

Youth Advisory Groups

What are they about?

Youth Advisory Groups provide an opportunity to:

- Give young people the chance to have a REAL say about services in their local area.
- Enable young people to shape services, particularly youth services funded by the Council in a way that meets their needs.
- Promote all the opportunities and services which are available to young people in their local area.
- Build on young people's strengths e.g. confidence and public speaking skills.

As a Youth Advisory Group (YAG) member you will need to:

- Understand the needs of young people in your local area.
- Know when something is or isn't working in your area.
- Help Identify any gaps in services and come forward with ideas on how these might be filled.
- Advertise what your YAG is doing.
- Speak to young people in your area and ask them what their issues or suggestions are.
- Champion the voice of young people locally and make recommendations on behalf of young people to your Area Board.
- Be aware of, or know where to find out about the full range of opportunities and services which are available to young people in your local area.
- Make sure everyone's views are taken on board, including for example those young people who are vulnerable i.e. disabled young people, looked after young people etc...
- Support adults in your local area to understand what young people's needs are and suggest ways to change things and make things better.
- Work with other youth groups in your area and build partnerships with them.

The YAG will help you with all of these things and you will be offered training.

The Youth Advisory Group will be made up of:

- The Chair (This is the person leading the meeting, making sure it doesn't go off task), they will be a young person under 25.
- At least 50% young people (ideally 70%).
- A minimum of 12 members.
- Other professionals (You might sometimes invite someone to a YAG to talk about something specific e.g. if your meeting is focused on transport you might get someone from a bus company to come and talk to you).
- A range of people that could include any of the following (or any other people that your YAG thinks would be good):

Young People	Adults
Youth Centre user representative	Community Area Manager
Voluntary sector representative	Youth Development Coordinator
Faith sector representative	Elected member
School Council representative	Local Town / Parish Council representative
Wiltshire Youth Assembly representative	Local Head teacher/Deputy Head teacher
Community Area Young Peoples Issues Group (CAYPIG) representative	Police representative
United Kingdom Youth Parliament (UKYP) representative	Health representative
Targeted Youth Support service user representative	Parent/Carer representative
Young person with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities	Voluntary and Community sector representative
Young person who is a child in care/care leaver	Faith group representative
Young carer	Local Business representative
Teenage parent	

The guidelines for running the meetings are:

- They should take place roughly each month as a minimum but sometimes you might want to meet outside of the YAG meetings to focus on a specific issue.
- They are coordinated by the Chair of the YAG with support from a worker.
- Suitable times and venues will be decided by the YAG.
- Everyone on the YAG has a vote when decisions are being made.