

What were you doing at 19?

Published: January 12, 2026, 10:07 pm

As the [BBC has noted](#):

Warwickshire County Council has formally appointed a teenager to run the £2bn local authority.

Reform's George Finch, 19, has become the youngest permanent council leader in the UK during the vote at the council's Shire Hall headquarters in Warwick on Tuesday.

At 19, I was editing the student union newspaper at the University of Southampton with Jon Craig, now of Sky News.

I was also, subsequently, a member of the student union finance committee as an independent group called Union for Students.

Did I know enough to lead a council? I did not lack self-confidence back then, but I know I would have had the sense to decline such an appointment.

The fact that George Finch has no such awareness is the best reason why he is wholly unsuited to the role he has now taken on.

Reform appears to be intent on pushing its self-destruct button.