



Youth Voice Agreement 2017/18

What we do

The British Youth Council empowers young people aged 25 and under, to influence and inform the decisions that affect their lives. Through over 200 member organisations we support young people to get involved in their communities and democracy locally, nationally and internationally, making a difference as volunteers, campaigners, decision-makers and leaders.

What is Youth Voice?

Working with the Government, we offer a national programme to support the voice of 11-18 year olds in decision-making at both a local and national level in England, as well as promoting greater recognition of young peoples' achievements.

2016 Youth Voice outcomes

- Over 130 Local Authorities engaged and supported
- 978,216 young people reached through Make Your Mark, the UK's largest youth consultation
- 17 regional Conventions held, with over 1000 training opportunities
- 95% of young people felt they had been trained in skills relevant to their role at our Leadership Programme. 100% of all attendees would recommend the event, based on their experience
- Over 30 Youth On Board Awards given to recognise innovative and exciting youth participation

Our commitment to you

Supporting young people, and the staff that support them. We will:

1. Deliver a range of regional and national **training and development activities and events**, and publish an accompanying calendar to support you to plan your year
2. Provide **resources** and training to enabling young people to track and measure their **personal development progress** during their term
3. Provide a range of **accredited learning awards** to recognise and reward young people's amazing involvement and dedication in youth voice and community involvement activities
4. **Support staff locally** by giving access to (online, on the phone and in person) support and guidance around working with young people in youth voice vehicles
5. **Support staff nationally** through a practitioner-led worker programme including:



- Sessions at national events, and exploring an expansion to the regional events
- Establishing a Practitioner Forum, to enable workers to pool and share materials used locally
- Deliver Youth Voice Excellence Awards to celebrate and recognise outstanding practice in Local Authorities

Sharing and celebrating practice within Local Authorities. We will:

1. Publish and circulate **Positive Stories**, a quarterly report to share and showcase both locally and nationally decision-makers including other LAs, MPs, lead councillors and Government
2. Conduct an **annual audit of youth elections**, reviewing turnout and involvement in youth democracy locally, regionally and nationally
3. Provide resources and support to conduct a **Youth Voice Self-Assessment**, enabling Local Authorities, and their Youth Voice Vehicles (YVVs) to assess their current practice, celebrate successes and identify areas for improvement
4. Provide resources and support to complete **Youth Voice Report Cards**. This tool is ideal for use with Councillors as well as middle and senior managers to highlight the impact of youth voice work in your LA, the diversity of your youth council or similar, as well as a comparison against Make Your Mark totals and youth elections turnouts

UK Youth Parliament

For those Local Authorities who run the UK Youth Parliament you will be entitled to access: the Annual Sitting, House of Commons Sitting (including MYP travel bursary), online networks for MYPs, and a regular e-bulletin.

Make Your Mark

Make Your Mark is a UK-wide ballot which gives young people aged 11-18 the chance to decide what Members of Youth Parliament should debate in their sitting in November. Following this debate they vote for which of these issues should be their campaign for the year ahead. Last year 970,000 young people took part, with published results broken down by LA to enable the priorities to be used locally.

Your commitment to the Youth Voice

By participating in this programme, you agree to:

1. Attend activities laid out in the calendar regionally eg. Conventions, and nationally eg. Annual Council Meeting
2. Support and record young people's progress through their journey using the resources provided, Make Your Mark, and campaign activities



3. Celebrate and share local success, and feedback using Positive Stories, case studies, the Youth Voice Self Assessment, Election Monitoring, and Snapshot tools
4. Provide young people with the opportunity to take up leadership roles within their community, and in decision making processes
5. Provide mechanisms to feedback on the programme, when things are working, and work with us to make improvements when they're not
6. For those taking part in the UK Youth Parliament, to adhere to the rules as laid out in the Procedures Book, including running bi/annual direct MYP elections (or indirect elections where the youth council are directly elected themselves).