I am exceptionally proud of the work which BYC has achieved over the last year. We have continued to enable young people to have an effective voice in their local communities while having a bigger impact on national decision making.

The work we have undertaken through Youth Voice - our contract with the Department for Education to enable young people to influence public decision making - has allowed us to work closer with government but in doing so has created a mechanism for young people to be more critical about the issues which they are passionate about. In the past 12 months we have secured ourselves as the leading charity giving young people from all walks of life the opportunity to have their say and be heard.

BYC has never been in a stronger position to continue to work throughout all of the UK to deliver a range of services which inspire, empower and campaign for a better tomorrow and today for young people.

Liam Preston
BYC Chair 2010-12

BYC scoops award for Trustee Board of the Year

In September 2011, BYC was awarded Trustee Board of the Year in the Third Sector Excellence Awards.

All 13 of BYC’s trustees are aged between 18 and 26 and one, Josh Snape, became the youngest trustee in the sector when he joined at the age of 17. Much of the judges’ admiration for the BYC trustees was for their forward-planning skills, and ability to raise the charity’s profile at a national level.

Judge Judith Rich said: “I find this very exciting. It is a young, enthusiastic board”, and fellow judge Mike Hudson commented: “They turned things around from a position of financial vulnerability to a sustainable stance from which they could influence the national debate on youth issues”.
About the British Youth Council

We are young people - and our charity aims to help other young people, whatever their background or barriers they face, to make the world a better place for us all.

Our vision
A world where all young people are respected and able to influence and inform decisions that affect their lives or on which they have strong opinions.

Our mission
The British Youth Council, as the national youth council of the UK, aims to connect with our member organisations and networks of local youth councils and the UK Youth Parliament, to empower young people aged 25 and under, wherever they are from, to have a say and be heard.

We aim to help them to participate in decisions that affect them; have a voice and campaign on issues they believe in, inspire them to have a positive impact, and gain recognition for their positive contribution to communities, society and the world.

Our values
Participation and Empowerment - we believe all young people have the right to participate in decisions affecting their lives and issues they believe in, locally, nationally and internationally.

Equality - we value and promote equality among young people, and all young people in our membership are valued equally.

Diversity - we recognise that young people are diverse, with different needs and opinions, and we believe that this is to be recognised and celebrated.

Recognition - we believe that young people should be recognised for their positive contribution to society and their place as citizens, now and in the future.

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<thead>
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<td>Campaigning and consulting</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>The ballot box</td>
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<td>Training and awards</td>
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<td>International work</td>
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<td>Statistics</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thank you</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Serving our members

The British Youth Council is the National Youth Council of the UK, made up of more than 230 member organisations who support our common vision for young people. Members elect our Board, determine our policies and prioritise our campaigns. They also act as the link between the charity and millions of individuals within the membership of our members, promoting opportunities for social action.

Diverse and inclusive

Our membership in 2011/12 ranged from faith to trade unions organisations, as well as mainstream youth organisations. It also included specific representation of groups - such as lesbian, gay and bisexual, black and minority ethnic young people, young people from rural areas and the disabled - along with a growing number of local youth councils and forums.

For a full list visit: www.byc.org.uk/members/current-member-list

Involving our members

Views of our members are represented through our Annual Council Meeting, when they elect our Board, determine our policies and prioritise our campaigns. The new Board sets a strategy, budget and employs a staff team to take forward our Business Plan. This plan includes opportunities for the membership to get directly involved as volunteers, elected representatives or young ambassadors.

Members also come to BYC Conventions, national members days, bilateral meetings, and contribute their views through ongoing polls and surveys. This year we continued with our ‘Equality 4 You Day’ and introduced a new ‘Young People and Faith Group’ for our members.

Our membership at a glance...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of organisation</th>
<th>2011/12</th>
<th>2012/13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cultural groups</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faith groups</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Youth Councils / UKYP</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National organisation</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth wings of political parties</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional organisation</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth wings of trade unions</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniform organisations</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minority groups</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>182</strong></td>
<td><strong>234</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘Three Nations’ tour

In June 2011, a BYC team took part in a ‘Three Nations’ tour of the UK to develop relations and partnerships with Funky Dragon in Wales, the Scottish Youth Parliament, the Northern Ireland Youth Forum and Northern Ireland Youth Assembly, and grow BYC’s membership in the nations. As part of the tour, Liam Preston became the first ever BYC Chair to address a full sitting of the Scottish Youth Parliament.
At the end of March 2012, we had 234 member organisations - a 28% increase on last year.

“Being a member of BYC provides a great platform to discuss issues that really affect young people. Discussing different campaign success and failures with other young people from different areas helps shape your own campaigns in a positive, constructive way”

Paige Mountford, Staffordshire Youth Action Kouncil

In 2012/13...

Our membership strategy will continue to work towards developing diversity. We will also work on increasing the level and depth of our consultation with members.

We will also introduce the use of online voting to enable members to vote on policy priorities to ensure more inclusive decisions.
Empowering through campaigning and consulting

BYC seeks to represent the views of young people and members to stakeholders and decision makers at a local, national and international level. This work is based on the rolling BYC Manifesto which outlines our beliefs and aspirations.

Priority campaigns in 2011/12

At our Annual Council Meeting in September 2011, members proposed, debated and voted on the following priority campaigns for 2011/12:

Votes at 16 - we believe that 16 and 17 year olds should be given the vote in all public elections in the UK. Visit: www.votesat16.org

Safe and affordable transport - we believe that all young people across the UK should be able to access safe and affordable public transport.

End Child Poverty in our Communities - we believe that the UK Government must keep the promise to end child poverty in the UK by 2020.

Save our Youth Services - we believe young people need youth services now more than ever.

We published free resources on each topic to help young people get involved, and continued our Online Action Network – a Facebook group for young people who want to campaign online.

Providing a platform

This year our representation work involved attendance at conferences and seminars as well as making representations to Westminster and Whitehall on public policy, including:

Department for Education - Positive for Youth, review of cuts to youth services, reinstating EMA and a zero tolerance approach to bullying.

Department for Transport - safe, affordable and accessible public transport for young people.

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills - higher education loans and student debt.

Education Select Committee - services for young people.

Ministry of Justice / Home Office - 2011 riots.

Department of Work and Pensions - work experience, internships and child poverty.

Choose Youth lobby

BYC is a founding member of the ‘Choose Youth’ coalition which campaigns against cuts to youth services. In October 2011, over a thousand young people, workers, MPs and trade unionists came together to speak up for young people. The lobby saw a whole host of speakers passionately arguing for youth services and youth work and calling on MPs from all parties for support.

Our School Nurse

The Department of Health invited us to feed young people’s views into its school nursing plan. We consulted 1,800 young people, and a key finding was that young people want to contact their school nurse via text or email. In March 2012 the government unveiled plans to launch this service in schools. As part of the research, 300 young people volunteered to be ‘school nurse champions’. They will work with the Department on further ideas to improve access to health advice in schools.
Our membership will vote on new policies to update the BYC Manifesto, and we’ll develop monthly actions based around our campaign activities to allow members and young people to get more involved in our campaigns.

We’ll also work with the European Youth Forum to campaign across Europe for Votes at 16.

“...and organisations like the British Youth Council and UK Youth Parliament for enabling them to take up such roles”

Education Select Committee report into Services for Young People, 2011

6,852 young people took part in our online consultations on a wide range of topics including school nurses, the riots and work experience.

In 2012/13...

Annual Council Meeting, 2011
Our youth-led networks:

UK Youth Parliament - body of over 600 elected young people who interact directly with local and national decision makers to change policies and services. BYC took over the management of UKYP in April 2011.

Since October 2011, there have been 64 UKYP elections, with 771 candidates standing and 332,474 votes cast. 297 new Members of Youth Parliament, including deputies, were elected.

Young Mayor Network - giving the 17 directly-elected young mayors in the UK the chance to support each other and share their experiences.

Since October 2011, there have been 5 Young Mayor elections, with 118 candidates and 35,886 votes cast. 9 Young Mayors, including deputies, were elected.

Local Youth Council Network - supporting 600 local youth councils across the UK to represent the views of young people at a local level.

Since October 2011, there have been 30 local authority wide Youth Council elections, with 1,462 candidates standing and 227,947 votes cast 712 Local Youth Councillors were elected.

UK conventions

During summer 2011, over 350 young people from local youth councils and youth projects from across the country attended one of five BYC Conventions. Two events were held in England, and one in each of the devolved nations.

The conventions provided young people with a platform to gain and develop new ideas through interactive workshops, put forward ideas for BYC’s manifesto, take part in consultation activities, and participate in ‘Question Time’ style panel debates with local MPs, Councillors and political party representatives.

Making their mark

In 2011 the UK Youth Parliament carried out a nationwide poll of a record-breaking 65,000 young people to identify the top five issues of concern for young people in the UK today.

On 4 November, 325 Members of Youth Parliament sat in the House of Commons and voted on which of these issues ought to become the UKYP priority campaign for the coming year. The vote resulted in ‘Make public transport cheaper, better and accessible for all’ becoming the 2012 UKYP priority campaign.

Leader of the Labour Party Ed Miliband MP, said: “All of the young people here today are doing the right thing by themselves, the right thing by their communities and are the future of our country... it’s a great tradition that’s being established and long may it continue.”
We will give young people even more opportunities to have a say on issues that affect them. We will be working in partnership with Westminster to develop a Youth Select Committee, to support young people to hold inquiries into issues they care about in order to influence policies. The Youth Select Committee will focus on transport for its first inquiry.

We’ll also launch a new National Scrutiny Group of young people who will work with Government Departments to ensure that young people’s views and needs are taken into account when developing policies.

“It’s truly inspiring to see young people choose issues to debate that politicians would baulk at. As an influential organisation, the UK Youth Parliament, under the guidance of the British Youth Council, is showing how robust it can be in representing young people”

Harry Carter, Member of Youth Parliament for Sheffield

590,000 young people voted in youth elections in 2011/12.

In 2012/13...

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Our training programmes empower young people with the skills, knowledge and confidence to bring about change on a local, national and international level. We also recognise young people who have made a significant contribution to their community, and promote good practice, through our high-profile award schemes.

Training courses in 2011/12
Youth at the Table – developing young people’s skills to be successful in decision making meetings.
Putting Your Point across – series of nine mini training sessions designed to support local youth councils.
Do you speak trustee – two-day qualification to support young people in becoming successful trustees.
As a result of BYC training:
83% said “I am more likely to do something”
76% said “I have the skills to make a difference”
84% said “I will pass on what I’ve learnt to others”

vtwentyfour/24
This year we launched a new volunteering scheme called vtwentyfour/24, for two groups of NEET young people aged 16-19 to work as trainees in our office, and to make the transition back into education, employment or training.
Over the year ten young people took part in astructured learning placement of 24 weeks for 24 hours a week within BYC. At the end of his placement, one of the young people said:
“BYC has really helped me decide what I want to do in my life. It’s given me the courage and skills I need to find a job.” (Yonas Mussie, vtwentyfour/24 volunteer 2012)

Youth Voice Awards
In October 2011 we launched The Youth Voice Award, developed with support from The Co-operative, to recognise and accredit the hard work that young representatives do within their local communities. Young people are required to complete at least ten hours of varying activities in order to gain the ASDAN accredited award. We published an easy-to-use log book, as well as a staff handbook to make the application process as easy and straightforward as possible.
Since launch, 312 young people have been awarded a Youth Voice Award for their youth representation.

Youth On Board Awards
Our ongoing Youth On Board campaign calls on organisations to involve young people in decision making. This year we worked with our members to launch the Youth On Board (YOB) Awards, a youth-led rolling award scheme that recognises innovative and exciting youth participation, both from young people and the projects and organisations that support them. There are four award categories, and entries are judged by young people on The British Youth Council’s board of trustees. Winners get a certificate and the right to use the YOB Award logo, and individuals get an exclusive pin badge.
16 organisations and individuals were recognised for their innovative approach to youth participation in the first round of the awards, announced in March 2012.
We will continue to develop our ‘Youth On Board Awards’, encouraging even more organisations and individuals from different sectors across the UK to celebrate the benefits of involving young people.

We also plan to extend our catalogue of training programmes, including a new online training offer, in order to provide more opportunities for young people to gain the skills they need to make a positive contribution to society.

“BYC, in a difficult year, didn’t sit back and whinge, but actually they said ‘right how do we get on with it? How do we face reality and move ahead?’, and then when the UKYP got into some difficulties, BYC stepped up to the mark and took on the stewardship of the United Kingdom Youth Parliament, of which I’m a huge fan, and I think they’ve made a huge success of it”

Tim Loughton MP, Minister for Children and Families
Empowering locally to globally

Through our international youth participation programmes young people learn about global issues and connect and share with young people around the world. They are able to take part in discussions and influence decisions made at an international level and get involved in international projects and campaigns.

UK Young Ambassadors

The UK Young Ambassadors project aims to involve young people in international decision making through meaningful representation. This year we recruited and trained six UK Young Ambassadors, one from each nation and one who takes on a UK-wide role, and a supporting group of 12 young researchers from across the UK. For more information visit: www.ukya.org.uk

National Youth Council of the UK

As the official national youth council of the UK, BYC holds the UK seat on the following bodies:

European Youth Forum - BYC delegates attended European Youth Forum Council of Members meetings twice in 2011/12, to meet national youth councils and international youth organisations across Europe.

Commonwealth Youth Caucus and the Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council - BYC also supported youth representation to Commonwealth Ministers’ meetings, including the Heads of Government meeting and the Education and Youth Ministers’ meetings.

Bangladesh Youth Parliament

Alongside several international projects, BYC is currently supporting the development of the first national youth parliament in Bangladesh, advising on potential structures and processes, and delivering training for the first cohort of young parliamentarians.

Reach of BYC International in 2011/12

Empowering locally to globally

Study visits

BYC International organises study visits to the UK for young people, youth organisations and other groups interested in developing young people’s involvement in public life. In 2011/12 we managed study visits for groups from the Maldives and China, and began planning future visits from Libya, Morocco and Bangladesh.

International youth representation
Austria
Portugal
Belgium
Switzerland
Poland
Denmark
Australia
Czech Republic
Mexico Y8/Y20

UK study visits
Maldives
China

Consultancy, training & support
Pakistan
Bangladesh
Qatar
Morocco
Egypt

Youth participation partnerships
Austria
Greece
Czech Republic
Germany
Finland

Networks
European Youth Forum
Commonwealth Youth Caucus
United Nations
We supported 19 young people to attend international forums and events in 8 different countries, and carried out training and consultancy work in 5 countries.

We will continue to bring young people and stakeholders together to share, develop and advocate good practice in youth participation in international decision-making. We will also work on growing our capacity to offer training and consultancy in the international arena.

“As a UK Young Ambassador, I’ve had many fantastic opportunities - the best part has been meeting young people from across Europe, which has given me an insight into how the UK is viewed in other countries and ways we can learn from our neighbours in the EU”

Andrew Deans, UK Young Ambassador

In 2012/13...

We supported 19 young people to attend international forums and events in 8 different countries, and carried out training and consultancy work in 5 countries.

Global Voice

Global Action

Global Learning

Y8/Y20 youth representatives at the Mexican Embassy, 2012
You can count on us to be on target

Being seen and heard
We trained 50 young people to talk to the media this year and had 584 stories online, broadcast and in print. Stay in touch with our latest news:
Twitter - join our 4,529 followers @bycLIVE
Facebook - meet 4,200 friends
www.facebook.com/BritishYouthCouncil
Website - visit us online with 548,000 others a year
www.byc.org.uk
E-news - get our e-bulletins with 10,000 others
www.byc.org.uk

Providing free resources
As well as training we have over 400 free publications online and last year had a record number of 5,011 downloads.
New publications in 2011/12 include:

Reports
• Our Future - Young people on youth unemployment
• Our School Nurse - Young people’s views on the role of the school nurse
• Our Streets - The views of young people and young leaders on the riots in England in August 2011

Guidance
• How to run an effective youth council in a Local Authority
• How to run an effective youth mayor scheme in a Local Authority
• How to run an effective UKYP scheme in a Local Authority
• How to engage young people in commissioning

Beating our targets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>target</th>
<th>achieved</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consultations</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>6,852</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make Your Mark ballots</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>65,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth election votes</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>590,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive outcome</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-bulletins list</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Web-hits</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>548,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Media stories</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>584</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resource downloads</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>5,011</td>
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</table>

Honours
• Trustee Board of the Year - Third Sector Excellence Awards 2011
• Highly Commended, Children and Youth category - Charity Awards 2012

Where our money came from in 2011/12

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Restricted Grant income</td>
<td>£1,075,124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted Income</td>
<td>£333,417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Including membership fees, donations, publications, events, reimbursements, training and consultancy)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£1,408,541</strong></td>
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</table>

What we spent it on

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programmes and Training</td>
<td>£919,832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy and Communications</td>
<td>£162,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Activities</td>
<td>£210,386</td>
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<tr>
<td>Governance</td>
<td>£19,625</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>£18,080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£1,330,143</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our full audited accounts will be available online at
Registered Charity 1123224
Diverse and inclusive

In 2011/2012 a diverse 6,254 young people interacted with BYC, either by attending our training or events, or completing an online survey.

22% come from Black & Minority ethnic Groups

13% responded they were bisexual, gay or lesbian

55% declared a faith, with Christian and Muslim the largest groups

1 in 13 consider themselves disabled and 1 in 6 said they face challenges or barriers to participation, including numeracy and literacy issues
Thank you to our supporters

BYC Trustees (Sept 2011 – Aug 2012)

BYC Chair
Liam Preston

BYC Vice-Chair (Campaigns & Communications)
Dara Farrell

BYC Vice-Chair (Participation & Development)
Rosina St James

BYC Vice-Chair (Finance)
Thomas Turrell

Trustees
Ian Adderley
Josh Snape
Ben Mallon
Chris Neal
Sam Hale
Dan Derricott
Francesca Danmole
Marc Kidson
Zain Awan

BYC Honorary Presidents
Julie Hilling MP (Labour)
Jenny Willott MP (Liberal Democrat)
Nigel Evans MP (Conservative)

In 2011/12 our work was made possible by the generous support of:

Awards for All England
Awards for All Scotland
Awards for All Wales
Awards for All Northern Ireland
The Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust
The Co-operative Group
Department for Education
Department for Communities and Local Government
Eurodesk
Cabinet Office - Office for Civil Society
Vinspired
British Council
Parliamentary Education Service
Pilotlight