



### **Exciting opportunity for schools to get hands-on experience of democracy**

Norfolk County Council is looking for schools and academies help to enable their pupils to vote in the forthcoming UK Youth Parliament elections.

The elections, taking place during the week beginning 27 February 2012, will see pupils across Norfolk democratically electing nine young people to become Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs). Norfolk's MYPs will then spend two years in office, representing other young people on a local and national stage.

Taking part is easy. All schools need to do to take part is to set up a ballot box for their school, either by class or in a shared area. We will provide schools and academies with ballot papers and a ballot box. Unlike other elections, being a polling station for Youth Parliament doesn't mean schools having to open up to others – the ballot box is purely for the school's own pupils.

Although simple to get involved with, actively participating in these elections brings schools the opportunity of giving their pupils experience of democratic decision-making and contributing to civic life in the wider community.

Alison Thomas, Cabinet Member for Children's Services at Norfolk County Council, said:

"The youth parliament elections give young people a chance to get involved in the democratic process for the first time, giving them a voice in local and national decisions and helping them to champion the causes of their peers."

If your school or academy would like to act as a polling station please complete our request form here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ukypollingstation>

The deadline for responding is 6 January 2012.

Young people interested in applying to stand for election to become an MYP can download a candidate pack here: [www.norfolk.gov.uk/UKYP](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/UKYP)

Anyone who cannot obtain a pack online can contact Tom Gaskin on 01603 495107 or email [tom.gaskin@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:tom.gaskin@norfolk.gov.uk)