



THE ABERDEEN CITY YOUTH COUNCIL

FRESHERS PACK



ABERDEEN
CITY COUNCIL

www.acyc.info

CHARITABLE NO: SC 031188

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Introduction

Welcome to the Aberdeen City Youth Council Fresher Pack

This Fresher Pack is designed to inform young people about their cities Official Voice for young people in Aberdeen.

There are many ways young people can have a say in how their city is run either through their youth club, community council, centre, MSP, Elected Member or starting up a group of your own.

The Youth Council is the 'official' voice for young people because it has an agreed position within Aberdeen City Councils Community Planning Partnership.

What is ACYC?

- The ACYC is a voice for all children and young people in Aberdeen aged (12-25)
- The Youth Council membership is represented by 14-25 year olds
- To attend the Youth Council meetings you don't have to be a member as all the monthly meetings are public meetings for 14-25 year olds
- A youth organisation- by the young people for the young people
- Bringing a Youth Voice to local Council Officials
- Involving children and young people in the decision making process
- Upholding the UNCRC



Convention on the Rights of the Child

THE ABERDEEN CITY YOUTH COUNCIL WILL HELP ENSURE THAT THE UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD IS UPHELD LOCALLY. THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES ARE PRIORITIES FOR THE YOUTH COUNCIL;

ENTRY INTO FORCE 2 SEPTEMBER 1990;

Article 12

1. States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.
2. For this purpose, the child shall in particular be provided the opportunity to be heard in any judicial and administrative proceedings affecting the child, either directly, or through a representative or an appropriate body, in a manner consistent with the procedural rules of national law.

Article 15

1. States Parties recognize the rights of the child to freedom of association and to freedom of peaceful assembly.
2. No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of these

rights other than those imposed in conformity with the law and which are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, public order (order public), the protection of public health or morals or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

Article 31

1. States Parties recognize the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.
2. States Parties shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.

Article 42

States Parties undertake to make the principles and provisions of the Convention widely known, by appropriate and active means, to adults and children alike.
(Ref; <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/crc.htm>)

More details on the <http://www.sccyp.org.uk>

What ACYC does

Campaign, petitions, debates

Work with third party organisations

Empowering young people

Transition Extreme
BYC
Schools

Dialogue Youth
UKYP
Youth Clubs

SYP
Triple A
Young Scot

What has ACYC DONE?

- Taken part in the 5 year business plan consultations
- Represented the city in responding to Scottish Government consultations
- Workshop awareness (Autism)
- Given £200,000 to help youth organisations
- Lowered the membership age on Community Councils to 16
- Helped develop the learning strategy
- GRADE A Peer Education Project in Partnership with Drugs Action
- Peer Education Project
- Increased representation of young people on Civic Bodies; Civic Forum, Licensing Forum, Womens Alliance, Community Councils, councils and Aberdeen Drugs Partnership
- Increased awareness of the European Elections and the General election amongst 14 -25 year olds
- Chaired and organised the new Student Forum consultations for schools
- Developed Press and media contacts
- Consulted with 1000's of young people over the years
- Established representation on the Disability Advisory Group
- Lead the Hear My Voice Consultation and hosted the Childrens Commissioners Right Blether Consultation
- Became a signatory on Aberdeens' Childrens Plan

Advantages of joining

Increased involvement in local and national issues

Improved Communication and
decision making skills

Gain valuable experience of meetings

Increased knowledge of decision making structures

Increased knowledge and access to opportunities

Building on your CV

Meet new people

and Qualifications . . .

Youth Achievement awards, Dynamic Youth Awards, Millenium Awards

Job Descriptions

Please note there is no hierarchy in the Youth Council only responsibilities!

Chair and Vice Chair

- Chair meetings
- Help with agenda
- Sends out agenda and minutes
- Organise meetings

Treasurer

- Check Budget
- Work with staff to secure funding

Press Officer

- Help promote the YC and other youth organisations, projects, campaigns to the public
- Understanding of youth audience
- Creative Flair
- Improve communication

YC Members

- Attend meetings
- Represent youth
- Follow code of conduct
- Have an interest and passion concerning youth issues

SYP Members

- Attend YC meetings
- Attend National Sittings 3-4 times per year
- Attend SYP planning meetings before each residential Sitting
- Consult with your local constituents regularly
- Be proactive on youth related issues
- Work as a team with other SYP and YC members

What is the the Scottish Youth Parliament www.syp.org.uk

The SYP represents Scotland's young people and our vision is of a stronger, more inclusive Scotland that empowers young people by truly involving them in the decision making process.

The SYP promotes the following values;

Democracy **Inclusion** **Political Independence** **Passion**

What has the SYP done?

The SYP has consulted with young people from across Scotland and represented these results to the relevant bodies

- The Schools Consultation Scotland Bill- Scottish Parliament Education Committee
- Tobacco and Primary Medical Services (Scotland) Bill-Scottish Parliament Health Committee
- Supporting a Smarter Scotland – Scottish Government
- A National Conversation- Scottish Government
- Draft Housing (Scotland) Bill 2009-10 Scottish Government.
- Equality Bill-UK Parliament Public Bill Committee
- The Debt arrangement Scheme-Improving Access-Scottish Government
- Public Petitions – National Volunteering Policy- Scottish Parliament European and External Affairs Committee
- Met with the Scottish Parliament Public Petitions Committee and submitted petitions on banning Mosquito devices and introducing compulsory political education in schools.

Aberdeen City Youth Council membership form.

Full Name:

Date of Birth:

Address:

Post Code:

Home telephone:

Mobile:

Email:

Name of organisation:

(Scouts, school name, youth project, independent etc...)

Contact for local support: (Teacher, social worker, youth worker, community worker, mentor etc...)

Please give a brief summary of the reasons for joining the Youth Council and skills you can bring:

I have read and signed a copy of the code of conduct please tick

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With special thanks to the Fresher Pack creators at the Abernethy Training residential 2010

Sean Press
Barry Black
Barry Thompson
Kerry Watt
Kayleigh Kilpatrick
Hannah McKay
Josh McKay
Dean Leith
Marie Fraser
Natasha Hardie
Daniel Robertson
Hannah Bettsworth

The fresher pack will be updated annually as agreed by the Youth Council

Please use the following contact for YC + Scottish Youth Parliament member support

Hamish Cattanach
(Youth Participation Officer)

Education Culture and Sport
Aberdeen City Council, 5th Floor, St Nicholas House,
Broad Street, Aberdeen.
AB10 1GZ

T 01224 523410

M 07801 792570 /

E youthaction@aberdeencity.gov.uk



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<http://theacycchair.yolasite.com>