

Local Youth Commissioner's – Conference Call Notes

Hosted by Hannah Kentish, UK Youth Commissioner - 14th May 2015.

Hannah welcomed everyone to call and explained the format of call would be to give people an overview of the journey so far, talk through the key elements of the role, discuss the next steps in this area, what support will be available and then take questions.

Overview:

- Since the creation of the UK Youth Commissioner role, there has been a large demand for locally similar roles to be created.
- Strong feedback was received at the YouShape event that Local Youth Commissioner roles should be created.
- The feedback from YouShape included;
 - 96% of attendees felt the role of the Nominated Youth Representative should be incorporated into the role of a County/Area Youth Commissioner.
 - The most important duties of Local Youth Commissioners were
 - 38% meeting young people at groups and encouraging youth shaped scouting in the programme.
 - 21% working directly with the local Commissioner to ensure strategic decisions are youth shaped.
- We didn't want to wait months and months to launch these roles therefore we decided to launch the new roles and continue to evolve and develop the role over the coming years.
- It was stressed that if local areas aren't ready to introduce Local Youth Commissioners yet, then that is absolutely ok, no one is expected to implement anything until they are comfortable and ready

Key elements:

- District Youth Commissioners:
 - A real focus on supporting and championing Groups/Sections to provide youth involvement / participation opportunities for all members to shape their Scouting Programme.
 - The role is split into four distinct Sections:
 - Supporting youth shaped Scouting within the Programme
 - Developing young people
 - Embedding young people in local decision making
 - Wider engagement
- County/Area Youth Commissioners:
 - Less of a focus on local Group/Section support more of a focus on working with District Youth Commissioners and providing joined up opportunities within the County/Area.
- Youth Forums can and should be flexible to meet the needs of the local demand, both in terms of structure, format, membership, reporting. The Local Youth Commissioner doesn't necessarily Chair them, unless circumstances require them to their role is to incorporate and strengthen local youth forums, and to be the link to the local Executive Committee.

Next steps:

- Include Local Youth Commissioner in POR
- Consider making Local Youth Commissioners ex-officio members of the local Executive Committees.
- Consider how the role of Nominated Youth Representative works in relation to the County/Area Youth Commissioners.

Support for Local Youth Commissioners:

- Until Compass is restored we appreciate its difficult to record new appointments, so please email youth.shape@scouts.org.uk with details of all appointments of Local Youth Commissioners so we can add them to Compass and communicate with them.

- There is a dedicated webpage that we will continue to update with information and support for the role.
www.scouts.org.uk/localyouthcommissioner
- There will be webinars and training events for Local Youth Commissioners.
- Topics that will be worked on in the future ; Forums, Giving Speeches/Presentations and encouraging young people to shape their programme.

Note: There were then a number of questions asked and answered, these have been included in the Q&A document on the Local Youth Commissioners webpage.