

Barnsley Youth Council Elections

# Information Pack 2022



barnsley   
youthcouncil

**I KNOW  
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**BARNSELY  
TARGETED  
YOUTH  
SUPPORT**

  
**BARNSELY**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

# Our Members of Youth Parliament

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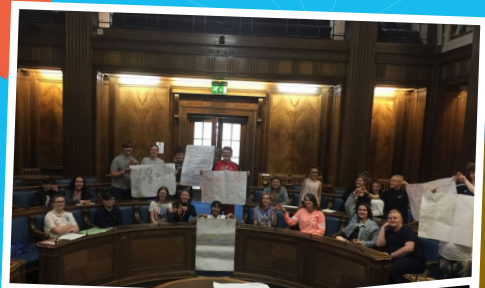
On a whole being a Member of Youth Parliament for Barnsley Youth Council is a fantastic chance to advocate for youth voice. It has created so many opportunities for me to expand my knowledge on different political views by meeting other MYPs and government officials at events like the annual sitting residential where I get to travel to different areas. Events like these, and the House of Commons annual sitting I had the pleasure of attending, greatly developed many of my skills for example my public speaking, networking and campaigning skills. These events set in motion projects relating to the elected issues through Make Your Mark. Recently as part of BYC's Protect the Environment campaign I have learnt new skills like correctly planting trees and creating bug hotels, as we have planted over 450 trees of various species as part of The Terrific Tree Task. Through the many aspects of being an MYP, I have also been able to work on larger projects as a region with other youth councils allowing me to be more innovative when coming up with ideas and solutions relating to our campaigns for example the zoom beyond travel pass the Sheffield City Region Youth Combined Authority pushed for and achieved.



## Parish Trevy

My name is Parish Trevy and I have been representing young people on Barnsley Youth Council for over 6 years in various ways. I have taken part in lots of different campaigns over the years that have come from a national ballot taken part every year such as work experience, transport and curriculum for life campaign. I am currently the campaign lead for community safety and discrimination and through this role and my MYP role I am able to get regional and national decision makers involved in all campaigns to make a change for young people. Doing different roles with the youth council and member of youth parliament has allowed me to build my confidence and build on my public speaking. Within the MYP role there are lots of chances to have your say on changes that need to be made.





This booklet should give you all the information you need. If after reading this you would still like more information, then please visit our website **barnsleeyouth.com**, follow our social media sites or call us on **01226 753406**.



## What is the Youth Council?

The Youth Council is a group of young people who are elected by their peers to represent the views of young people living in Barnsley.

The Youth Council work closely with Barnsley Council in order to make sure young people's voices are heard in decisions that affect their lives.

This year there are three positions available in each of Barnsley's secondary schools. There are also seats available in Barnsley specialist schools and Barnsley College. Each position is for a two-year seat on the Youth Council.

Anyone in secondary year 8 or above is eligible to stand for election in school. However, anyone aged 11-19 is eligible to vote in the election.

If you live in Barnsley but do not attend school or college in Barnsley and are interested in standing or voting in the election, you may still be eligible to get involved. Please call the team to discuss this on **01226 753406**.

Barnsley also has two Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs) available to young people on the United Kingdom Youth Parliament (UKYP). Once the Youth Council is elected, members can put themselves forward to represent Barnsley on the UKYP and a vote will take place within the Youth Council to decide this. For information on this please visit **ukyp.org.uk**

# Roles and Responsibilities

The role of a Youth Councillor involves enthusiasm, time and commitment. You will be asked to attend various meetings, focus groups and sessions. You will need to be comfortable working with a wide range of people, including other young people and adults. You must have an interest in expressing other young people's ideas and viewpoints and be able to advocate on behalf of the young people who voted for you.

**It is necessary for Youth Council members to take part in the following activities for the Youth Council to fulfil its role:**

- ✓ Attend any necessary training
- ✓ Attend at least one full Youth Council meeting per month, this will take place at Barnsley Town Hall on a Monday 5.30pm to 8pm
- ✓ Represent the view of other young people who attend your school or college, youth group, or live in your community
- ✓ Involve young people in the Youth Council through school and college with the support of the staff team
- ✓ Feedback Youth Council issues to school or college
- ✓ Work alongside the staff team
- ✓ Attend your bi-weekly school or college drop in
- ✓ Engage and participate in your community
- ✓ Attend one campaign's committee or working group a month

**Here are some skills and qualities you will need:**

- ✓ Time and willingness to attend meetings
- ✓ Have good communication and listening skills
- ✓ Be able to work as part of team
- ✓ Be inclusive and don't discriminate against anyone
- ✓ Leadership skills
- ✓ Be willing to participate in sessions and meetings
- ✓ Be able to represent the views of others even if they are not your own





# How can you become a Youth Councillor?

- ✓ Be willing to stand for election in the school or college that you represent
- ✓ Anyone in secondary year 8 or above is eligible to stand
- ✓ Have the approval of your parent, guardian or carer
- ✓ Have the time, availability and commitment to fulfil the role
- ✓ Be able to attend at least two of the campaign and preparation training sessions on the following dates: Wednesday 19 January 2022, Saturday 22 January 2022, Monday 24 January 2022, Thursday 27 January 2022, Saturday 29 January 2022. A time slot and location will be discussed with you once we have received your nomination
- ✓ Get your nomination permission form completed by the closing date of Friday 14 January 2022
- ✓ Take part in a supported election campaign in school or college or the community

## Training and Campaign Preparation Session

Once we have received your nomination form, we will send you a letter with an allocated slot for you to attend your training and campaign preparation sessions.

Here you will receive all the information you need to undertake your role as a Youth Councillor, and you can ask any questions you have about the role. It will also give you a chance to explore skills such as communicating with others and group work. This will be a great opportunity to get to know the staff team and the other young people standing for election.

If you cannot make one of your allocated sessions for a particular reason, we will do our best to make alternative arrangements - however, this cannot be guaranteed and you must complete the training and campaign preparation before you are able to stand for election.

To undertake the role of a Youth Councillor, you need to have certain skills and abilities. We will use the above session to observe the above qualities to see if you are ready to undertake the role. You must attend the sessions in order to qualify for election.

# Campaigning



To encourage young people to vote for you, it is important that you campaign in your school or college before your election date. This gives you the opportunity to explain to your peers why they should vote for you and for you to gather as much support as you can.

Part of running a successful campaign involves publicising yourself, therefore we ask you to write a short campaign speech. This should be no longer than 150 words telling people a little about yourself and giving the reasons why you would make a good Youth Councillor. We will then have your speech professionally printed onto your campaign flyers.

We realise you may need some support in writing your speech so all candidates will be offered support in the campaign preparation session to help achieve this.

It is your choice how much or little campaigning you do. If you choose to do extra campaigning without worker support, we strongly advise you to do so with a responsible adult (family friend, carer, parent, guardian or teacher) as this is at your own risk.



**Please Note:** Any activity which is intended to force people to vote for a certain candidate such as threats or bribery is not acceptable. Any candidate who is involved in such activity will be disqualified from the election.

# Youth Council Nomination Form



Name of Young Person/Candidate

Date of Birth

Age

Address

Young Person Mobile

Home Telephone Number

Email Address

Which school/college I represent

Parent/Guardian/Carer Permission

I the parent/guardian/carers have read and understood the roles and responsibilities of the Youth Council and give permission for him/her/they to stand in the 2022 Youth Council election, attend training sessions, campaign sessions, take part in the campaigning and if elected undertake the roles and responsibilities of an elected Youth Councillor as outlined in this booklet up to the end of their term in March 2024.

Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian/Carer Mobile Number



# Photo and Film Consent

Remember to  
complete your form  
no later than **Friday**  
**14 January 2022.**

Barnsley Targeted Youth Support Service (including Youth Council) promotes the positive image of young people and seeks to raise the profile of young people in the community and across the borough. As a Youth Council candidate your son or daughter will attend regular sessions and activities delivered by the Targeted Youth Support Service where photographs and videos may be taken of them.

Therefore, we are seeking your consent to use the photographs and videos for promotional, publicity and display purposes. This may include publicity in local newspapers, online via social media sites and pages or on the Youth Council 'Things to do' page. We cannot display these photographs and videos in such publications or on the websites without your permission.

By signing below, you are confirming that you have read and understood and agree to the following:

That the photographs or videos of the young person named below, can be used for publicity and promotion by Barnsley Youth Council, Targeted Youth Support Service and Barnsley Council.

The photographs or videos can be used in both printed (e.g. newspaper) and digital formats (e.g. Facebook).

I  am guardian/parent/carer of  
 (young person's name)

I give consent for Barnsley Targeted Youth Support Service and Barnsley Council to include their photographs/videos in publicity material as outlined above.

Signed

Date

Barnsley Council are committed to protecting and respecting your privacy. Our website tells you what you can expect when the council collects and processes your personal information. This can be found at **[Barnsley.gov.uk/privacy](https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/privacy)**.

Please hand completed forms to one of our team members, submit it over email to **[YouthCouncil@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:YouthCouncil@barnsley.gov.uk)**, or hand in to your designated staff member in your school or college. If you are unsure, call us on **01226 753406**.

