

## BYC Members Handbook Section 14 – Where we represent you

BYC sits on a range of different meeting and is involved in a range of partnerships to make sure you get your issues heard. The table below outlines the key meetings we are involved in on your behalf.

Name of body or group	What does it do	Who does it influence	Who attends from BYC and our role
All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Youth Affairs	Forum for MPs and Peers to meet to discuss issues affecting young people several times throughout the year, often with a Government Minister present.	Members of the House of Commons Members of the House of Lords Government Ministers and Shadow Cabinet Other organisations, charities and young people within these organisations.	Secretariat alongside BYC Members NCVYS and YMCA England
<b>BBC+</b> (Benelux – Bodensee Cooperation + others) Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Austria, Switzerland, Germany, UK, Slovakia, Ireland	The BBC + is a cooperation group of geographically linked National Youth Councils who are members of the European Youth Forum. The group shares good practice and aims to find common solutions to common problems which we face as National Youth Councils. It also provides members with an opportunity to discuss ideas in a supportive environment that they may eventually wish to talk about at the YFJ.	European Youth Forum European National Youth Councils	1 Trustee and 1 Young Ambassador attend meetings (2 per year) to influence policy positions in the lead up to the EYF meetings  We will be hosting a BBC+ meeting in early 2011
Cabinet Office for Third Sector	Ongoing conduit to all departments and Cabinet, on Government policies – key themes Volunteering, Sustainable Environment/Social Justice and Recession	Government Departments	CEO and young people as appropriate
Commonwealth	The Commonwealth Youth	Youth policy across the 53	A place on the

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Youth Exchange Council (CYEC)	Exchange Council is a youth development charity, working to enable young people to become active citizens through shared lives, developing friendships, exchanging ideas and working together.	Commonwealth member states Strategy to engage and support young people from the UK in international exchanges	CYEC Board is reserved for a BYC trustee
Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP)	<p>CYP works to engage and empower young people to enhance their contribution to development. We do this in partnership with young people, governments and other key stakeholders.</p> <p>CYP advocates the effective participation of young women and men in the development process and for social transformation. They promote young people's full engagement at all levels of decision-making.</p>	Youth policy across the 53 Commonwealth member states	<p>A BYC trustee holds the position of the UK's Regional Youth Caucus (our regional grouping) representative</p> <p>Young Ambassadors are given places at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and other C/wealth ministers meetings</p>
CYPOWD working party	Children and YP workforce development – eg youth workers, health professionals	National and Local Government policy National Youth Agency	CEO and one representative can attend
Democratic Life Coalition	Campaigning for better youth citizenship education in schools and beyond	Public policy makers	Attend
Department for Education Aiming High Steering	Advise Dept on its Youth policies	Department for Education	CEO and 2 young people attend quarterly

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Group			
Department for Education Third Sector Advisory Group	Advise the department on its policy and practice of engaging with 3 <sup>rd</sup> sector with our added advice on youth participation	Department for Education Funding strands for children and youth projects	CEO attends quarterly
<b>DfID/Civil Society Youth Working Group (YWG)</b>	<p>The overall purpose of the Youth Working Group is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ to enable organisations working on youth and development issues to speak to DfID and other development agencies with a single voice</li> <li>▪ to collaborate on joint research programmes into existing development programmes for and with young people</li> <li>▪ to promote meaningful participation of youth in discussions and policymaking</li> <li>▪</li> </ul>	UK Department for International Development International donors and NGOs National governments policies on youth and development	BYC are on the steering group of the YWG  We also support the Participation Sub-group, a group of young people who lead on participation with in the group and in the group's activities
European Youth Forum (EYF) (commonly known as Youth Forum Jeunesse, YFJ)	The European Youth Forum (YFJ) is a platform made up of National Youth Councils and international youth NGOs from across Europe. The YFJ works to empower young people to participate actively in society and improve their living conditions by representing their interests towards the European Institutions, the Council of Europe, the United Nations and other partners active in	European Institutions European Parliament European Commission Council of Europe United Nations EU National governments European partners active in the youth field	BYC is a full voting member of EYF  1 Trustee and 1 Young Ambassador attend meetings (2 per year) and propose and take up policy work

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	the youth field		
Independent Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance Advisory Panel	Advisee's Review on process and issues	Future Government policy	BYC Trustee attends
Joint Agencies Group (JAG)	<p>JAG is an informal network of organisations which aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the development of good global youth work (GYW) practice within member organisations and across the youth sectors</li> <li>• Advocate policy developments that help mainstream GYW</li> <li>• Offer mutual support, practice sharing and collaborative opportunities amongst members</li> </ul>	Organisations in the UK that work with young people on global awareness and action DFID and other government depts concerned with young people & international policy	BYC is a member
National Minimum Wage Coalition	A coalition of organisations plan and deliver campaign activities to defend and improve the Minimum Wage.	The Low Pay Commission Members of the House of Commons Members of the House of Lords Government Ministers and Shadow Cabinet	Member of Steering Group
Participation Works Partnership Board	A consortium of six national children and young people's agencies that enables organisations to effectively involve children and	Voluntary, community, faith, statutory or private organisation who work with young people Members of the House of Commons	Member of consortium Current Chair of the partnership

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	young people in the development, delivery and evaluation of services that affect their lives	Members of the House of Lords Government Ministers and Shadow Cabinet	
Policy Response Group	Drafts and agrees interim policy positions in response to current affairs. Endorsed by future Board meeting and membership at ACM.	BYC policy and manifesto – and public policy	BYC Trustees x 3
Speaking Out Steering Group	Advises project on marketing and grant giving on minority groups issues	Speaking Out project run by NCVYS and Children	CEO
Votes at 16 Coalition	A coalition of organisations plan and deliver campaign activities to lower the voting age for all public elections in the United Kingdom.	Members of the House of Commons Members of the House of Lords Government Ministers and Shadow Cabinet Young people and the general public	BYC chairs the coalition
Young Equals Coalition	A coalition of organisations plan and deliver campaign activities to highlight and tackle age discrimination against children and young people.	Members of the House of Commons Members of the House of Lords Government Ministers and Shadow Cabinet	Member of Steering Group
Young Inspectors Advisory Group	Advise and Steer project – including rep views of young people		CEO Chairs, and 2 young people attend
Youth Advisory Group	A network of international NGOs who have youth board / steering groups / forums / etc The group shares good practice about participation in	UK-based international NGOs	BYC is a member

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	the international sector and supports its members to develop policy and practice		
Youth Policy Exchange	Policy staff in charities shares information about current parliamentary work, consultations and main policy developments that affect young people, and organise joint activity.	Other charities	Attend

## For more information

about BYC training:

[www.byc.org.uk/training](http://www.byc.org.uk/training)

or to download further resources:

[www.byc.org.uk/resources](http://www.byc.org.uk/resources)

## British Youth Council

We empower young people across the UK to have a say and be heard.

[www.byc.org.uk](http://www.byc.org.uk)

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