

Medway Youth Council: Constitution

1. Aims:

1. To represent all young people in Medway at local and national level.
2. To identify and make reference to the views held by the young people of Medway.
3. Seek to inform, with regards to young people's views, and influence decision makers and key figures at the appropriate level.
4. To inform the community of the progress made on the issues and concerns raised
 1. Informing young people through members feeding back to the people they represent, via social media and our quarterly newsletter.
 2. Informing via newsletters sent out to councillors, MPs and other key decision makers on a quarterly basis.

2. Objectives:

1. To provide a forum for debate.
 1. Make provisions so that all Full Youth Council meetings can have debates within them. An exemption of which depends upon whether Full Youth Council can determine a topic in which can be debated or if there is no time for debates.
2. To act as a consultancy for decision-makers on issues that affect young people.
3. To promote the qualities of young people and the contribution that they make to the community.
 1. All members of the youth council is responsible for promoting MYC.

3. Mission Statement:

1. To, understand, highlight, and represent the voice of young people in Medway.

4. What We Do:

1. To conduct research to inform MYC work, for the benefit of young people.
 1. All research conducted by any member (which is using the name of the Youth Council) will be approved by cabinet.
 2. It will be made compulsory for campaigns that will last the academic year to have research to back up and validate campaigns run by elected members.
2. To work in partnership with different organisations.
 1. All links with external organisations must be maintained and an open dialogue must always be made available via the Partnerships Director.
 2. All organisations, which approach MYC, will be evaluated the Partnerships Director - depending on the significance it can be put to Full Council for discussion.
3. To raise money for funds as required overseen by the Marketing and Finance Director.
4. To recruit volunteer members.
 1. The recruitment of members will be led by the duly elected cabinet members and representatives of schools.

5. Membership:

1. Membership shall be open to:
 1. Any young person between the ages of 10-19, who lives, works or studies in Medway.
 2. All young people according to our Equal Opportunities Mission Statement:
 1. Every member irrespective of, gender, race, culture, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, sex, and disability be it mental or physical.
 3. Members who abide by the MYC Code of Conduct.
2. Membership within schools/other youth groups cannot exceed the limit of 7 members per school/youth group.
3. If a member wishes to withdraw their membership, they should ensure that they contact the Youth Council Youth Worker, so that they are aware, and removed from communications.
4. Members that do not attend the Youth Council for three months are to have their membership removed from communications.
5. If a member leaves, or has had membership withdrawn, they are entitled to join again at any point in the future

6. Party Impartiality:

1. MYC do not support the views of any particular party.
2. If in the event meetings are arranged with councillors the meeting must consist of all parties that are in the council. An exemption of this is in the instance of a specific need to see one particular councillor. All meetings with councillors must be declared to the relevant cabinet members (Chair) or a youth worker.

7. MYC Cabinet:

1. The role and number of Cabinet members will be set at each MYC annual review meeting.
2. Cabinet members are elected annually by full youth council for a term of one year
 1. The term of office can be changed in accordance with absence.
3. Cabinet members who fail to turn up to two months' worth of meetings will have their said position up for election. If no appropriate reasoning has been given for absence and they still cannot attend then an interim cabinet member will be decided by cabinet.

8. Voting:

1. Every member has one vote, an exception to this is when an elected role requires a person to vote more than once.
2. All proposals must be given to the incumbent Chair.
3. All members' votes are equal, although in the event of a tie the Chair has the casting vote.
4. In the event of a failed election for chair, the Deputy Chair will assume control of the Youth Council until another election is called, working closely with cabinet.

9. Meetings:

1. Full MYC meetings will take place on Friday evenings with at least 10 meetings per year.

2. The Cabinet group will meet as close to two weeks before full MYC meetings to set the agenda.

1. Two thirds of the cabinet must be present in order to vote on matters that affect full parliament. In the instance that there is no majority, the Chairperson will make a final decision.

2. All cabinet members must if not in attendance send apologies.

3. Campaign chairs that form a campaign have to put it to the cabinet before they go ahead and act upon their campaigns. The cabinet must agree upon the campaign choice and once agreed the campaign will begin. This process will begin on the first cabinet meeting in the academic year. The cabinet should regularly raise questions surrounding the camping, and all campaigns must be closely monitored, to ensure that they are running successfully.

3. Meetings of smaller working groups will be organised as and when they are needed.

10. Finance:

1. All funding raised by, or on behalf of, MYC will be used to further the aims of the organisation.

1. All money being used must be approved by the cabinet.

2. MYC will maintain the bank account in its name.

3. One member of staff and one MYC member will be authorised signatories and at least two signatures will be needed for authorisation.

4. The accounts will be approved by members at the Annual Review.

12. Ending (dissolution) of MYC:

1. MYC may only be dissolved at a special meeting called for this purpose where the decision should be made. All members must be informed of this meeting at least one month in advance.

2. Any funders will be advised in writing of the dissolution

3. All members will be advised of the decision

4. Any assets (financial or otherwise) that are remaining after the payment of all debts will be passed on to a charitable organisation for young people as decided at the dissolution meeting

5. The bank account will be closed.

6. All decision makers and outside organisations shall be written to, and if appropriate a meeting will be held

Signed by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'George'. The letter 'G' is large and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke that extends to the right and loops back under the 'e'.

George Perfect
Chair of Medway Youth Council
July 2017

Review by August 2018