

## SHAUN BAILEY

### Combining youth work with politics

Shaun Bailey is a member of the London Assembly. He grew up on a council estate in Kensington with a working class British Jamaican family and a father who was absent until his early teenage years.

His grandfather came to the United Kingdom in the late 1940's as a part of the Windrush Generation. Before his career in Politics, Shaun Bailey worked within the youth sector and co-founded the charity MyGeneration.

He attended secondary education at Henry Compton School in Fulham and left with five Certificates of Secondary Education before going onto London South Bank University where he picked up education again and achieved a 2.2 in Computer Aided Engineering at 27 years old. In the meantime, Shaun was dedicated to the military, serving as an instructor in the Army Cadets, something he had been a part of since his early teen years.

Coming from a background where his peers, and at times himself, were involved in youth criminal activity, Shaun took this lived experience into his political career and was the Prime Minister David Cameron's Special Advisor on Youth and Crime during the early 2010's and was paid a salary of £60,000.

Shaun is currently the Deputy Leader of the Greater London Authority Conservative Group. In 2018, Shaun Bailey was endorsed to be the Conservative candidate for the Mayoral Elections due to be held in 2021 and as a result of this faced racism on social media and in a letter written directly to the Conservative Party.



## WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?

### Using personal experience to improve other's life chances

I absolutely champion the celebration of this individual as he is living testament of what can be achieved in London when coming from a background of what some may deem as disadvantaged.

I share his passion for improving the chances of our city's young people, especially those who are less fortunate than others. His family have parallels with my own, with their roots founded firmly in the Windrush Generation and I am in full support of his mayoral policies too. In particular, to decrease the cost of the congestion charge, to take advantage of capitalism and generate income for the city by proposing that corporations can pay to rename tube stations and lines, as well as increase funding for the police service and introduce stop and scan using thermal imaging.

This in turn could decrease knife crime in London. I whole heartedly agree with his position on creating even more equality for people of colour. However, Shaun is critical of the Black Lives Matter movement, in particular for wanting to 'defund the police' and 'smash up the nuclear family'. This is hardly surprising when we consider his mayoral policies, interest in tackling youth crime and his upbringing with an absent father. In relation to BLM, Shaun also stated his contempt for the movement as he stated it 'made everybody feel they are racist and actually very few people are'.

I think Shaun is also an important figure for the bravery he shows in holding alternative views to those that are becoming widely accepted around liberalism and the potential risks that come with celebration of diversity rather than that of universalism. Like Martin Luther King, he agrees that we should look beyond race and focus on character.

## FURTHER INFO



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