoral Celebratory outfit of £1,790.

Expense	One-Off	Annual	Notes
Medals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x Young Mayor Medal • 2x Deputy Mayor Medals 	£900		All Mayoral celebratory outfit has been quoted by Elections and Members' Services
Mayoral Robes	£590		
Collar	£150		
Hat	£150		
Engagement Officer Range 3 with oncosts		£33,000	
Engagement Officer, Marketing, Travel and Subsistence		£2,000	
Total cost:	£1,790	£35,000	