

british youth council

{annual review 2011}



BYC - vision, mission and our values

{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, 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.

Aims:

- To provide a voice for young people;
- To promote equality for young people;
- To help young people be more involved in decisions that affect their lives;
- To advance young people's participation in society and civil life.

{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.

{Strategy}

The British Youth Council aims to achieve its aims and mission through its three year strategy 2010-2013. This prioritises the running of a secure and sustainable charity which is visible and credible to decision makers and young people alike. We do this on behalf of our members, through our Board, and working with others who share our vision, to enable us to reach into local communities and across the world. This results in day to day activity which is about empowering and inspiring young people through a programme of activities and support to giving them confidence, experience, skills, and the opportunities to use them, to get involved, and affect change in their local, national and international communities.

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Chair's Introduction

{Times of Change}

Welcome to Annual Review 2011, mostly covering our work in the last financial year, but also bringing you up to date with what we can offer. More details can be found in our Annual Report and Accounts 2010/11 on the Charity Commission website but we hope that this summary gives you a flavour of reach and impact during another year of change and uncertainty.

It started with a change of Government which we had lobbied with our Election Manifesto, followed by our busiest ever UK wide convention season and record breaking Annual Council in Manchester. However it was clear public sector cutbacks would not only be hitting our membership, especially those relying on local authority support, but ourselves when we faced the prospect of 80% cuts by the Spring. But BYC had anticipated this and the second half of the year was about reaping the harvest of the previous years planning, saving and fundraising to ensure our future sustainability as a charity when others were closing or merging.

A platform for young people is needed now more than ever - to give a voice to young people's concerns about youth unemployment, rising student debt, loss of EMA, and youth service cuts, or to make the case that involving young people will produce better services, and that encouraging meaningful participation and representation in society will result in a better and safer world and future for us all.

So I'm delighted that the charity ended the year on a high - setting a budget for 11/12 that is higher than last year, and sees our range of work expand to now include the UK Youth Parliament and the Young Mayors Network. In parallel to this we have seen another 23% growth to our core membership to over 160 organisations. At the same time we established a working relationship with the new Government, organising its first Youth Summit with Nick Clegg, and working across a range of departments to get

our campaign messages across, as well as respond to consultations. We continue to raise our profile overseas and have started to generate significant income from training and consultancy to provide an alternative to public sector income. I have also started what I hope will be a new trend, by going on the road to meet members and partners in Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and at the English Conventions.

So it is with pride that I'd like to pay tribute to the contribution of the membership, the staff team, volunteers, supporters, and indeed my fellow directors, who have all worked together and made me proud to be the Chair of this unique and fantastic organisation.

Despite the challenges we have not only turned adversity into opportunity by prudent management and hard work, but we have also remained focused on the bigger goal of promoting the views of young people - marching, rallying, lobbying, speaking - to put ourselves into a position of credibility so that we can be even more influential on behalf of our membership and young people in general, to achieve our vision of a world where young people are respected and where they are informing and influencing the decisions that affect their lives.

Liam Preston
BYC Chair 2010-11



Membership 2011

There are two categories of active membership:

1. **Full** – national or local, for youth organisations that are predominately youth-led or have young views at the forefront of decision making and policy. These members have voting rights to elect our Board, determine our policies and prioritise our campaigns.
2. **Associate** – for organisations with a link or interest in youth and who support our aims.

{List of Members*}

National Members

A National Voice (Care)
Black Boys National Youth Council
Black and Minority Ethnic Young People's Project
Boys' Brigade
Church of England Youth Council (CEYC)
Fury (Fellowship of United Reformed Youth)
Girlguiding UK
Global Forum 40
Hillingdon Youth Council (HYC)
LGBT Youth Council - Scotland
Liberal Youth
National Council for Voluntary Youth Services (Envoy)
National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs
National Union of Students (NUS)
Northern Ireland Youth Forum
Peacemaker
Prince's Trust (Young Ambassadors)
Roundhouse
Scottish Association of Young Farmers Clubs (SAYFC)
St John's
Student Christian Movement
The Scout Association
Unicef UK
UNISON
Unite The Union
United Nations Association of the UK

V20 (the volunteering charity)

Woodcraft Folk
YMCA
Youthbank UK
YWCA

Local Members

Aberdeen City Youth Council
Alford & Spilsby Youth Council
Amesbury Youth Council (AYC)
Banwell Youth Council
Barking and Dagenham Youth Forum (BDYF)
Belfast City Youth Forum
Berkshire Association of Clubs for Young People
Bexley Youth Council
Billericay Youth Town Council
Bobby Panel
Breckland Youth Council
Brighton and Hove Youth Council
Bristol Youth Select Committee and UKYP
Bromley Youth Council
Burnham and Highbridge Youth Town Council
Caerphilly Youth Forum
Chelmsford Youth Council
Clackmannanshire Youth Council
Colchester Youth Council
Community Youth Project
Cornwall Youth Forum
Crawley Young Persons Council
Croydon Youth Council
Doncaster Youth Council
Dudley Youth Council
East Hampshire Youth Council (EHYC)
East Riding Youth Assembly
Eastleigh Borough Youth Council (EBYC)
Epping Forest Youth Council
Gateshead Youth Council
Guildford Youth Council



BYC Voice

Hackney Youth Parliament
Hampshire County Youth Council (HCC)
Haringey Youth Council
Harpenden Youth Town Council
Havant Borough Youth Council
Hertfordshire Young Carers Project (HYPC)
Hull Youth Council (HYC)
Human Rights and Equalities Charnwood
Huntingdon Youth Town Council (HYTC)
Kent Marine Cadet Force
Kent Youth County Council (KYCC)
Knowsley Youth Parliament
Lambeth Youth Council
LB of Kensington & Chelsea Youth Service
Lincolnshire Youth Cabinet
Maghull and District Youth Council
Medway Youth Parliament
Mencap
Merton Youth Parliament
Milton Keynes Youth Service
Monmouthshire Youth Service
Neath Port Talbot
Newham Youth Council
Newhaven Young People's Forum (NYPF)
Next Step Youth Council
North Ayrshire Youth Council
North Lanarkshire Youth Council
North Yorkshire Youth Council
Northumberland Youth Service (NYS)
Oadby and Wigston Young People's Council
Oldham Youth Council (OCVYS)
Pontypool Youth Council
Redditch Student Council
Reigate and Banstead Youth Council
Saint Ives Youth Town Council
Sevenoaks Youth Town Council
Sheffield Youth Council
Silsden Youth Council
Solihull Youth Council
South East Wales Racial Equality Council

South Gloucestershire Youth Board
South Norfolk Youth Action
South Tyneside Youth Parliament
St Albans Youth Council
Stevenage Youth Council
Stroud Youth Council
T3 (Darlington Youth Assembly)
Thanet Youth Council
The Daneford Trust
The Word (Redcar and Cleveland)
Tros Gynnal
Warwickshire Association of Youth Clubs
Welwyn Hatfield Youth Council (WHYC)
Weston Super Mare Youth Council (WSMYC)
Wiltshire Assembly of Youth
Woking Youth Council
Wolverhampton City Youth Council (WYF)
Worthing Youth Council
Youth Action Kouncil
Youth for Fair Trade
Youth Move Youth Opinions
Youth of Winchester -Winchester District Youth Council

Associate Members

Blackpool Carers Centre
Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council
Electoral Reform Society
National Youth Agency
Stockton District Advice and Information Service
Stonewall
The Duke of Edinburgh's Award - London Region
Voluntary Action Leicester
Wirral Youth Service/Forums

***Note:** correct at 31st March 2011.

Membership

The British Youth Council is the national council of the UK of 160 member organisations who support a common vision for young people. As a charity it aims to benefit all young people.

Each Council member provides a named representative who co-ordinates their delegations attendance at our Annual Council Meeting and other events. They also act as the link between the charity and millions of individuals within the membership of our members.

The Annual Council Meeting, held every September is where the membership, whilst taking account of young people views in general, elects the Board, sets policies, and prioritises 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. Members also get discounts from our services and are invited to take part in regular surveys, or to represent the Council to the media or decision makers.

We report back progress on this work during the year in three Membership Briefings.

To find out more about how to join go to www.byc.org.uk/members



We also support the Local Youth Council Network which is made up of every local youth-led decision making body working at

a local authority or parish council level. We estimate there are over 600 in the UK, and over 90 youth councils have become full members of BYC with full representation and voting rights. You can register your local youth council or look up your nearest by postcode on our website.

www.byc.org.uk/get-active/find-your-local-youth-council

BYC Research



Empowering young people to participate

The British Youth Council empowers young people by giving a platform for their collective and individual views which have been sought through consultation, surveys, views of elected representatives, members and their votes. The results are recorded in our Youth Manifesto. This is a rolling manifesto which can also be updated in response to current events.

Each year we prioritise a number of these for active campaigning. We also empower young people by offering skills training, and opportunities for them to get their views across to decision makers, either directly or through the media. We supplement this core work with additional funded 'programmes' which also meet these aims.

{Empowering through stating our beliefs}

What BYC believes is recorded in our "Youth Manifesto"

The rolling manifesto was updated at the Annual Council Meeting in September 2011 with 15 new policy motions; 8 more approved by the Board in December, and 7 proposed by members at the Equality4U seminars in 2011. These were all published in the main "Youth Manifesto 2010-2012" and supplement added in 2011.

www.byc.org.uk/resource-centre/byc-manifesto

{Empowering through campaigning}

BYC members vote to prioritise a number of key campaigns every year.

In the run up to the last General Election in 2010 BYC had a special election manifesto which identified five priority campaigns to: Reduce the voting age for public elections to 16 years; end child poverty in the UK by 2020; create an equal National Minimum Wage for everyone aged over 16; invest in comprehensive mental health services for young people; and support a national Youth Transport Card that offers 16 to 25 year olds a third off public transport fares.

By Election Day over 300 prospective parliamentary candidates had pledged to support the Manifesto's priorities.

At the September 2011 Annual Council Meeting members updated the whole Youth Manifesto and set four new campaign priorities.

- Save our Youth Services
- Votes at 16
- Fairer Funding for Higher Education
- Youth on Board - young people as decision-makers within charities

1. Save our Youth Services

BYC produced a "briefing" making the case to save our youth services from spending cuts. Initially using evidence from our own online survey of over 200 case studies we have updated the briefing throughout the year and added a 'How2' guide for youth councils on how to make the case locally to their local authority. BYC representatives have taken the campaign to our meetings with the Minister for Children, and the Deputy Prime Minister. BYC Chair Liam Preston also presented BYCs case to the Education Select Committee on Youth Services, on 26 January 2011.



BYC Campaigns





BYC was a founder member of the “Choose Youth” campaign coalition of young people, volunteers, youth organisations, professional youth workers, unions and community representatives who are also working to save youth services. We have organised

several rallies, produced campaign materials and presented a petition of 2000 signatures to No 10. The campaign has continued throughout the year.

2. Votes at 16

This is the longest continuous campaign BYC has been running. We continue to Chair the Votes at 16 Coalition and, with the help of the Cooperative Group, have a worker sponsored to take forward the campaign resulting in a rebranding, a new website and greater awareness in Europe. www.voteat16.org.



we're ready

On 18 October 2010, MPs debated whether to allow 16 and 17 year olds to vote in the 2011 referendum on the voting system used for our General Elections. Natascha Engel (Honorary President of BYC) put forward an amendment, and backed by 196 MPs, to allow

16 and 17 year olds to vote in the referendum on electoral reform.

BYC has also successfully lobbied the European Youth Forum to ensure lowering the voting age to 16 is a priority campaign for their 2011/12 workplan. BYC has become part of an Expert Group supporting the European Youth Forum's work on this issue by sharing best practice of campaigning activities at a national level and developing the arguments for votes at 16.

3. Fairer Funding for Higher Education

BYC created a priority campaign briefing on the issue of the need for a fairer higher education funding. This guide explained how young people could lobby local politicians and Vince Cable MP, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and

Skills, calling for the cap on tuition fees not to be lifted, for an alternatives to fees such as the graduate contribution scheme, and for young people, both current and future students, to be involved in decisions made about changes to the higher education funding system and progress to tackling inequalities in student support.

BYC supported the work of our member – the National Union of Students (NUS) on this issue – supporting and promoting their demo on 10th November, attending with our members and BYC Chair speaking at its rally. BYC also supported young people to attend the national lobby of the House of Commons on 9 December – the day of the vote on raising the cap. Following the vote on tuition fees BYC has continued to support our networks of young people to continue to raise the issue of higher education funding.

4. Youth On Board

BYC believe that charities and other organisations working with young people need to ensure that they are acting in the interests of all of their stakeholders, including young people. The Youth on Board campaign calls on organisations to make a commitment to involving young people in their decision-making through consultation, round the table and in the boardroom.

In order to further celebrate best practice of involving young people in organisations, BYC has been working with our members to develop a set of awards – the Youth on Board or YOB Awards. Criteria has been developed for four awards: the Youth-led Organisation Award, the Innovation and Development Award, the Project Award, and the Make a Difference Award for individual young people. These will be launched later in 2011.

{Empowering through listening}

Last year over 4200 young people took part in our consultations which we used to keep in touch and credibly inform our campaigning, lobbying and influence.

- Youth Service Cuts: Your Stories
- Taking the right action (on the use of direct action in campaigning)



BYC Awards and Recognition

- The European Union and Youth Employment
- Big Listen (views on the Big Society and initiatives like the National Citizen Service)
- Your experiences: Young people's pay
- Reforming UK politics (views on proposed electoral reform)
- Tell us what you think: G8 & G20 (views on priorities for the G8 and G20 summits)

{Empowering through representation}

We were able to provide opportunities to young people to contribute to, or represent their views in our campaigns to commissions and other bodies.

- Low Pay Commission on the need to increase youth national minimum wage rates
- Cabinet Office on youth volunteering and the National Citizen Service. (survey)
- Deputy Prime Minister's Office with a youth summit with the Deputy Prime Minister on electoral reform, votes at 16, youth participation in the Big Society, and the impact of spending cuts on young people.
- Department for Education through two BYC supported roundtables with Tim Loughton MP, on the development of the Government's youth policy
- The Independent Review of the Office of the Children's Commissioner on the need for a rights based and independent Children's Commissioner
- Equality and Human Rights Commission on young people and age discrimination
- The Department for Transport and various transport providers on the availability and accessibility, safety and security, and cost of public transport for young people.
- The Office for Civil society on supporting a stronger civil society
- The Independent Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance on young people's position on tuition fees (Brown Review)
- The Department for Environment and Climate Change Youth Advisory Group

- The All Party Parliamentary Group on Youth Affairs on young people's political engagement, the Big Society and the National Citizens Service, and welfare reform.

{Empowering by lobbying}

BYC has also lobbied in 2010/11 on the following legislation passing through Parliament to ensure young people's views are heard:

- The Health and Social Care Bill on the participation of children and young people and to consider how the health service in England fulfils the needs and rights of children and young people.
- The Education Bill on the right of students to appeal their own exclusions, the right of students to serve on school governing bodies and student complaints to Local Government Ombudsman.
- The Sex and Relationships Education Bill to call for a statutory basis for Personal, Social, and Health Education and Sex and Relationships Education and children and young people affected by the current parental right to withdraw.
- The Localism Bill to allow 16 and 17 year-olds to participate in the petition process and to vote in local referenda.
- The Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill to allow 16 and 17 year-olds to participate in the referendum on the alternative vote system.

{Empowering through training}

We trained 1,136 young people in participation skills across the length and breadth of the UK. The courses included:

- Youth At the Table – developing young skills to be successful in decision making meetings
- Putting Your Point Across – 9 mini training session designed to support local youth councils
- Do You Speak Trustee – A 2 day qualification to support young people in becoming successful trustees.

81.1% said they had learned skills to make a difference

81.4% were more likely to do something as a result

81.8% would pass on what they learnt to others



BYC Training and Consultancy

{Empowering through volunteering opportunities}

We recruited 8 fulltime volunteer campaigners (Vtalent) for a year's placement, who are based at our Headquarters. They receive a qualification, full subsistence expenses, and a progression grant at the end of the year.

We hosted five Conventions in Belfast, Glasgow, Swansea, York and London which were attended by over 200 volunteers from over 38 local organisations. They had a choice of skills training sessions, and a Questions Time with elected representatives, as well as opportunities to debate campaigns ideas which helped to prepare delegates for the subsequent Annual Council Meeting.

We continued with the BYC's Online Action network, a way to communicate with young people UK-wide who want to hear more about opportunities for them to have their say, and to act on, the issues they care about, regardless of where they are based. By March 2011 nearly 300 young people had signed up and receive fortnightly e-bulletins.

We also provide volunteering opportunities overseas (see International section).

{Empowering through scrutiny}

We continued to provided support and a new website as part of our partnership in the Youth 4 U local young inspectors programme. This was a two year initiative (ending in March 2011) with partners National Childrens Bureau and disability charity KIDS, giving around 300 disadvantaged, marginalised or young people who would not otherwise get the opportunity the chance to inspect services available in their area and tell the people in charge of them what they think – following their inspections. We provided the communications and PR support to this project with a website. BYC's role was to connect young people together nationally, support them to share their stories and experiences within the scheme and via the media, and build a picture of the changes needed / taking place for national policy-makers.

{Empowering through global reach}



Through our international youth participation programmes young people learn about global issues and to connect and share with other 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.

Last year BYC international programmes engaged 865 young people directly in its work and nearly 6,000 more indirectly through consultations and other activities. We have also supported 33 young people to attend international forums and events in over a dozen different settings through our Young Ambassadors programme and as the UK representatives on the European Youth Forum.

UK Young Ambassadors is a partnership project of the British Youth Council, Funky Dragon, Northern Ireland Youth Forum, Scottish Youth Parliament and UK Youth Parliament. The project aims to ensure the central role of young people in international decision-making through effective and inclusive representation, through its 15 trained Young Ambassadors from around the UK, securing lasting and positive change for young people in the UK.

www.ukya.org.uk

European Youth Forum

Representation in Europe continued with our two representatives to the European Youth Forum (YFJ) and the Bodensee-Benelux-Cooperation (BBC+) alliance. Under this programme we took our turn on rotation at hosting a conference for the BBC+ alliance in London to discuss shared policy work and prepare for the full YFJ meeting. The BYC representatives to YFJ are Trustees Chris Neal and Liam Preston.

Commonwealth – BYC has a Board seat on the Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council, and represents the UK at various international events – such as the Heads of Government Conference.

International Development

BYC is part of the Steering Committee of the DFID/CSO Youth Working Group (YWG) that aims to put young people at the heart of international development. We took the lead this year on arranging a meeting between 30 young people and Nick Clegg and the Secretary of State for International Development, Andrew Mitchell to advocate for the role of youth people in the efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We also published a report with the YWG, 'Our Voice', showcasing young people's thoughts and actions on the MDGs.

British Council – We have also taken part in several BC initiatives empowering young people as citizens around the world such as the *Active Citizens* programme and *Global Changemakers*.



BYC Events

You can count on us

{BYC reaching out}

We trained 50 young people to talk to the media this year and had 264 stories online, broadcast and in print

- Join our 1700 followers on Twitter
@bycLIVE
- Meet 2,500 friends on Facebook
www.facebook.com/BritishYouthCouncil
- Visit us on line with 66,000 others a year
www.byc.org.uk
- Get our e-bulletins with 10,000 others
www.byc.org.uk

{BYC free resources}

As well as training we have over 257 free publications on line and last year had a record number of 4,314 downloads. Two of the most popular publications have now gone into print. Setting up a Parish, Town or Community Youth Council and Supporting and Developing an Effective Youth Council.

{BYC targets}	target	achieved
Consultations	4000	4238
Train	1000	1136
Positive outcome	80%	81%
Fundraise 11/12	£700k	£790k
New e-bulletins	240	456
Web-hits	45k	65k
Media stories	120	264
Resource downloads	1500	4314

Where BYC's money came from in 2010/2011

Restricted Grant income	£575,608
Unrestricted Income <i>(Including membership fees, donations, publications, events, reimbursements, training and consultancy)</i>	£229,205
Total	£804,913

What we spent it on

(including funds brought forward from 09/10)

Programmes and Training	£474,951
Policy and Communications	£169,772
International Activities	£207,693
Governance	£22,014
Fundraising	£21,724
Total	£896,154

Our full audited accounts will be available online at www.charity-commission.gov.uk later in 2011.

Registered Charity 1123224

BYC Diverse and Inclusive

In 2010/2011 a diverse 1,014 young people attended our training or events.

37%

have reached **AS**
level or higher

1 in 5

come from a
disadvantaged background

24%

come from **Black &
Minority Ethnic Groups**

1 in 10

consider
themselves **disabled**

3 in 4

are aged
under 20

52%

declared a faith with
Christian and Muslim
the largest groups

55%

female

14%

responded
they were

**bisexual, gay,
lesbian** or
preferred not to say

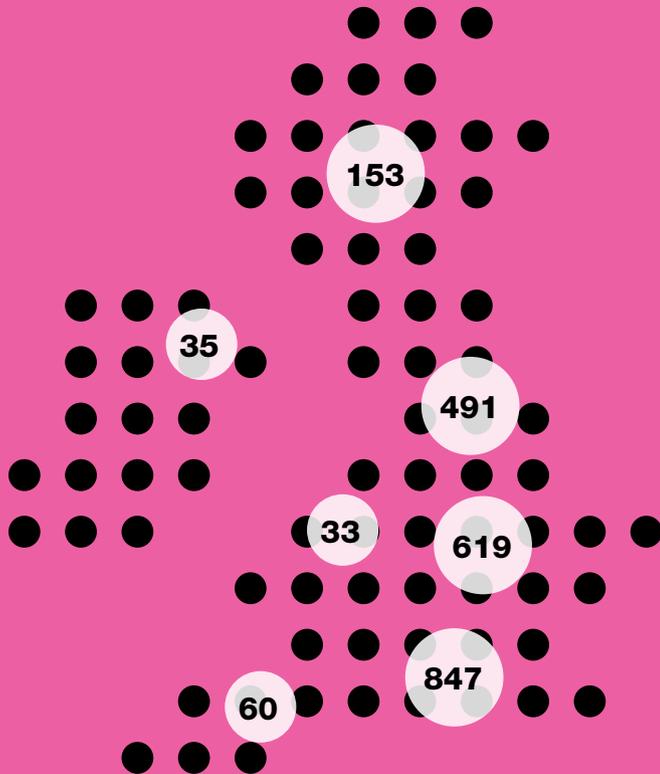
75% in **education/training**

1 in 5 in **employment**

nearly **1 in 5**

face barriers to participation

{Spread of those taking part in direct training and consultations (excludes conventions)}



{Reach of BYC International last year}



Thank you to our supporters

BYC is hugely grateful to all those that support our work, including, our VTalent campaigners, Online Action Network volunteers and Parliamentarians, our voluntary and private sector partners, our alumni, mentors and friends.

We would like to give special thanks to:

BYC Trustees (Sept 2010 – August 2011)

BYC Chair

Liam Preston

BYC Vice-Chair (Campaigns & Communications)

Jack Rowley

BYC Vice-Chair (Participation & Development)

Ciaran Norris

BYC Vice-Chair (Treasurer)

Victoria Hitchcock

Josh Snape

Mark Flynn

Ian Adderley

Tim Coates

Leah Magoye

Sam Hale

Dan Derricott

Ben Mallon

Chris Neal

BYC Honorary Presidents

Jo Swinson MP

Nigel Evans MP

Natascha Engel MP

In 2010/11 our work was made possible by the generous support of the following funding partners:

The British Council

The Cabinet Office

The Cooperative Group

The Department for Education

The Joint International Unit

Volunteering Charity "v"



BYC SERVICES

The British Youth Council BYC, the national youth council of the UK, is a charity run by young people for young people.

We empower young people to have their say and ensure their voices are heard through a range of services – locally, nationally and internationally.

BYC is happy to provide organisations with expertise across the following areas:

Training, Service and Programmes: Skills training and empowerment opportunities for young people

www.byc.org.uk

Consultancy: Consultancy and commissioning advice for organisations supporting young people

www.byc.org.uk

Resources: Available for BYC members and our network of youth councils, in person (0845250 1299), online

www.byc.org.uk/resources

BYC VOICE

Voice and campaigning: Representing the views of young people to local, national and international decision makers.

We recognise success with the BYC Award Youth Voice for democratic engagement; the BYC Councillor Shadowing Award, the BYC Youth On Board Awards.

BYC MEMBERSHIP

Join us, either as a youth led organisation in Full Membership or a friend in Associate Membership.

www.byc.org.uk/members

SUPPORT US

You can support the work of BYC with donations, sponsorship or your time.

Please get in touch with our Chief Executive.



The British Youth Council 2011

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www.byc.org.uk or follow us on Facebook and Twitter

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