

Selecting Young People

The selection of young people for the Local Councillor Shadowing Programme is the most important element of the scheme.

Following the pilot phase of the programme, we found that the selection of young people often determined how committed a young person would be to the initiative and crucially how successfully a shadowing experience went.

Ultimately, the selection of young people by your council will be decided by what size it is. For Unitary and County councils for example, structures and services will already be in place for you to source suitable young people with relative ease. Smaller councils such as those at District level or below may have a more challenging time selecting young people but we have developed guidance and tools to assist you with this.

Selection of the young people

The Youth of Today initiatives are targeted towards those young people aged 13-19 who are:

- **under-represented in leadership provision**, in that they have not, for any reason, already had an opportunity to access an appropriate leadership opportunity or to progress in the field of leadership;

AND/OR are

- **disadvantaged** in that they:
 - live in a geographical area of disadvantage as defined by the English Indices of Deprivation 2007¹;
 - belong to a group which has experienced disadvantage or discrimination; or are disadvantaged on an individual level due to learning/behavioural difficulties; family circumstances; poor health or disability; or through involvement in crime.

Here are just some examples of groups and individuals who are often disengaged from leadership provision and therefore could be considered key target groups:

- Young parents
- Traveler children and young people
- Young refugees and asylum seekers
- LGBT children and young people
- Young offenders and children and young people at risk of offending
- Children and young people living in rural areas
- Those not in education, employment or training (NEET)
- Children and young people with disabilities or learning disabilities

The following groups are also underrepresented as councillors within local government and therefore considered target groups for the programme:

¹ Available at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/indicesdeprivation07>

- Females - Only 30.8 per cent were female
- Black and Ethnic minorities - Only 3.4 per cent came from a black or ethnic minority background

(<http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelId=9308387>)

We are also looking to engage young people who:

- **Consider themselves to face a particular challenge(s), i.e. :**

Problems with numbers/maths	Problems with reading/writing
Mental Health issues	Problems in my relationships with my family/friends/partners
Workless household	Drug issues
Alcohol issues	Other (please specify)

- **They live in an area of deprivation according to their postcode - Please contact us if you need help with this or go to <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadHome.do;jessionid=ac1f930d30d6d60b7d8722484ee98e72cbac54269d85?m=0&s=1248169819734&enc=1&nsjs=true&nsck=true&nssvg=false&nswid=1259> to determine what extent the overall deprivation level is judged.**

How will this be assessed

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has tasked the British Youth Council to ensure that all of the young people that participate in the programme are underrepresented and/or disadvantaged. Each young person who undertakes this scheme must be able to indicate that they consider themselves either part of or one of the groups above or are facing one of those challenges.

To determine whether a young person belongs to either of these groups, please refer to the equal opportunities monitoring form which applicants will be required to fill out before embarking on the programme.

If an applicant does not conform to any of the above, they will be unable to participate in the programme and the £120 bursary will not cover them.

Selection

Whatever level of local government you are at, you will have a variety of services working in your local area helping to support young people although they may not be directly working with your council. This doesn't prevent you accessing them to engage the target groups that this scheme is for.

The following is a list of services that you may want to contact to tell them about the scheme. We have provided you with template letters to care services, schools and youth



organisations respectively to make this as easy as possible – please see Attachments 1, 2 & 3.

- **Children with Disabilities;**
 - Day Care
 - Home Care
 - Occupational Therapy
 - Physiotherapy
 - Sensory Impairment
 - Short-break care V4
 - Specialised diagnosis and assessment
 - Speech and Language Therapy
 - Supported leisure activities and trips
 - Transitions to adult life
- **Teenage Pregnancy and Sexual Health;**
 - Mother and child services
 - Parenting support/programmes for parents of young people most at risk of early pregnancy
 - Peer mentoring programmes
 - Services for young parents (including back to school/into work)
 - Sexual health advice, counselling and intervention for young people most at risk of early pregnancy
 - Teenage pregnancy services
- **Independent Living, Employment and Transitions**
 - Connexions
 - Assistance to care leavers
 - Entry to employment services
 - Equality and diversity (services which promote inclusion and deal with issues of equality and discrimination affecting; young people in relation to gender, race, disability and sexuality);
 - Information, Advice and Guidance
 - Supported lodgings
 - Targeted youth work
 - Tenancy support
 - Transition to adult life services
- **Special Educational Need;**
 - Educational psychology
 - Educational welfare
 - Specific learning disabilities
- **Alternative Educational Provision;**
 - Pupil referral units
 - Behaviour improvement and educational provision for children with emotional and behavioural difficulties
 - Home tuition for disabled or excluded children
 - Special provision for asylum seeking children
 - Special provision for particular groups such as **traveler children**
- **Youth Justice**
 - Early intervention programmes
 - Preventive work with children at risk of offending
 - Restorative justice
 - Youth Offending Team
 - Youth Inclusion and Support Panels

- **Young Carers**
 - Advocacy and advice
 - Befriending service
 - Family support and home care
 - Supported social and leisure activities.
- **Schools**
 - Headteachers
 - Teacher with responsibility for inclusion
 - Special educational needs

Other services to contact

- **Local Voluntary Youth Networks or Councils for Voluntary Youth Services (CVYSS)** as they are more commonly called, are the voice of youth organisations at ground level. They are co-ordinating bodies for voluntary youth organisations locally and will be able to help you access local projects that are engaged with the target audiences for this programme.
- **Race Equality Councils** - The range of services provided by individual RECs varies, but all will be able to provide local organisation to contact and key people within the community.

Selection Materials

To assist you with the selection of young people we have enclosed the following:

- **Schools Letter** which you can send to local secondary schools and colleges in the area inviting students to get involved
- **Youth Organisations Letter** which you can send to local youth clubs/ youth councils etc... inviting young people to get involved
- **Care Provision Letter** which you can send to the local youth/ children's and other relevant service provision inviting staff to nominate or select young people they feel may benefit most from this opportunity
- **Poster Template** which you can add your own contact details to and request to have displayed in corridors/ common rooms