

**Member of Youth Parliament 2026
Election Procedure for Stockton-on-Tees.
*Youth Council Vote***

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Background

The United Kingdom Youth Parliament (UKYP) is a programme that provides opportunities for 11–18-year-olds to use their elected voice to bring about social change through meaningful representation and campaigning. Commissioned by the UK Government, the National Youth Agency (NYA) manages the UK Youth Parliament and works with partner organisations to deliver the programme.

In Stockton-on-Tees, Bright Minds Big Futures (BMBF) supports the UKYP, and the elected Member of Youth Parliament (MYP) works with BMBF in their aims and objectives. The MYP acts as the national voice for the young people of Stockton-on-Tees.

The national UKYP rulebook has a set number of rules when it comes to elections but leaves some choices to local authorities. This document will outline the strict rules and the procedures agreed by Stockton-on-Tees.

United Kingdom Youth Parliament Rulebook: <https://nya.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/NEW-UK-Youth-Parliament-Rulebook-2023-2025-June-24-compressed.pdf>

Rules we must follow when electing MYPs

Who can be a MYP Candidate?

- Must be aged 11-18 years old.
- Must live, work, be educated or volunteer in the constituency in which they stand for election for 14+ hours a week.
- A member must stand down on their 19th birthday or if they no longer meet the eligibility criteria which are set out in the elections section of the Rulebook.

How many people does an MYP represent?

Each MYP represents up to 20,700 young people (aged 11-18). The office for National Statistics shows that Stockton-on-Tees has a 11-18 year old population of 21,855; ***meaning for the first time in 2026, Stockton-on-Tees will have 2 MYPs.***

When does an MYPs term start and end?

The UK programme is a one-year programme. Typically, the term of office will run from 1st April to 31st March every year. Length and dates of term may change due to national procedures, but this will always be explained to candidates and members. The youth council will be elected every two years.

How do UKYP elections work?

Via internal youth council elections, **as long as the youth council is elected.**

Elections to UKYP use a first-past-the post voting system.

For internal UK Youth Parliament elections (elections to UKYP from an elected youth council or other elected youth voice vehicle), the body running the election in that constituency should communicate that being elected to the local youth voice vehicle is the way to stand to be a Member of Youth Parliament. Efforts should be made to ensure all 11-18-year-olds have the opportunity to stand and vote in the elections.

A person can only stand in one constituency each election year and there is an expectation that before standing in the election, candidates should attend briefing sessions with the local youth voice vehicle or equivalent support structure. Local areas can set their own expectations as long as this is within the remit of the Rulebook.

Can someone be elected in order to become a MYP at a later point?

No - MYPs must be elected at the start of their term and as a result elections must be for the role of MYP. Bodies that support elections cannot replace a member in order for another young person to be able to take part in UKYP activities.

Multiple MYP Seats

From 2026, Stockton-on-Tees will have multiple seats. It is up to the body that manages the elections locally to decide how to distribute the seats across their constituency.

There are several ways this could be done such as allocating seats to the individuals who have the highest amount of votes after an election or a constituency may decide to split itself into a

number of different areas such as East and West or make it reflective of the different districts within that area if this is applicable and the seat allocation matches the amount of districts.

If a body that supports elections wants to create its own constituency boundaries, that matches the number of seats the constituency has, then it should ensure that there is a proportional split on the number of voters per constituency.

MYP Deputies

The UK Youth Parliament does not have Deputy Members as there isn't a designated role for Deputy Members of Youth Parliament within the programme or a requirement from DCMS to create such a position.

Bodies that support UKYP elections may choose to elect Deputy Member(s) but this is a local decision, and the National Youth Agency will class any Deputy Members of Youth Parliament as Youth Representatives, along with Youth Councillors, Young Mayors, Children in Care Council Members, etc. rather than as a collective group called "DMYPs".

2026 Member of Youth Council Election

In line with the national MYP Rulebook, Stockton-on-Tees will elect two Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs) through an internal Youth Council election, supported by Bright Minds Big Futures (BMBF). To facilitate this, we will first elect members to the Youth Council. From this group, a Chair, two MYPs, and one Deputy MYP will be chosen through an internal vote.

To stand as an MYP, a young person must first be elected as a Youth Councillor.

Youth Council Elections

Youth Councillors will be elected via an online vote open to all young people aged 11–18 who live, work, study, or volunteer in Stockton-on-Tees for at least 14 hours per week.

Details of the election process will be published on the Bright Minds Big Futures website and social media channels two weeks before nominations open. All secondary school will be contacted and asked to share this information with students to ensure all interested young people have the opportunity to stand.

Standing as a Candidate

Young people wishing to stand must complete an online application form which will be open for three weeks. There will then be one week before the vote opens where candidates will be required to attend a candidate briefing session with a parent or guardian.

Each candidate must submit a Candidate Statement (referred to by the NYA as a "Manifesto") of no more than 100 words. These statements will be made available to voters and schools during the voting period. The final list of candidates will be confirmed and shared with schools along with a link to vote that will be open for three weeks.

Voting Process

Voting will take place over three weeks. Each young person will be able to vote for up to two candidates. The ten candidates with the highest number of votes will be elected to the Stockton-on-Tees Youth Council.

Internal Elections

One week after the close of the vote, the newly elected Youth Councillors will meet to elect a Chair, two MYPs, and one Deputy MYP. Elected Youth Cllrs interested in the role of MYP or Chair, must express their interest in standing for Chair or MYP by contacting the BMBF Community Engagement Officer ahead of the meeting.

Candidates may put themselves forward for both roles but cannot hold both positions. The MYP vote will take place first, and the two successful candidates will be excluded from the Chair election.

Summary

To stand as a Member of Youth Parliament, you must first be elected as a Youth Councillor. However, being elected as a Youth Councillor does not mean you are required to stand as an MYP.

The Stockton-on-Tees Youth Council

The Stockton-on-Tees Youth Council will be made up of ten 11–18-year-olds who live, work, study, or volunteer in Stockton-on-Tees for at least 14 hours per week.

The Youth Council consists of one Chair, two Members of Youth Parliament and one Deputy Member of Youth Parliament. The rest of the Youth Cllrs will be allocated projects throughout their two-year terms.

All members of the Youth Council are expected to attend at least one meeting a month. Their roles involve working with local councillors, business, MPs and making decisions that require a vote on behalf of Bright Minds Big Futures and support the work of the group.

Role of Chair

The Youth Council Chair will represent Bright Minds Big Futures and the voice of young people in the borough at local meetings when required. They will meet with elected representatives and council officers as needed and will also be responsible for chairing Youth Council meetings. Where Youth Council votes are an equal split, the chair will have the deciding vote.

Role of MYPs

Once you are elected, you will be expected to find out the concerns and needs of other young people in your constituency and represent these views to decision-makers on a local, regional and national level. Both MYPs will work together to represent the whole of the Borough.

During the term of office, they will have the opportunity to get involved in a variety of events, projects and campaigns.

The local MPs will be keen to hear from the MYP, and many Members of Youth Parliament develop a productive working relationship with their MP, often having regular meetings at the House of Commons and in the constituency.

In addition to working locally and regionally, the UK Youth Parliament also undertakes to facilitate meetings between Members of Youth Parliament, government ministers and government departments on the issues that are raised in the UK Youth Parliament Manifesto.

As a Member of Youth Parliament, they will also get the opportunity to attend between 6 and 10 regional meetings during their term of office.

Once a year the UK Youth Parliament holds an annual conference, bringing together all of the Members of Youth Parliament from across the whole of the UK for a residential to receive training, plan campaigns, update the UK Youth Parliament Manifesto and socialise.

Role of Deputy MYP

The UK Youth Parliament does not have Deputy Members as there isn't a designated role for Deputy Members of Youth Parliament within the programme or a requirement from DCMS to create such a position.

However, in Stockton-on-Tees we will elect a Deputy MYP in case an elected MYP needs to step down. This allows for a smooth transition to ensure the Borough is fully represented at all times.

First Youth Council Meeting – Electing a Chair and MYPs

One week after elections close, the newly elected Youth Councillors will meet to elect a **Chair, two Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs)**, and **one Deputy MYP** from among themselves.

Young people wishing to stand for either Chair or MYP must express their interest in advance by contacting the BMBF Community Engagement Officer and specifying which role(s) they are applying for.

Candidates may put themselves forward for both roles but cannot hold both positions (A deputy MYP may also hold the role of chair but must step down in the event of taking over as MYP). The MYP election will take place first. The two successful candidates will then be excluded from the Chair election.

During the meeting:

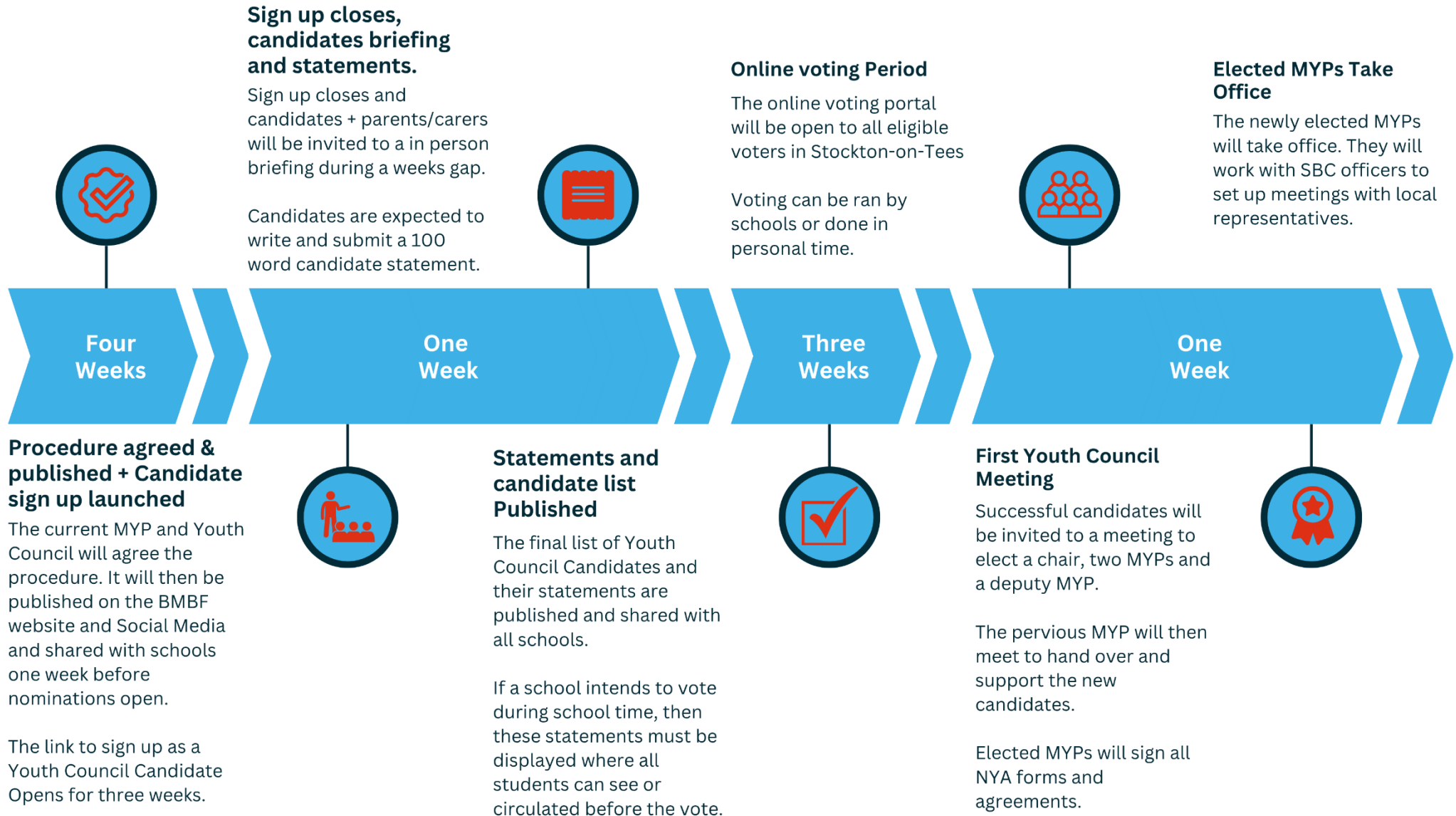
- All candidates will be invited to deliver a **two-minute speech** to the Youth Council.
- Youth Councillors will then vote for their preferred MYP candidates, with each Youth Councillor having **two votes**.
- The **two candidates with the highest number of votes** will become Stockton-on-Tees' MYPs.
- The **third-place candidate** will be appointed as **Deputy MYP**.

Following the MYP election, the Youth Council will proceed to elect a **Chair** from the remaining eligible candidates. Those standing for Chair will be invited to give a **two-minute speech** focused specifically on that role.

Youth Council and MYP Terms

The Youth Council will be elected every two years. The Member of Youth Parliament must be elected by the youth council annually in line with NYA rules.

Youth Council and MYP Election Timeline



Contact

If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact:

brightmindsbigfutures@stockton.gov.uk

To find the most up to date information go to:

<https://www.stockton.gov.uk/bmbf>

These procedures have been agreed by Bright Minds Big Futures at their meeting on:
06/05/2026 – Big Committee Meeting