

Annex 1

Role description for the ‘Children and Young Peoples Champion’

Any elected members putting themselves forward for the role must be passionate about working on behalf of children and young people in the City.

The role of the Children and Young People’s Champion’ must be filled by an Elected Member who is not a member of the Executive or Shadow Executive.

It is important that the role **must not** be used in a party political sense.

Members who put themselves forward for the role will be subject to a selection process involving children and young people.

The position is subject to receipt of enhanced Criminal Records Bureau clearance.

Advocating

The Children and young people’s Champion will:

- Act as a figurehead to promote children and young people’s view on issues that concern them within the City of York.
- Represent children and young people’s views and ideas, identify their concerns and raise awareness about their opinions and successes at appropriate strategic decision making bodies within the City and seek to address these.
- Liaise with the Young People’s Working Group and relevant organisations within the City Council and in order to have an overview of all involvement work that is taking place and the messages and required actions that are emerging.
- Actively listen to the desires of children and young people who want to play an active role in life in York.
- Work in accordance with good practice around involvement and participation workout set out in the Yor-OK Involvement strategy.
- Work with elected members to support them in engaging with the children and young people they represent and be responsive to their needs.

Promotion

- The Children and Young People’s Champion should seek to promote a positive image of children and young people within the city.
- The Children and Young People’s Champion should ensure that Elected Members are given the opportunity to regularly meet children and young people in schools and other community settings.
- Promote a range of ‘informal’ events and opportunities for children and young people to share their views and ideas, including using information technology, such as websites.
- Raise awareness of mechanisms such as Ward Committees and Parish Councils to children and young people that encourage consultation.
- To work alongside Officers to raise awareness about facilities, provision, services and events run or supported by the Council, which enable children and young people to participate fully and make the most of living in the City.

The Young Persons Working Group (YPWG) will support the Children and Young People’s Champion.

Role of the YPWG should focus on:

- Ensuring there are appropriate systems for Children and Young People's participation and involvement in place across the council (using the Hear By Right Standards as a guide). This would include: maintaining an overview of involvement work across the council and maintaining an overview of the use of monies that are subject to children and young people's recommendations.
- Seeking children and young people's views on particular issues (e.g. those on the forward plan for EMAP) and making representations about how these may be reflected in policy.
- Driving forward issues raised by children and young people through this process and ensuring accountability results from involvement and consultation work
- Receiving and making recommendations about the programme of activity proposed by the Children and Young People's Champion, to provide support to the Champion and ensure that action taken is relevant to the policy agenda set out in the Children and Young People's Plan.