**Wiltshire Youth Council Community Seats**

Wiltshire Council is creating a new Wiltshire Youth Council that will be made up of young people aged between 11 and 17. Wiltshire Youth Councillors will link in with decision makers at Wiltshire Council and advise them about issues that young people face. They can also take part in youth inspections and have a say about how money is spent for young people in Wiltshire.

If you are a young person who lives in Wiltshire but does not attend school in Wiltshire then there will be three community seats available which you can be elected to. Candidates must be able to evidence that they can consult with other young people who live in Wiltshire, for example they attend a youth group, faith group or any other place that they can attain the views of children and young people.

**Are you eligible to be a candidate for a community seat? Yes if you:**

* Live in Wiltshire (excludes Swindon) but do not go to school in Wiltshire.
* Aged between 11 and 18
* Can consult with other young people about youth council topics

**How to become a candidate**

To stand you must submit a sign-up form, media consent form and a one-page manifesto to childandyouthvoice@wiltshire.gov.uk by 12 January 2024.

The manifesto should tell voters a bit about you, why you want to stand as a youth councillor and what you want to do to help young people in your area. The manifestos will be uploaded to the council website from 22 January 2024 and will be available for young people to read. A voting link will go live on the website between 29 January 2024 and 2 February 2024 where young people in Wiltshire can vote for their chosen candidates. The candidates will be contacted on the week commencing 5 February 2024 to let them know if they have been successful in winning a seat. We will announce all the youth councillors at the same time on our website and social media platforms after everyone has been contacted.

Any further questions? Get in touch by emailing childandyouthvoice@wiltshire.gov.uk