

## **Manifesto Statement - Joel Kay 16yrs**

The UK spends only 6.6% of its GDP on the NHS. This is far, far lower than our European neighbours despite repeated promises for change. Tony Blair in 2000 and David Cameron in 2010 swore to protect and grow our health service yet it has grown only by only 0.3% of our GDP in 18 years.

England has the lowest per head health spending in the whole of the UK, therefore below the national average. Unsurprisingly, the highest area spending per head in England was in London with other areas in England falling far behind. This needs to change.

I want to become a member of the Youth Parliament for a few reasons. One is the fact that I have seen the effects of recent cuts to our NHS and how it has become debilitated. I want to make a change, not only for Wirral but for England as a whole and to make things better for us as citizens. I find it unacceptable that in 2017 MPs enjoyed an £1000 pay rise yet for 4 years the public sector including NHS workers had a 1% pay cap.

Another reason I want to join the Youth Parliament is to try and change the disenfranchised attitude of people in our constituencies, particularly amongst the NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) community. Many low income or unemployed people have given up on their situation improving and feel politicians only look out for themselves. I wish to change this opinion particularly among young people. It is important to show them that their voices can and will be heard. I think I can do that and stand up for them and have their views and their issues listened to.

One other why reason why I want to become a member of the youth parliament is to change the failing state of mental health services for young people in England. According to a report by Public Health England, in December 2016, 10% of 5-16 year olds have some form of mental illness yet only 25% of these receive treatment. I find these statistics, that 75% of all those who need treatment receive none, unbelievable. Economically this will only end up costing the country more in the long term by needing adult interventions or with them ending up in the criminal justice system. I want to fight to change this and get people the help they need quickly and effectively.

These are the key issues I would like to change.

I believe I am in a particularly good position to judge issues affecting young people as I am a member of the Wirral Youth Voice group and have spoken in front of the Wirral Borough Council chamber on their issues and have experience with public speaking.