Candidate Name: Kwasi Agyekum-Koranchie

Age: 15

Connection to the Borough: School (Ernest Bevin Academy)

My name is Kwasi, and I am delighted to announce my candidacy for Wandsworth Youth Mayor!

As someone who has been attending school in this borough for a number of years, I have been witness to the undeniable and incredible potential young people have to make a real difference and to catalyse change. However, I recognise the challenges we face: finding opportunities for employment/ work experience, accessing mental health provisions, or even finding ways to express our cultural diversity.

If appointed as Wandsworth's Youth Mayor, my mission is simple: elevating youth voice in Wandsworth by giving young people a strong, active voice in the decisions that affect our lives- through things like surveys and youth forums, thus unleashing youth participation. Together we can create a future where our needs are not just heard, but prioritised.

My key priorities are:

Campaigning for more opportunities for young people

-By campaigning for the creation of employment schemes (by working alongside local decision makers) and improving advertisement of these opportunities to make them resonate better with young people

-Working towards ensuring that all young people have the needed employment opportunities

Improving Mental Health provisions for young people

- Speaking with leaders about the need for more school teachers to be trained in Mental Health first aid

-Raising awareness about the unfair scrutiny of people with Mental Health disorders

- Speaking with leaders about Making Mental Health services more accessible through schools, youth centres etc

Giving young people more opportunities to express cultural diversity

- Speaking with leaders about the following key concerns:

- Deploying more schemes similar to EDI **(equality, diversity, inclusivity)** in schools and around the borough

-Decolonising the curriculum to resonate more with young people, eg. **"Colour In Literature"**

-Not just using cultural differences as a "tick box" for schools to be able to say they have celebrated cultural diversity

Final message:

If elected as Youth Mayor, I vow to make voicing your concerns more accessible through social media and forums/surveys, I promise to listen to as many of your suggestions as possible and be a voice for not only those who are comfortable having their voices heard, but for those who feel like they don't have a voice, representing all young people to the council.