

North Belfast Youth Forum

London Study Visit Report

October 2025



Introduction

From the 20th–22nd of October, 10 young people from the North Belfast Youth Forum travelled to London for a study visit. After running a youth survey with 840 responses to find out the needs of young people, the group wanted to learn from other youth organisations. London was chosen as the city to learn from, and the trip included a visit to Westminster to meet North Belfast MP John Finucane.

Salmon Youth Centre

The group spent a day at the Salmon Youth Centre in Bermondsey. Jamie, the senior manager, gave us a tour and shared the history of the centre, including their major redevelopment in 2008. The area has similar challenges to North Belfast such as crime, poverty, disability, and barriers faced by young people.



The young people were interested in how youth voice works there. Salmon includes young people in decision making, has youth representation on their management board, and regularly gathers feedback to keep programmes relevant. One of the biggest issues raised was the serious impact of knife crime in the local community.

Westminster Visit

The group took a guided tour of Westminster, learning about the history of the UK Parliament and how politics has changed over time.

Afterwards, we met North Belfast MP John Finucane in the members' area by the River Thames.

The group asked questions about lowering the voting age, youth opportunities, and how politics can better support young people in Northern Ireland.

John engaged with the group openly, answering questions and speaking informally afterwards about community, education, and opportunities.



Key Takeaways

Throughout the visit, the group reflected on what they learned and how these ideas could support positive change in North Belfast. Key points included:

- Create more positive role models
- Increase opportunities for youth engagement
- Support youth centres and informal education
- Reduce crime and knife culture
- Continue amplifying the voices of young people

Next Steps

The group began planning future actions for the North Belfast Youth Forum, including:

- Visiting youth clubs across North Belfast
- Creating dedicated social media for the forum
- Hosting an end of year event
- Social media training
- Engagement training
- World Kindness Day activity
- Christmas social action and youth awards event



Acknowledgements

We want to thank the senior youth workers who supported this visit and the youth organisations who helped us take part and represent North Belfast. The learning and experiences from this trip will support the Forum's work going forward.

Ardoyne Youth Enterprise

New Lodge Youth Centre

R City Youth

Ardoyne Youth Club

Diverse Youth NI

North Belfast Play Forum

Jasmeena Women's project

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