



Dudley Youth Council Recruitment pack



- ▷ Change something in your area
- ▷ Make sure young people's voices are heard
- ▷ Find out other young people's views
- ▷ Run projects and campaigns



Dudley Youth Council

Dudley Youth Council (DYC) is run by young people for young people. It's open to 11-19 year olds (up to 25 for those with a disability) who live, work or study in the Dudley borough. The Youth Council is made up of 'area representatives' who represent young people from where they live or go to school/college and 'special interest representatives' who represent young people with a specific experience e.g. young people with disabilities, young carers, LGBTQ+, young people in care etc.

Members of the group work with the Members of Youth Parliament and Youth Commissioners to run the Youth Council.

What does the youth council do?

DYC meets once a month. All members get involved in:

- Finding out and representing the views of young people.
- Working with and influencing decision makers.
- Running youth lead projects and campaigns. For example this year's campaigns are reducing knife crime and protecting the environment.
- Attending regional and/or national meetings of the British Youth Council.

What will I get out of it?

Being a Dudley Youth Councillor is an important role. It requires commitment and dedication but along the way you will:

- Have the opportunity to have your voice heard and help make a positive change.
- Acquire new skills through experiences and training.
- Meet lots of different people and make new friends.
- Receive a reference for school/college/university/employment.

How can I get involved?

We need your completed application form returned to us by **9pm on Sunday 3rd January 2021**. We will then contact you with details of the Youth Council Induction Day and send you consent forms which will need to be completed by your parent/carer.

For more information: Contact us on 01384 815174 or youthcouncil@dudley.gov.uk



Further information about the opportunity which can enable you to make a difference.

We are looking for inspired, dedicated and active young people aged 11-19 (up to 25 for those with a disability) who live in the Dudley Borough to join next year's youth council. We currently have 25 members; each year there is an opportunity for young people to be elected to represent their peers and get involved.

Dudley Youth Council is not about party politics or just for those interested in politics. It is about ISSUES facing young people and trying to make things better for young people in our area.

So what do youth councillors do?

- Consult young people in the Dudley Borough about current issues.
- Convey young people's views and to meet with decision makers in our area.
- Attend monthly meetings of Dudley Youth Council held at Dudley Council House.
- Comment on and influence services in Dudley that affect young people.
- Represent young people from the area where they are elected.
- Work with all other members of the youth council including UK Youth Parliament representatives.
- Form part of the Youth Council.
- Attend regional events throughout the year, the occasional one during school hours.
- Meetings cannot achieve results alone so youth councillors do some work between meetings and communicate with other young people, professionals and councillors.
- Have the chance to socialise with other young people.
- Have fun as well as work hard.
- **Due to Covid-19 restrictions we have had to change the way we work. Our meetings are currently taking place virtually using Microsoft Teams, with regional and national events also online**

What are the benefits?

The role can be quite demanding and time consuming, but is very rewarding.

You will develop greater confidence, get to know other young people who have similar interests to you, gain an understanding of local government, meetings and business skills. You can also gain a nationally recognised accreditation if you would like to.

It is also a good way to meet new people and try new things plus there are fun activities and events too. This includes a residential in the summer holidays with the rest of the youth councillors from the area supported by Dudley Youth Service youth workers.

So the benefits include:

- Have increased knowledge of local authority and partnership workings.
- Enjoy rewarding residentials, away days and activities.
- Experience further opportunities from your involvement.

- Be able to include your experiences in applications/ interviews – what you have achieved/contributed.
- Develop new skills and a sense of business.

Will it cost me?

When travelling with youth workers any costs will be paid for you by Dudley Youth Service. Travel and other expenses which you may incur travelling to and from meetings on your own are paid. Receipts are needed so you can claim your money back.

I am interested, what do I do now?

- Firstly, talk it over at home, if under 16 – especially the commitment and travel.
- If you are still interested, inform your school, college or place of education as it will help if they support you in the process. Inform key people in your school or college that you are applying – it is important to let your Head of Year know as well as the Head/Principal or Deputy as the senior team can make a real difference!
- You will need to complete the application form then email it back to youthcouncil@dudley.gov.uk

Am I committed if I complete and send in the form?

No, on receipt of your form you will be contacted with further information about a day where you can find out more. This will give you more of an insight before you make a final decision about going forward and becoming a youth councillor.

If you have any other questions:

Call **01384 815174**

or email youthcouncil@dudley.gov.uk

Find out more about Dudley Youth Council on their Facebook page – **Dudley Youth Council** or through Twitter **@dycdudley**

What to do now:

- First discuss the role and commitment with parent(s)/ carer(s), if under 16
- Submit the application form by **Sunday 3rd January 2021**.

What happens next?

We will contact you in January to explain the next steps.

Thank you for your interest. We look forward to hearing from you.