



CORNWALL YOUTH COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2026

INFORMATION AND RESOURCE PACK



YOUTH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

We are a group of young people age 11+ who live or go to school in Cornwall. We come together to share the views of children and young people so we can be heard by decision makers. Cornwall Youth Council has a range of roles including Elected Members, Members of Youth Parliament, Associate Members, Peer Mentors and the Comms Team.

In 2024 over 12,000 young people voted in the elections and this time we would like to get even more.

The work of the Youth Council supports the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 12: The right to be heard and taken seriously.

The elections also support the development of citizenship skills and support elements of the national curriculum, including the operation of government, particularly voting and elections and the electoral system used in the UK.

We are looking to elect 18 members, three for each MP constituency area.



HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT?

Our request is for all people who know, work with or support young people aged 11-18, to make them aware of the opportunity to both stand for election and take part in voting.

Registration to get involved

Candidates

Young people interested in the Youth Council can register to stand for election or to express interest in one of the wider roles through the [let's talk page](#).

Voting

All education settings that work with young people aged 11-18 are being invited to facilitate voting.

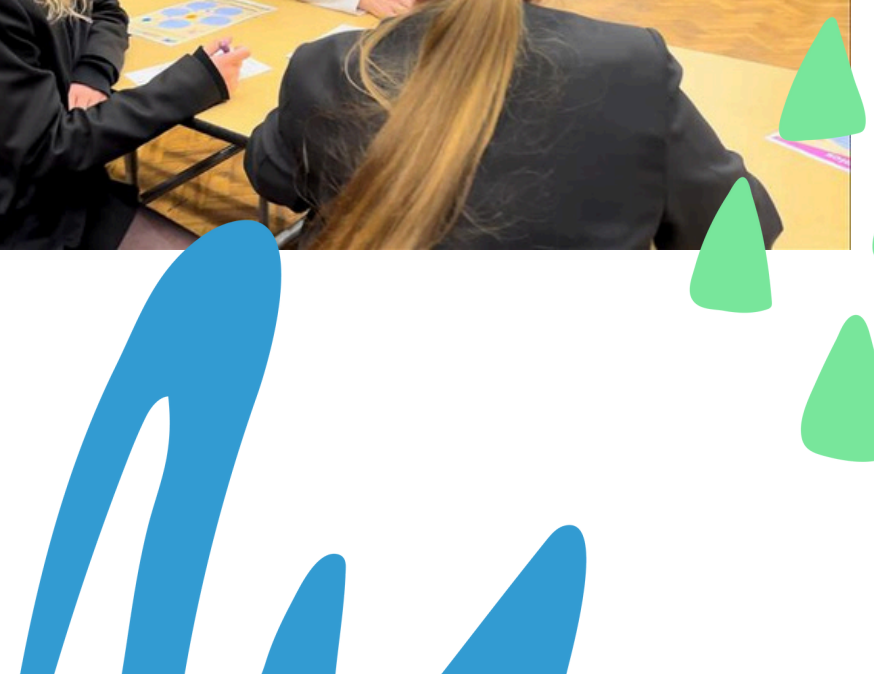
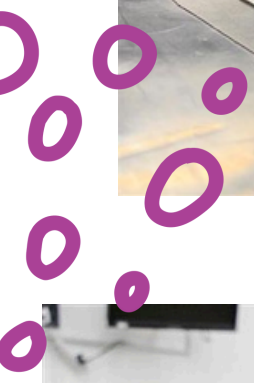
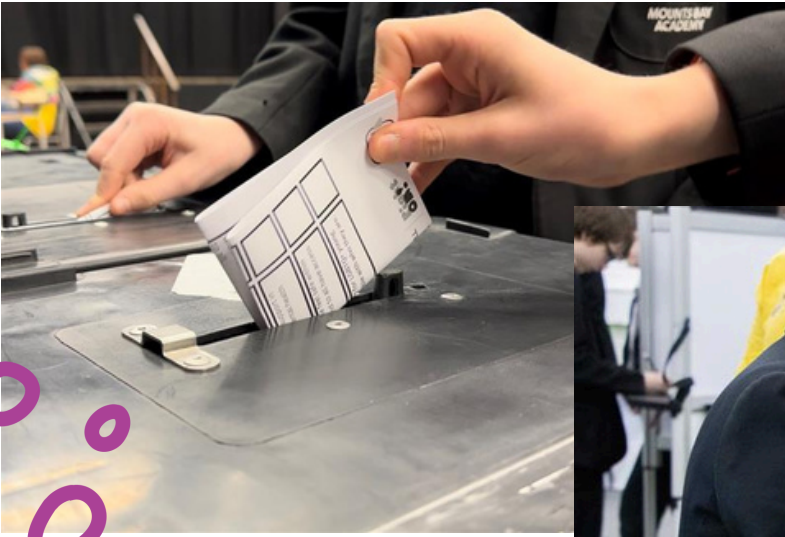
We will also offer voting through Family Hubs across Cornwall for those not in education or home educated young people.

We will be connecting through our partners who work with young people and can offer voting through youth groups where appropriate.

We are really happy to hear thoughts and feedback on how to collect votes outside of these settings to ensure the offer is fair and inclusive.

Validity

We are trying to balance the scales between ensuring we have an inclusive offer for voting, and reducing duplication of votes between settings. This is to ensure that the vote result is valid and a true reflection of what young people want and need from their Youth Council Reps.





CORNWALL YOUTH COUNCIL ELECTIONS KEY

DATES

OCTOBER

Cornwall Youth Council candidate and school registration opens

NOVEMBER

Candidate registration continues throughout and closes on 23rd November

DECEMBER

Candidate Workshop dates

Wednesday 3rd December (West - Kresen Kernow, Redruth)

Thursday 4th December (Mid - New County Hall, Truro)

Monday 8th December (East - Chy Trevail, Bodmin)

Wednesday 10th December (Online)

JANUARY

Campaign Promotion

FEBRUARY

Voting across education settings and youth settings

MARCH

9th March - Vote Counting

12th March - Results evening

21st March - Elected Member Induction

WHY YOUTH COUNCIL MATTERS

Cornwall Youth Council is a group of young people, who live or go to school in Cornwall and would like to advocate for a better future for them and other children and young people in Cornwall.

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

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”

“I have been on the Youth Council for over a year now and I have enjoyed meeting new people and being able to make a difference for people in Cornwall”

“I joined Cornwall Youth Council when it first started in April 2022. I always wanted to make a difference in my community and thought this would be the perfect way to do it. I have stayed on through the elections of new members in February 2024. During my time as a Youth Councillor I have had so many amazing opportunities, such as going on the radio and attending full council meetings. I have made so many friends on the Youth Council and found the whole experience really enjoyable”

“Youth council feels like a second family to me, everyone is so supportive and I am happy to be part of our community”



CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Please refer to the separate candidate info pack for full details. A brief overview of key points is provided below.

Registration

Young people interested in the Youth Council can register to stand for election or to express interest in one of the wider roles through the [Let's Talk page](#).

Anonymous elections

We run anonymous elections to support a fair and inclusive process.

We ask that any settings with candidates support them to remain anonymous as they can be disqualified if they share their manifesto with their peers.

Election timeline for candidates



Who can stand for elections

Anyone aged 11-18 who:

- Lives in Cornwall
- Attends education in Cornwall

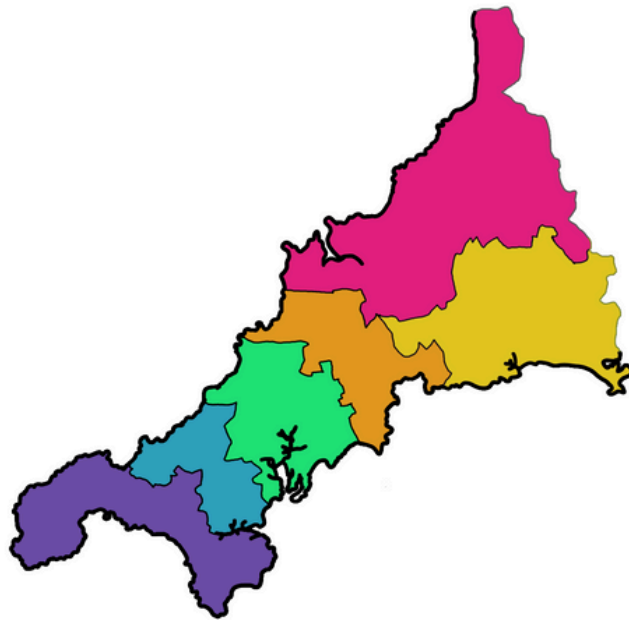
FAQS

WHAT ARE YOUTH COUNCIL ELECTIONS?

Cornwall Youth Council has been on a journey to improve representation and inclusivity. In March 2024 the Youth Council transitioned to an elected model with wider supported roles. The current model is that there would be 18 elected members on the Youth Council. This will consist of three young people from six areas across Cornwall.

HOW WERE THE SIX AREAS DECIDED?

The decision by the group was to use the six areas used by UK Parliament for Members of Parliament in Cornwall. These are subject to potential change but please see a guide below.



HOW DOES A YOUNG PERSON STAND FOR ELECTION?

Head over to the Youth Council [Let's Talk Cornwall](#) page to register as a candidate. There is a full candidate pack on the page. An overview is below:

- Candidate registration is open until the 23rd November
- Young people will receive an e-mail with pre-workshop information
- There will be candidate workshops the w/c 1st December and w/c 8th December to develop targeted goals
- Goals will be shared anonymously throughout January
- Voting will take place 2nd February - 27th February

FAQS

WHAT IF YOUNG PEOPLE DON'T WANT TO BE ELECTED BUT STILL WANT TO BE INVOLVED?

There are a range of roles that will be available from March 2026 listed below. There will be a Registration of Interest on the [Let's Talk Cornwall](#) page for more information.

- **Associate member** – This role is for people non elected members who need a more casual or flexible role.
- **Peer Mentor** – This role is for young people who would like to support and develop the wider members
- **Communications team** – We have a group of young people who are creating different content to share the voice of children and young people. This includes, social media content. Have a look at the Cornwall Council Instagram to see examples of this.

WHAT IF YOUNG PEOPLE STAND FOR ELECTION BUT ARE NOT SUCCESSFUL?

Don't worry, they will be offered an opportunity to be involved with the Youth Council in one of the other roles listed above.



HELP, INFORMATION AND CONTACTS



For any further information please contact us at youthcouncil@cornwall.gov.uk or please refer to the Let's Talk page: [Let's Talk Cornwall](#)

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

GLOSSARY

Candidate - A candidate is someone who is standing for election to be a Member of Youth Council .

Election - An election is a process in which people vote to choose a person or group of people to represent their interests.

Constituency - A constituency is the name for the geographical area a Member of Youth Council represents.

Constituent - Within UK Youth Parliament, a constituent is someone who lives, attends education or works (14 hours or more) in your constituency. In an election, constituents vote for the candidate they would like to be their representative and once elected, a Member of Youth Council or Parliament represents the views of their constituents.

Non-party political - Non-party political means that a person, group or organisation is not connected to any political party. Cornwall Youth Council is a non-party political organisation.

Campaign - A campaign is a planned set of activities that people carry out over a period of time in order to bring attention to an issue, and achieve something such as social or political change.

Policy - A policy is a set of ideas or plans that is used as a basis for making decisions, especially in politics, economics or business.

Manifesto/Goal - A manifesto is a public statement of policy, aims or priorities that can be issued before an election by candidates. Manifestos highlight what the candidate will focus on if elected and help constituents to decide who to vote for.

Represent - As Member of Youth Council you will ensure that the work you do reflects the needs of the young people in your area. You are representing the voice of young people in that area, not just your own.