

# Wandsworth Young Labour

# Annual General Meeting

# Guide

## ***WHAT IS WANDSWORTH YOUNG LABOUR?***

- Wandsworth Young Labour (WYL) is a Young Labour group for Labour Party members aged between 14 and 26 living in the London Borough of Wandsworth. WYL is a new group and this year's Annual General Meeting will be its first.
- WYL has a number of key aims. These include:
  - Helping young members play a full role in the Labour Party.
  - Organising political education and social activities for young Party members and young people within the community.
  - Persuading young people to vote Labour and encouraging them to register to vote.
  - Recruiting young people to the Labour Party.
  - Campaigning against all forms of discrimination and prejudice.

## ***WHAT IS THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF WYL?***

- The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is the yearly meeting of members of WYL at which the committee of the group is elected.
- The committee elected at the AGM has responsibility for running WYL for the next year. For example, it will decide on the content of the political education meetings organised.
- All Labour Party members living in Wandsworth and aged under-27 can attend the meeting, run for positions and vote for committee members.
- It would be great if lots of people run for positions in the organisation. Being on the WYL committee is not a huge time commitment. However, you can do really important political work with WYL. For example, by being on the committee, you can help to engage young people in Wandsworth with the politics and policies of Labour.

## ***WHAT POSITIONS ARE OPEN FOR ELECTION?***

- All Young Labour groups must elect people to the following four positions:
  - Chair: The Chair provides overall leadership of WYL. For example, they are responsible for making sure that the officers work together effectively.
  - Secretary: The Secretary is responsible for ensuring the effective working of WYL and for communicating with members of WYL about the group's activities. For

example, the Secretary works with the Chair to draw up plans for WYL meetings and makes sure that all members have notice of the meetings of the group.

- Campaigns/Membership Officer: This position has two key functions. First, in terms of campaigns, this role involves helping WYL campaign for change in our local communities. Second, in terms of membership, this position involves helping the Secretary keep members informed about WYL's activities and coordinating the recruitment of new young members to the Labour Party.
  - Women's Officer: The Women's Officer is responsible for ensuring that women are fully involved in the work of WYL. For example, the Women's Officer could run event specifically for women members of WYL.
- Young Labour can also elect people to people to so-called 'functional' positions. We do not have to elect people to these positions, but they are important and we would really encourage people to run for them. These 'functional' roles include, but are not limited to, the following:
- BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) Officer
  - Disabled Members Officer
  - LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bi and Trans\*) Officer
  - Trade Union Liaison Officer
  - Under 19s Officer

### ***HOW DO I RUN FOR THESE POSITIONS? HOW WILL THE ELECTIONS TAKE PLACE?***

- At the AGM, we will be running a self-nomination system. This means that, if you wish to run for a position, put your hand up when the position is announced.
- If you stand, you will have the opportunity to say a few words about yourself. It is up to you what you say here. However, you might want to mention who you are, why you want to run for the position, and what you plan to do if elected.
- It is possible that the position will not be contested (i.e. there is only one candidate). If this happens, there will not be a vote.
- However, if the position is contested, all candidates will give their speeches and they will then be asked to leave the room. WYL members at the meeting will then be asked to vote by means of a show of hands. The result will then be announced to the meeting and the candidates will be informed.
- All positions can be held on a job share basis (i.e. by two people). So, feel free to ask someone to run with you prior to the meeting (in which case you will each have a speech of one minute). Alternatively, the meeting can recommend a job share if a position is contested.