

Local Youth Network (LYN) Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

Definition of a Local Youth Network

A Local Youth Network (LYN) is a sub group of the Area Board. It represents a wide range of community stakeholders who work in partnership to facilitate a range of positive activities across the community area.

Local Youth Networks will engage young people and support their voices being heard in order to help shape local decision making. LYNs will adopt an evidenced and need based approach for young people and will actively work with the local Area Board on the provision of positive activities for young people. The membership, aims and relationship with the local Area Board may vary slightly in each community area.

The obligations of the Area Board are set out in the *'Leaders Guidance for Area Boards on Positive Activities for Young People'*.

2. Membership

The LYN may include representatives of:

- Members of the Area Board
- Young people
- Schools
- Town and Parish Councils
- Community and voluntary organisations and groups
- Police
- Health organisations
- Other organisations, agencies and individuals that have a genuine interest in promoting the welfare and interests of young people

All representatives must be subject to appropriate safeguarding requirements.

Participation and involvement of young people

Youth networks are encouraged to use a variety of approaches to ensure young people participate and are involved in decision making processes.

LYNs must ensure that consultation with young people is representative and takes into account the views and needs of underrepresented groups (those with protected characteristics) to ensure compliance with the local authorities Public Sector Equality Duty.

Roles of the LYN

All members will be required to:

- Take an active part in the development of the LYN and its aims.

- Ensure that their organisation is represented by a person of appropriate experience/competency (or his/her appointed deputy) who has full authority within the relevant organisation to speak on behalf of the organisation and contribute fully to all discussions.
- Make recommendations to the Area Board on how positive activities funding should be deployed.
- Take responsibility for sharing information with the LYN relevant to their organisation/ stakeholders/sector.
- Contribute any information that may have a bearing on positive activities and ensure that this is shared with the LYN.
- Champion the voice and influence of young people in decision making.
- Be open and honest and work collaboratively.
- Work to promote equality and non-discriminatory practices in all aspects of the LYNs activities.
- Respect all members of the LYN and invited representatives.
- Work to improve outcomes for young people and ensure high quality safeguarding practice.

3. Structure and operation

The frequency, location and format of LYN meetings and activities should be determined locally, however it is recommended that the group meets at least two times per year.

The LYN may come together at events, workshops, youth fairs, meetings and consultations, operating in a way which encourages active engagement, dialogue, debate and improved partnership working between key stakeholders.

The Chair of the group will be decided locally. The group will include a member of the Area Board, who will provide updates on progress at Area Board meetings and advise on recommendations where appropriate.

Each network will be supported by the local Community Engagement Manager, however, models that are independently run in the communities are also encouraged.

The appointment of members (excluding officers) to the management group will normally be agreed at a full meeting of the Area Board. Membership may be varied, with the agreement of the Area Board Chairperson, subject to approval at the next full Area Board meeting.

4. Media Relations

Members of the LYN may not issue media statements on behalf of the Area Board. Any media statements about the work of the LYN should be agreed with between the LYN, Community Engagement Manager and Chairperson of the Area Board.

5. Review

These terms of reference are subject to change and may be reviewed by the Leader on an annual basis.