**Youth Voice Agreement 2020/21**

**A young person’s journey**

“British Youth Council has made me a better person on the whole. Hand on heart, it has changed my life. Before, I could not communicate with other people efficiently and did not know about the magnitude of the power of my voice and what other young people can do. I now have the ability to publicly speak in a confident manner, including speaking at the House of Commons. It has opened so many more doors, I am now a confident leader. I highly recommend more young people to take part in Youth Voice in BYC”.

**Young person,**

**What we do**

As the national youth council of the UK, we are proud to support a national network of member organisations who champion youth voice. We believe that young people have the power and the potential to take action and make positive social and political changes for themselves and others and we work with our members to achieve this.

**What is Youth Voice?**

In addition to the standard [British Youth Council Membership](https://www.byc.org.uk/members) offer, and working with the Government and UK Parliament, we offer a national youth voice programme to support 11-18 year olds involvement in decision-making at both a local and national level in England. The programme offers training, support and greater recognition of young peoples’ achievements.

**Youth Voice outcomes in 2019**

* Over 110 Local Authorities engaged and supported.
* Over 840,000 young people reached through [Make Your Mark](http://www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk/makeyourmark/), the UK’s largest youth consultation.
* 18 regional Conventions held, with over 1,000 training opportunities.
* 93% of young people felt they had been trained in skills relevant to their role at our [Leadership Programme](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BObgfjstHUM). 96% of all attendees would recommend the event, based on their experience.
* Celebrated and recognised achievements through our [Youth Voice Star Awards](https://www.byc.org.uk/awards/youth-voice-star-awards).

**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.
2. Provide resources and training to enable young people to track and measure their personal development progress during their term.
3. Provide a range of discounted [accredited learning awards](https://www.byc.org.uk/awards/accredited-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 by seeking funding to support professional development and networking alongside our core events.

*Sharing and celebrating practice within Local Authorities. We will:*

1. Share and showcase how young people have influenced decision makers, both locally and nationally.
2. Conduct an annual audit of youth elections, reviewing turnout and involvement in youth democracy locally, regionally and nationally.

**UK Youth Parliament**

For those Local Authorities who run the UK Youth Parliament you will be entitled to access: the Annual Conference, House of Commons Sitting (including MYP travel bursary from UK Parliament, subject to confirmation), 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 over 840,000 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 national and regional activities to ensure that young people have a full experience and access to all the information and support.
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, feeding back case studies to the British Youth Council to us in promoting the youth voice programme to funders and decision makers.
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 UK Youth Parliament Rulebook, including running bi/annual direct MYP elections (or indirect elections where the youth council are directly elected themselves).
7. Tell the British Youth Council when personnel change so that we can ensure the information gets to the right person on time.