

Briefing Note – Wiltshire Youth Council



Service : *Quality Outcomes, Children and Families*
Further Enquiries to: *Joe Sutton, Youth Voice Lead*
Date Prepared: 13/10/2021
Direct contact: childandyouthvoice@wiltshire.gov.uk

Young people can get involved in local decision making and have a say on funding for youth projects as part of a new democratic body being set up for Wiltshire.

The Wiltshire Youth Council will start next year, with representatives from secondary schools across the county elected to speak out on issues that are important to them.

Wiltshire Youth Councillors will have the power to:

- Meet up with Wiltshire Council leaders and have their say on local decisions.
- Work with area boards to ensure funding for youth projects has the right impact for them and their peers.
- Inspect services to ensure they represent young people's best interests.
- Easily communicate with their peers so young people's views are properly represented.
- Opportunity to shadow council leaders as a shadow youth cabinet member for a particular area of interest.

Schools are being invited to encourage 11-17 year olds to put themselves up for election, with elections due to take place between 31 January 2022 and 4 February 2022.

Youth councillors will be asked to commit one evening per month to attend a full youth council meeting, which will focus on issues important to the young people. They will also be expected to talk to their peers about the issues and represent their views. There will also be training to support them in their roles, covering topics including debating, running a youth inspection and delivering presentations.

You can watch videos of Cllr Laura Mayes and Cllr Richard Clewer, Leader of Wiltshire Council talking about why it's a good idea to be part of the Wiltshire Youth Council here

<https://youtu.be/27ikHINbLxM>.

Young people who are interested and want further information can go to childandyouthvoice@wiltshire.gov.uk. You can also follow the child and youth voice team on Facebook [\(6\) Wiltshire Youth Union | Facebook](#) and Instagram [Wiltshire Youth Union \(@wiltshireyouthunion\)](#) • [Instagram photos and videos](#).