



**British Youth Council  
Membership benefits  
2016-17**

## **British Youth Council Membership benefits 2016-17**

Join us today! The British Youth Council supports young people to have a voice, take action and make a difference. We are a unique, youth-led organisation with a large, diverse membership delivering the UK's leading youth voice programmes, including the UK Youth Parliament and the Youth Select Committee.

### **We are led by young people**

The Board of BYC are all under 26 years old. Our members are all youth-led or youth serving organisations and they elect the Board, develop our policy and set the agenda for our campaigns and programmes.

### **We support youth-led social action**

Nationally and in communities across the UK young people are identifying needs, taking action and making a difference.

Young people set the agenda for action. Nationally, the Make Your Mark ballot and the House of Commons debate establish the UK Youth Parliament priority campaign, and the BYC members propose and vote on the organisation's annual campaigns. Locally, youth councils, elected representatives and organisations determine the needs of their communities. BYC provides resources and regional support and coordination to young people's social action.

Across our programmes we enhance young people transferable and employability skills, and give them the values, confidence and resilience to be positive, active citizens and role models to their peers. As a result of attending BYC events in 2015:

- 86% are more likely to take action
- 85% will pass on what they have learnt to others
- 79% feel they have more skills to make a difference

As well as making a difference on young people, communities and society, we also have a significant impact on the youth sector.

- 98% of Local Authorities are delivering youth voice and are supported by BYC

- We offer regular space and support for youth work professionals to meet. There are no other national opportunities for these workers to come together.
- We provide dedicated support, training and networking for youth workers and youth voice support workers
- We have developed a Youth Voice Self Assessment tool to track and measure progress locally, and Report Cards for Local Authorities to monitor the development of youth democracy. 80% of active local authorities are using the self-assessment tool.

We also aim to make a difference to young people's lives in the long term. We carry out research and work towards policy change that will create a more enabling environment for young people's voice and action.

**Full Members of the British Youth Council receive the following member-only exclusive benefits:**

**1. Access to networking and partnership opportunities**

- Opportunities to share resources and collaborate with other members and other youth-led networks
- Fortnightly email to all members with news, opportunities, and a chance to promote your own events and services to other members
- Access to decision makers through a range of events, meetings and consultations
- Opportunities to collaborate and gain support on policies and campaigns from members of a similar type, for example through members meetings for national member organisation

**2. One strong voice to represent our members**

- Voting rights at the BYC Annual Council Meeting (ACM) to decide BYC policies, prioritise our campaigns and elect BYC trustees
- We represent the views of our members on a range of platforms including Local Government Association, UK Government and other local, national, European and Commonwealth levels
- Opportunity and resources to take part in Make Your Mark, the largest youth consultation in the UK
- Resources to get involved in national campaign actions locally

### 3. Events, support and resources to help our members develop and be sustainable

- Get advice on young people and governance in our role as the national youth council of the UK
- Ongoing information and support on how to get the best from your membership
- Continued professional development for a network of Youth Voice workers and access to regular support, mailings and updates
- The chance for young people to apply to become trustees of the British Youth Council
- Youth Voice members only: Access to a range of resources and support to help you measure impact, including the Youth Voice Self Assessment measurement and impact tool and the Youth Voice Outcomes framework and wheel
- Youth Voice members only: Access to support to run the national UK Youth Parliament programme and national events including the Annual Sitting and House of Commons debate

### 4. Discounts on accredited awards and training

- We have developed a range of learning awards accredited by ASDAN to recognise and reward young people's involvement and dedication in youth voice and community involvement activities.
- We have developed a range of training programmes to give young people the skills, knowledge and confidence to bring about change on a local and national level.

**There is also a membership package available for Associate Members.**

*“The [Youth Voice Leadership Development Programme] was fantastic as it really motivated me to get more involved. I now know how to be more effective as a youth representative and I am very excited for the year ahead!! As a result of this weekend I may run for DMYP next year and I want to get more involved in improving youth activities in Thurrock”*

*Youth Representative, Thurrock Youth Cabinet, April 2016*