



CORNWALL YOUTH COUNCIL COMMUNITY SEATS

INFORMATION PACK

Cornwall
YOUTH
Council

Thank you for your interest in supporting a Cornwall Youth Council Community Seat. We look forward to finding out more about you and your thoughts and ideas. Please find enclosed an information Pack, which hopefully covers all of the information you will need throughout your journey.

This Pack Includes:

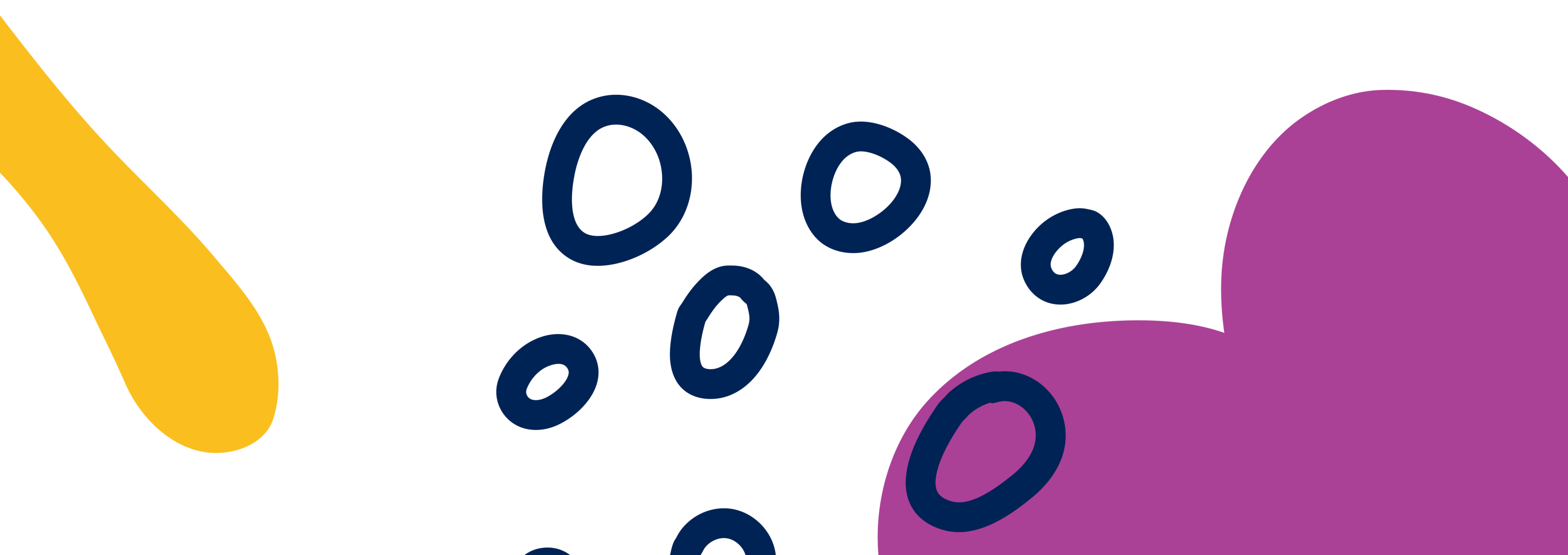
- Overview of Cornwall Youth Council
- Overview of Youth Council Community seats
- Quick guide about the process
- Membership options
- The Code of Conduct
- Further Help, Resources and Contacts

If you have any questions or would require any further information, please contact **Youthcouncil@cornwall.gov.uk**.

You will also receive an e-mail confirming the next steps. We look forward to working with you throughout this Campaign Period.

Kind Regards

Cornwall Council's Children's Rights Team and Cornwall Youth Council



CORNWALL YOUTH COUNCIL

Cornwall Youth Council is a group of young people, who reside within the boundaries of Cornwall and would like to advocate for a better future for them and other children and young people in Cornwall.

Cornwall Council supports this through providing dedicated workers. They work to ensure young people are given the opportunity to be heard and involved in the county.

Being a member of Cornwall Youth Council is exciting, challenging and rewarding. This is what our current members have said about being part of it...

"Being in the Youth Council has meant that more young people feel respected and taken seriously by being able to engage with decision makers"

"My first year as part of the Cornwall Youth Council had been a great experience because it has helped me to use techniques that I have learned from others who support me to communicate and contribute with confidence"

"Over the past year the Youth Council has helped me grow in so many ways. I have been involved in so many amazing opportunities, made new friends, grown in confidence and overall learnt so many new skills and things about myself"



COMMUNITY SEATS

One of the Youth Council's main aims is to work with and represent our minority communities to bring the voices of children and young people together. We have identified some underrepresented groups we would like to have representation of in Cornwall Youth Council. We appreciate that this will not be representative of all of the children and young people who live in Cornwall.

As a Youth Council, we have identified a number of groups we would like representation of on the Youth Council. If you do not feel represented on this list, please let us know.

- Representation from underrepresented ethnic groups
- Lived/living Experience of Physical disability or long term health condition
- Gypsy Roma and Traveller community
- Lived or living experience of being a Young Carer
- Care experienced ('Experience of care' is anyone with experience of being in children's social care at any point in their lives.)
- Not in education, employment or training (NEET)
- Separated children seeking Asylum/ Refugees
- Lived or living experience of being a Young Parent
- Lived or living experience of being a member of Cornwall's faith communities
- Lived or living experience of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- Forces experienced (e.g. have a family member in the Armed Forces or are a member of the Cadets)
- Lived or living experience of Cornwall's Farming Community
- Lived or living experience of Adoption
- Lived or living experience of homelessness or experience of insecure and unsafe housing
- Lived or living experience of LGBTQ+
- Current experience of being a student/pupil at a Secondary School
- Current experience of being a student/pupil at a College or University
- Lived or living experience of being home educated
- Lived or living experience of mental health condition

QUICK GUIDE TO THE PROCESS

If you are interested in representing a community seat you need to register your interest on our Lets Talk page

What happens next?

One of the Children's Rights team will be in contact to discuss the options and answer any questions.



You will be invited to a Youth Council workshop to meet with the wider group and see how it all works



If there are multiple people interested in one seat there will be a voting process to determine who will get the seat



Once the seat is filled, there will then be a process to build a network and identify how to best represent your group

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

There are a number of roles on Cornwall Youth Council that you can get involved with:

- **Community Seats** - As explained above
- **Associate members** - This a more flexible role that allows young people to stay involved and feed in but with less commitment and expectation
- **Peer Mentors** - Young people with knowledge or expertise that they can share with the group
- **Communications Team** - A group of young people who are working to create better connections between the Youth Council, Cornwall Council and the wider young people in Cornwall
- **Elected Members** - We have elected members who are elected every 2 years. The next round of Elections will be launched in Autumn 2025

The Youth Council has allowed me to meet new people who are passionate about making change.

CODE OF CONDUCT

All young people who want to be involved in a role with the Youth Council will be required to understand and follow this Code of Conduct.

Why we have a Code of Conduct? (Behaviour)

This code of conduct is there to make sure everyone who takes part in Cornwall Youth Council knows what is expected of them and feels safe, respected and valued.

We expect people who take part in our services to display appropriate behaviour. This includes behaviour that takes place outside our organisation and behaviour that takes place online.

This code of behaviour aims to:

- Identify acceptable and unacceptable behaviour
- Encourage cooperation, honesty, fairness and respect
- Create an environment where your self-esteem, self-respect and self-confidence will grow
- Encourage you to recognise and respect the rights of others
- Encourage you to take responsibility for your own behaviour
- Help resolve conflicts and make it clear what will happen if you decide not to follow the code
- Those who do not follow this may be asked to leave the Youth Council



HELP, INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

Thank you for supporting young people to take part in Youth Council elections. For any further information please contact us at **youthcouncil@cornwall.gov.uk** or please refer to the Lets Talk page: **Let's Talk Cornwall**



Please reach out if you need this information in any alternative formats.

More Information: Please find a range of resources and guidance at **<https://www.byc.org.uk/uk/uk-youth-parliament/elections>**

Please reach out if you need this information in any alternative formats.

