



# Yeovil Youth Council

# FAQs

## **Why consult young people?**

Young people are an important part of Yeovil, with views on lots of things which affect their lives. Often young people find it difficult to get their ideas listened to by adults who make decisions. We need to make sure that young people's opinions count.

## **Why have a youth council?**

A youth council is one of the ways that young people can make their voices heard in the right places. Yeovil Youth Council is listened to by people who need to know what young people think.

## **Who is it for?**

Yeovil Youth Council is made up of young people aged 12 to 19. Its members come from the Town's four secondary schools and Yeovil College. The Youth Council represents the views of young people within the Town.

## **What does it do?**

Yeovil Youth Council meets in the evening each month (except August and December) to talk about things that are important to young people. Meetings take place in the Council Chamber at the Town Council's Offices in Union Street, Yeovil. The views of the Youth Council are passed onto whichever organisation needs to hear them.

## **What's involved in being a member?**

You need to be interested in making a difference for young people in Yeovil. Youth Council members are elected for two years. You need to be able to come to an evening meeting each month in Yeovil, and be able to talk to or email other people between meetings.

The Youth Council occasionally goes away for a weekend of activities to practice working as a team. You will have to pay something towards these trips, but we subsidise much of the cost. From time to time, the Youth Council visits the Houses of Parliament - to see democracy at work.

Youth Council members are often asked to go to other meetings or talk to other people – you do this if and when you want to.

## **What do I get out of it?**

We want you to enjoy being part of Yeovil Youth Council. There are chances to socialise before and after meetings, go on weekends away and meet interesting people – adults and other young people.

You also have the chance to help organise events for young people. As well as having a laugh, you can develop skills in communication, teamwork and organisation, and learn about how things can be changed. For those interested in politics, it is a great opportunity, and it looks good on your CV!

## **How do I get elected?**

Youth Council elections take place in Yeovil College and Preston, Westfield, Buckler's Mead and the Park Schools. Once you decide to stand, you have to convince other people to vote for you. Formal elections are held and the people with the most votes get in. People who are considering standing for election have the chance to talk to people already involved with the Youth Council on a one-to-one basis.

## **Who organise and supports the Youth Council?**

Yeovil Town Council organises the Youth Council with the support of the Somerset County Youth Service. The Town Council is interested in the views of young people and wants those views to be heard. Each year, the Town Council makes a budget of £1,000 available to help fund the Youth Council and its activities.

The minutes of meetings of the Youth Council are included on the agenda of Town Council meetings. This ensures that their views and suggestions on matters which they consider are brought to the attention of Town Councillors.

Somerset County Youth Service works to support young people in many ways – youth councils are an important part of their work. South Somerset Youth Work Team is the local part of the County Youth Service.



**Yeovil Town Council**

