

West Midlands PCC- Youth Commissioners

* We are offering a short term opportunity for some fresh faces

We have 11 vacancies on the Youth Commission, ***could you be interested***?

Youth Commissioners are young people between the ages of 13-18, elected by their peers in each of the local authority areas of the west midlands. They serve a two year term.

 The majority of the 16 Youth Commissioners elected in October 2018 have completed their time now (5 remain) but because of the pandemic, full elections have been postponed to spring 2021 and so there is the opportunity for young people interested in getting a taste of the role to try it out for a few months…

Vacancies exist in the following areas:

Birmingham West 2 positions Solihull 2 positions

Sandwell 2 positions Dudley 2 positions

Walsall 2 positions Coventry 1 position

***The role of the Youth Commissioner:***

* Lead on the Police & Crime Commissioners consultation with young people on the Commissioners Police and Crime Plan, monitoring of priorities and police responses to young people.
* Be the voice of young people and represent their views on the Youth Commission. Young people will have the opportunity to speak directly with the Police and Crime Commissioner, senior and neighbourhood Police Officers and key decision makers.
* Engage and consult with other young people in their local communities and listen to their views.
* Be able to question, challenge and inform policy.
* Help to build relationships and break down barriers that exist between the police and young people in the community.
* Raise the profile of young people with the community in a positive way.

***What do we need from you?***

 ***As an organisation >***

As the experts in your local area working with young people, we would like you to encourage and highlight young people to become the next Youth Commissioners. Your role is to support young people in filling in an application form and assist in shortlisting with the OPCC. Applications will include a short biography and statement on how they hope to contribute and achieve in the role of Youth Commissioner. Finally, the successful candidates will benefit from your support network whilst managing their new roles.

***As a Youth Commissioner Candidate >***

As a Youth Commissioner, young people will ordinarily need to commit to **2 years** of service which will include regular contact with your local Police team to share the views of young people. To be available for an **Induction workshop**, **5 scheduled Youth Commission meetings or equivalent events** and the annual **Youth Summit** .Currently meetings are on-line. When we return to face to face meetings, travel expenses can be claimed to and from Lloyd House, Birmingham, B4 6NQ. Most importantly the Youth Commissioner needs to be adaptable, approachable and willing to learn new things whilst supporting their community. A full election process for all 16 Youth Commissioner posts will be held between March and May next year.

***As a co-opted Youth Commissioner >***

At present, the commitment to the role needs only to be between November and March or May next year. **An Induction workshop, bi-monthly Youth Commission meetings, introductions to your local policing team and the annual Youth Summit are still included.** Meetings are currently on-line but we hope to return to meetings as soon as official health guidance allows. Most importantly the Youth Commissioner needs to be adaptable, approachable and willing to learn new things whilst supporting their community.

***Eligible Young People***

Due to the expectations for the candidates shown above, we want to be sure that the young person elected is able to manage the demand of the role. Having considered the elements of confident speaking, personal travel and length of term, we believe that strong candidates between **the ages of 13- 18** would be best placed to offer a committed role.

These young people will need to demonstrate a desire to support and advocate on behalf of others and to become knowledgeable around relevant policy; including the PCC’s Police and Crime Plan – and in particular the section named Standing Up for Young People.

Young people should be passionate and confident speakers, looking to develop not only their interpersonal skills but their own leadership qualities and experience in the world of democracy and advocacy. The benefits of becoming a Youth Commissioner are vast, the breadth of experience and knowledge gained both personally and academically can support applications into further education and future career opportunities.

***The co-option process***

Candidates wishing to apply for one of the co-opted roles of **Youth Commissioner**, should complete an application form. Strong candidates will be able to quote a youth led organisation that they already attend. Shortlisting will be carried out with the co-operation of these local organisations who already support you.

 **Our timeline:**

**Closing date for applications: 12pm midday Friday 20th November**

**Shortlisting of applications Monday 23rd – Thursday 26th November 2020**

**New Youth Commissioners announced Friday 27th November**

**Induction Youth Commission Zoom Meeting Tuesday 1st December 6-8pm.**

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Further information: <https://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/?s=Police+and+Crime+Plan>