

East Dorset Youth Council

Constitution

1. Purpose

The purpose of the East Dorset Youth Council (hereafter referred to as EDYC) is to be a voice for the young people of East Dorset and increase young people's awareness and influence over issues, which concern their lives.

2. Aims

- 2.1 EDYC aims to be a two way link between the young people of East Dorset and East Dorset District Council, and other appropriate authorities and organisations.

Specifically:

- 2.1a To provide the East Dorset District Council and other appropriate authorities with the views of young people, both in relation to matters of concern and to Council initiatives.
- 2.1b To receive and consider information from all departments of the District Council on issues of significance to young people, for consultation and comment.
- 2.1c East Dorset District Council may raise matters for EDYC committees to consider.
- 2.2 EDYC will keep its members informed of its actions and decisions.
- 2.3 EDYC may work with other bodies representing young people.
- 2.4 EDYC shall work to represent every young person in Dorset.

3 Membership

- 3.1 EDYC will have 2 representatives from each Parish or Town Council area. The elected representatives will hold voting rights for their area for a period of 3 years.
Young people attending as a representative of another group or as an individual will be welcome to contribute to the meetings.

- 3.2 Members of EDYC must be aged between 11 and 25 inclusive.
- 3.3 EDYC may agree to co-opt representatives of County, District and/or Parish Councils as non-voting members for a period or purpose agreed by EDYC.

4 Meetings

- 4.1 EDYC will meet at least 6 times a year, EDYC may meet more frequently if members may deem this necessary

- 4.2 The agenda for the meetings of EDYC will be circulated at least two weeks in advance of each meeting. Agendas and notes of the meetings will be distributed to all members and to all member organisations of EDYC.

5. Powers

- 5.1 EDYC shall have powers to carry out lawful activities in order to achieve the aims of the organisation.
- 5.2 EDYC has the power to delegate duties to committees as it sees fit and may, at any time, dissolve or change the membership of any of its working groups or committees. Such members shall not automatically hold office beyond the next Annual General Meeting.
- 5.3 EDYC has the power to raise funds from external sources in the form of grants, donations, legacies and subscriptions, provided EDYC does not undertake any permanent trading activities in raising funds.

6. Officers of the Youth Council

- 6.1 EDYC will have 5 executive officers, a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Finance Officer and Communications Officer. Officers will be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting by the young people of East Dorset and will hold office until their successor is elected, or such other time determined by EDYC
- 6.2 The Officers will work with representatives of East Dorset District Council and Dorset County Youth Service.
- 6.3 The Officers will meet whenever deemed necessary by the EDYC to plan or discuss the work of the EDYC
- 6.4 Officers should attend all EDYC meetings. If an officer consistently misses meetings then they shall be asked by the Officers group to consider their commitment and possibly to resign from their position.

7. Finance

- 7.1 Financial reports will be on the agenda of meetings every quarter and will be included with the minutes of that meeting.
- 7.2
 - a) An independent honorary auditor shall be appointed annually
 - b) Audited accounts shall be circulated prior to each Annual General Meeting and be considered for adoption at that meeting.
- 7.3 The financial year for EDYC shall be 1 April to 31 March each year.
- 7.4 EDYC funds shall be held in a bank account suitable for the Youth Council. All income shall be recorded and banked as received. Payments from EDYC funds shall normally be made by cheque. Cheque payments shall be authorised by any two of the Officers Group.

8 Equal Opportunities

- 8.1 The EDYC encourages cross-community representation and does not discriminate on the grounds of sex, religion, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status, medical condition, social behavior or sexual orientation.
- 8.2 The EDYC promotes a diverse representation of young people from East Dorset to ensure a good working relationship.
- 8.3 We will ensure that all EDYC support workers and councillors are aware of this policy and all members of the EDYC will uphold the implementation of this policy.
- 8.4 All EDYC members have and are encouraged to have an equal say during all discussions in meetings and consultations with outside organisations.

9 Constitution

- 9.1 This constitution may only be altered at the Annual General Meeting of EDYC or at a special meeting convened for that purpose, providing that at least twenty one days notice of the proposed alteration(s) or amendment(s) have been given to members EDYC. Any proposed alteration(s) or amendment(s) will require the approval and at least three quarters of people attending the meeting.

10 Dissolution

- 10.1 In the event of a decision being taken to dissolve EDYC, any funds remaining after the payment of any approved debts shall be transferred to a similar countywide organisation and/or local youth councils or forums which have similar aims to EDYC.