

How to get more young people to become Community Council members



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It is difficult for many Community Councils to get young people involved and to become members.

Young people aged over 16 can become full Community Councillors, with full voting rights.



Community Councils can also allow young people under 16 to become associate members without a vote.



This should be done by working with local schools to make sure child protection guidance is followed and young people are safe.



The United Nations is an organisation that works with countries to keep peace and security across the world.



Article 12 in the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) says that young people should have the right to say what they think.



There is more information online here:
<https://www.cypcs.org.uk/rights/uncrc/articles/article-12/>



The Scottish Parliament wants to find a way to put the UNCRC into Scots law.

Organisations that can help Community Councils



There are organisations in Scotland that can give help and guidance to Community Councils who want to:

- get more young people involved
- contact local schools and the local council

These organisations are:

Youth Scotland:

<https://www.youthscotland.org.uk/>



Youthlink Scotland:

<https://www.youthlink.scot/>

Scottish Youth Parliament:

<https://syp.org.uk/get-involved/join-us/>

Young Scot: <https://young.scot/>



Children and Young People's
Commissioner Scotland:
<https://www.cypcs.org.uk/>

Children's Parliament:
<https://www.childrensparliament.org.uk/>

Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights:
<https://www.togetherscotland.org.uk/>

How Community Councils can tell young people about their elections



Community Councils can tell young people about their elections at:

- youth groups and forums
- pupil councils
- student associations



All these groups could have young people who may be interested in getting involved in local **democracy**.

Democracy means everyone can take part in making decisions by voting.



Young people learn about **active citizenship** at school and this should be linked to the Community Council election process.

Active citizenship means getting involved in your local community.



Community Councils need to think about how they will find out what young people think and represent their views.

Community Councils can also work with the local council and other organisations that have contact with young people to find out what they think.

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