

Youth Cabinet

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What is the youth cabinet?

Slough Children & Young People's Cabinet was established in 2007 to give young people aged 11-19 a voice and ensure their meaningful participation in council decision making processes. The Cabinet is made up of young people who live or attend school in Slough and are passionate about making positive changes for children and young people across the borough.

Members of the cabinet work together to ensure that the views and opinions of ALL young people in Slough are represented throughout their time as a member of the cabinet and to make sure that the cabinet is actively promoted amongst children and young people in Slough.

Being a member of the cabinet means that you will work closely with councillors, directors and other members of staff who work for Slough Borough Council. This means that you will be in direct contact with those responsible for young people's services to ensure that young people's voices are heard when decisions are being made about issues that affect their lives and the services they access.

Slough's Youth Cabinet is an established and well respected decision making group which provides members with a fun and rewarding experience!

Who can apply for a place on the youth cabinet?

Young people who are aged between 11 and 19 years old that live in Slough or attend education in Slough can apply for a place.

Young people need to apply via their school or youth group. It is always worth contacting the Participation Development Officer (details below) to check there are available places on the cabinet.

What does the role of a youth cabinet member involve?

Some of the main responsibilities that come with being a member of the Children & Young People's Cabinet include:

- Attending formal cabinet meetings and representing the views of all young people
- Bringing issues to the cabinet on behalf of your fellow peers, friends & young people
- Deciding who you would like to come along as a guest speaker at your meetings
- Working towards improved services for children & young people in Slough

- Participate in cabinet related activities such as sub-group meetings, team building sessions, training workshops and other related meetings
- Participating in consultations about services & activities for young people
- Being passionate and committed to addressing issues concerning young people in Slough
- Organising & co-ordinating projects that reflect the issues & priorities identified by Slough's children & young people
- Assisting in the monitoring & reviewing of Slough's Children & Young People's Plan
- Promoting a more positive image of children and young people in Slough
- Committing approximately 2 - 4 non school hours a month
- Taking your role & responsibilities seriously

What skills and qualities do Youth Cabinet members need?

Below is a list of some of the skills and qualities you will need to have as a youth councillor:

- Good communication skills.
- Ability to work as a team player.
- Time and willingness to commit to Youth Cabinet monthly meetings and any other meetings, workshops or training sessions related to being a member of the Cabinet.
- Ability to give constructive feedback to adults when being consulted about services and activities for children and young people.
- Ability to think and act on behalf of young people in Slough.
- Understanding that making changes takes time.
- Ability to be inclusive and not to discriminate against anyone.
- Be willing to participate and have fun.

This list is not exclusive and being a member of the cabinet will enable you to learn many new skills, whilst developing existing ones at the same time.

Making an application

Before completing an application form please remember:

- It is very important that you share this information with your parents/carers and discuss the role of a Youth Cabinet member as you will be involved in meetings and activities that will take place after school and during the school holiday times. Your parent/carer will need to sign your application form.
- If your application is successful and you become a member of Slough's Youth Cabinet, as well as representing all young people in Slough, you will also be representing the school and/or youth group that you attend. Therefore, you will need an adult from either your school and/or youth group who will support you in your role. They will need to provide their name and contact number on your application form.

From 23rd January to 3rd February 2012 young people can:

- Download an application form from Slough's Children's Partnership Board website: www.sloughchildrenstrust.org.uk
- Request an application form by:
 - Completing the 'contact us' form on the Children's Partnership Board website
 - Emailing youthcabinet@slough.gov.uk
 - Calling 01753 477333

For further information please contact Sharon Stephenson, Participation Development Officer on 01753 477333 or email youthcabinet@slough.gov.uk