

Electoral Commission Information Sheet

For children and young people

? What is the project about?

Children in Scotland have teamed up with The Electoral Commission, an independent body who oversee elections in the UK to set up a Youth Voice Network from 2023-2026 in Scotland.

We are looking for young people aged 12-18 who want to work together to help increase other young people's knowledge and understanding of democracy, voting and how young people can have their voices heard. There will also be the chance to collaborate with the other groups of young people that have been set up in the UK nations – Northern Ireland, Wales and England.

You do not need any prior knowledge or experience – just enthusiasm to come along and share your views!

Apply by 5pm
on Friday
19 September



? Who are Children in Scotland?

Children in Scotland is a Scottish charity working to improve children's lives. We believe it is important to listen to children and young people about issues that affect them. We work to make sure that children's voices are heard by people who make decisions about their lives.

Staff from Children in Scotland will manage the project and will be able to offer any support and guidance you need. You will work with:

Parisa Shirazi

"I love reading and patting dogs"



David Yule

"I like eating and spending time with friends"



? What will it involve?

You will be part of a group of young people aged 12-18 working with Parisa and David. The group will meet approximately ten times a year (both online and in-person) where we will work together to create new ideas that raise awareness of democracy and voting for young people in Scotland.

You will get a chance to provide feedback to the Electoral Commission on their new campaigns and reports and create resources to support young people's voter registration in the run up to the Scottish Parliament election in 2026!

As a member of the group, you'll gain experience in teamwork, sharing your views on important issues and creating new ideas.

? Why should I get involved?

This is a fun and interesting project to be involved in and you will get the chance to meet new people, learn new skills and share your thoughts and views on the matter to help engage more children and young people in the voting process.

If you are 12 years or older, you can also register the hours you work on the projects to gain **Saltire Awards** for volunteering.

Current members of the group have said:

"It's not just talking about voting and democracy – it's good fun too!"

"I didn't expect to make new friends so fast. I got to meet lots of new people I liked"

"It's such a causal and relaxed group. I wouldn't be nervous about joining"

? What if I want to stop taking part?

Participation is completely voluntary and it's okay if you want to stop being involved at any point.

? How do I get involved?

You can find out more information or register your interest in joining the group by using the application form or sending an email with your name, age, where in Scotland you are based and why you would like to join the group, to David at:

dyule@childreninscotland.org.uk

We would also welcome applications not just in a form but in a way that works for you, this can be a poster, drawing, video, whatever way you would like to share this information!

