



Press Statement: 20th March 2008

For immediate release

Young people and friends of BYC reveal plans for the best party in 60 years!

This week, the British Youth Council (BYC) brought together young trustees and a group of supporters and alumni to discuss plans to celebrate their 60th year.

It was revealed that activities to celebrate 60 years of BYC will include a special celebratory event, the launch of a new website, a documentary and a photo competition.

Those attending the Advisory Group meeting in Westminster included Tom Wylie, retired Chief Executive of the National Youth Agency, Derek Twine, Chief Executive of the Scout Association, Janet Paraskeva, the First Civil Service Commissioner, and Charles Clarke MP. They met with young people from BYC: Chair Emily Beardsmore, Treasurer Victoria Dunne, Trustee Elle Dodd and Press and Policy Intern Shinal Patel.

Tom Wylie commented after the event: "It was great to meet up to discuss how we will celebrate BYC's 60 years of empowering young people to inspire others to get active both in this country and internationally and campaign on issues that matter to them."

Emily Beardsmore, Chair of BYC added:

"In our 60th year we'll really be shining the light on our campaigns and ways that young people can engage in politics and active citizenship. One way we'll be doing this is by championing a '16 at 60' campaign to lower the voting age to 16. We'll also be taking our celebrations out onto the road across the UK to meet our members and young people".

A new 'BYC at 60' logo was also unveiled on the night. This logo was launched to demonstrate how BYC prides itself on being an organisation that works to inspire young people to campaign for change and a better future.

Ends.

Notes to Editors:

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1. Please find a photograph of the Advisory Group attached to this press release. L-R: Tom Wylie (former CEO NYA), Victoria Dunne (BYC Treasurer), Charles Clarke MP, Emily Beardsmore (Chair, BYC), Elle Dodd (BYC Trustee), Derek Twine (CEO, Scouts UK), Janet Paraskeva (First Civil Service Commissioner).
2. Please find attached to this press release the new 'BYC at 60' logo.
3. BYC is the national youth council and voice for young people under 26 living in the UK. We represent and involve a unique coalition of young people through their involvement as individuals or through national, regional or local youth organisations.
4. BYC's coalition includes over 170 national youth organisations such as Girlguiding UK, campaigning organisations such as the National Union of Students (NUS) and youth wings of trade unions, political parties, faith and arts organisations. Also within our membership and network are 400 local youth councils and organisations representing specific groups such as lesbian, gay and bisexual and black and minority ethnic young people.
5. We aim to do four things: Provide a voice for young people; Promote equality for young people; Help young people be more involved in decisions that affect their lives; Advance young people's participation in society and civil life.
6. The British Youth Council is celebrating 60 years of empowering young people in the UK to have a voice. In its 60th year BYC is championing the '16 at 60' campaign to lower the voting age to 16. For more information on '60 Years of BYC', please visit www.byc.org.uk