



PORTLAND YOUTH COUNCIL OVERVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS

September 2024 - August 2025

Part funded



STRUCTURE

For the 2024-2025 term, Portland Youth Council (PYC) piloted a new structure. This was after two years of busy preparation and learning, during which time Island Community Action's (ICA) dedicated facilitators worked with local young people aged 11-16 to refine a programme that young people could call their own.

The new structure does more to recognise the different learning and engagement styles that young people display in order for the programme to be as inclusive and relevant as realistically possible. This has meant opening up three new roles that potential members can choose from (these are explained below) and changing the previous fortnightly meetings to weekly. Because of this new structure, we have been able to expand the programme to cater for more than the original 15-member cap.

We have found that having the investment and time of dedicated facilitators has led to greater retention rates, exceeded targets, and increased funding. Combined, these achievements have enabled the programme to achieve even more than the young people had originally committed to.

Thank you to our supporters at Portland Town Council (PTC), Dorset Council (DC) and the National Lottery Community Fund for making this possible.

Leadership Team

- Advisory board for external organisations and projects
- Decides how PYC resources are distributed
- Decides event delivery and fundraising details
- Designs and delivers a campaign and a consultation
- Can be part of the delivery team as well.



Delivery Team

- PYC Event and fundraising preparation and delivery
- Volunteers for external events
- Planning and delivering PYC trip for local young people.



Event Team

- Volunteers in stewarding and delivery of events both PYC related and for external organisations/projects.

Year 3

September - October 2024

Recruitment:

- Assembly for an estimated 200 students at Atlantic Academy
- Youth led open evening with eight participants
- Social media campaign.



24 members recruited:

- Delivery team x 6
- Leadership team x 14
- Events team x 4.



Plan Trips
Thorpe Park, August 2023

Plan Events
Island Vibes, July 2024

Open Evening
23rd September, 6-8pm
C2000 Hall,
Straits, Easton, DT5 1HG

Island Community Action - ICA
Published by Georgina Bolt
September 13

PORTLAND YOUTH COUNCIL OPPORTUNITIES

This year there are three different ways to join Portland Youth Council, each with varying degrees of commitment, with free training in public speaking, fundraising, event planning and more also being offered.

- Leadership member, aged between 11-16 (if they turn 17 during the year they can stay on)
• 2 hours every other Monday 6:30-8:30pm Tophill
- Delivery Member, aged between 11-16 (if they turn 17 during the year they can stay on)
• 2 hours every other Monday 6:30-8:30pm Tophill
- Learn what it takes to work to a brief to plan and deliver an event or trip for other young people. Past members have helped deliver things like a free outdoor cinema day, free/discounted trip to Thorpe Park and an activities showcase 'Island Vibes'.
- Event Member Open to ages 11-24
• As and when required
• Help with events on the day.

Sessions & Activities:

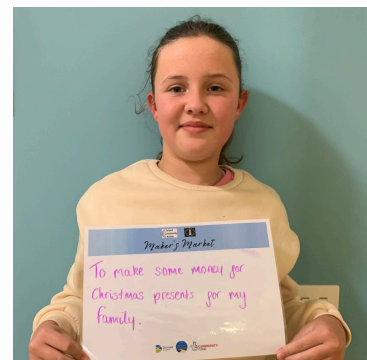
- Youth Council led interviews
- Team building day for Leadership and Delivery members
- Power Structures and UK Democracy training
- Running A Meeting training.



November - December 2024

Sessions & Activities:

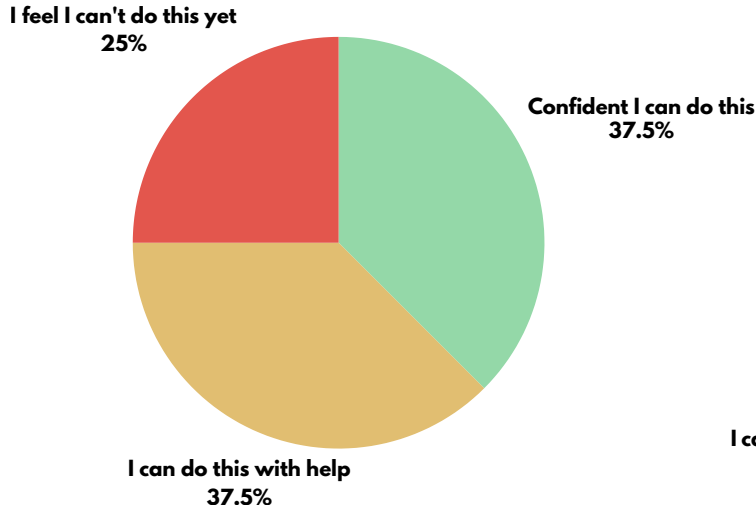
- Laying a wreath for Remembrance Day and helping with light duties
- Fundraising training
- Consultation training
- Feeding into Dorset Coast Forum and b-side consultation
- Christmas fundraiser strategy planning and preparation
- Portland Christmas Sparkle fundraising event - three separate affordable activities delivered
- Atlantic Academy Christmas Fair fundraising event
- Eight young people completed four sessions of the Maker's Market entrepreneur's course
- Easter fundraiser decision.



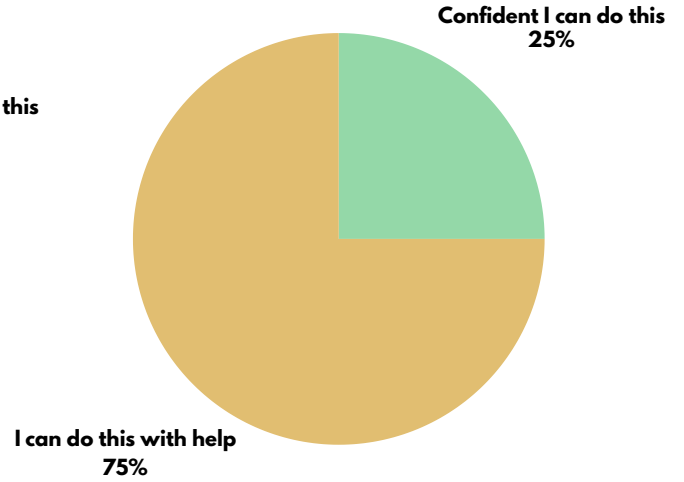
Makers Market

Confidence in writing a business plan

Before

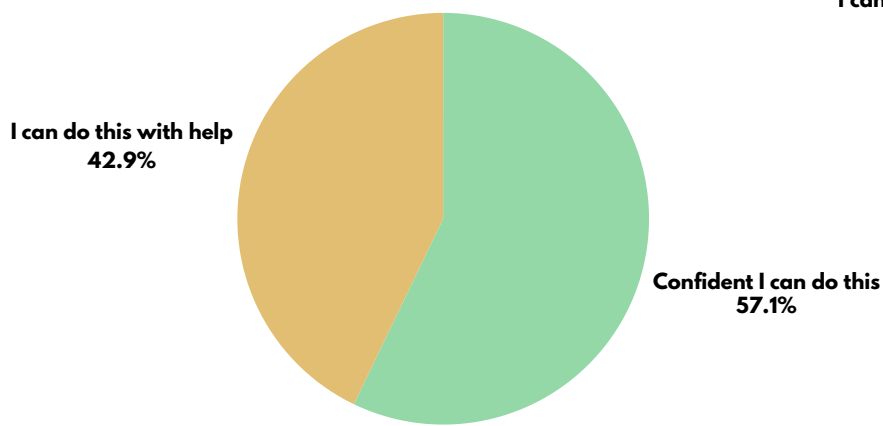


After

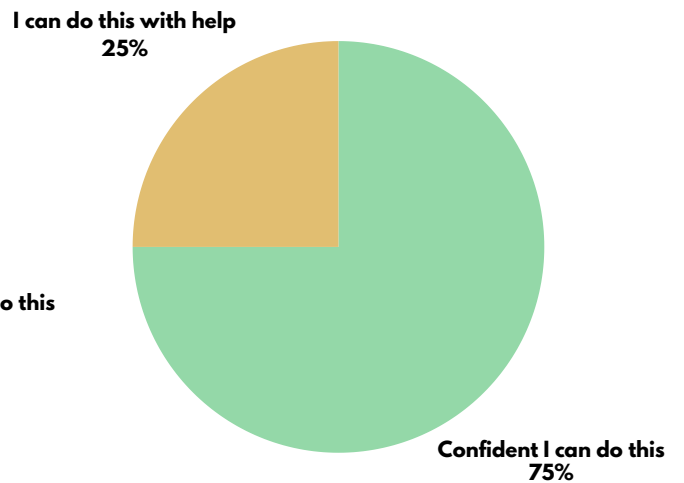


Confidence in understanding profit margin and pricing

Before

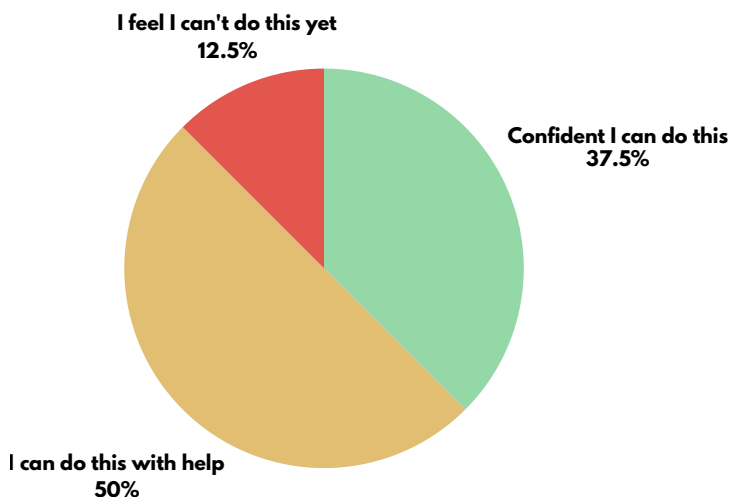


After

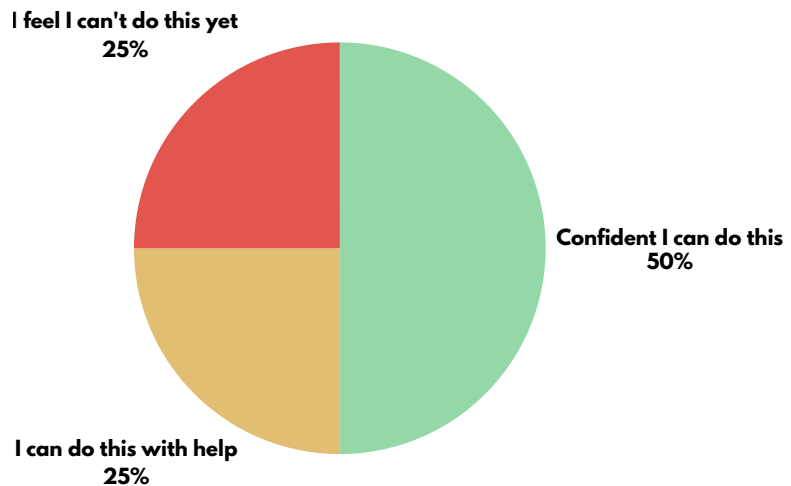


Desire to take further education routes into business (GCSE)

Before



After



January 2025



Sessions & Activities:

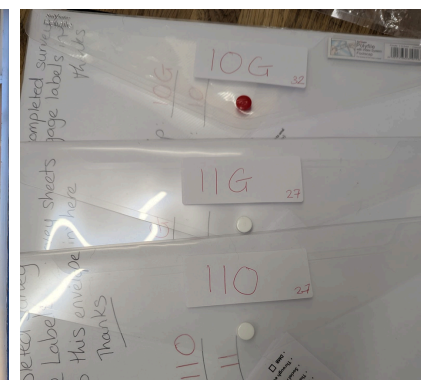
- Campaign decision
- Consultation event design and decisions
- Public Speaking Training
- Chinese New Year event preparation.

23 members continue



Chinese New Year event delivery:

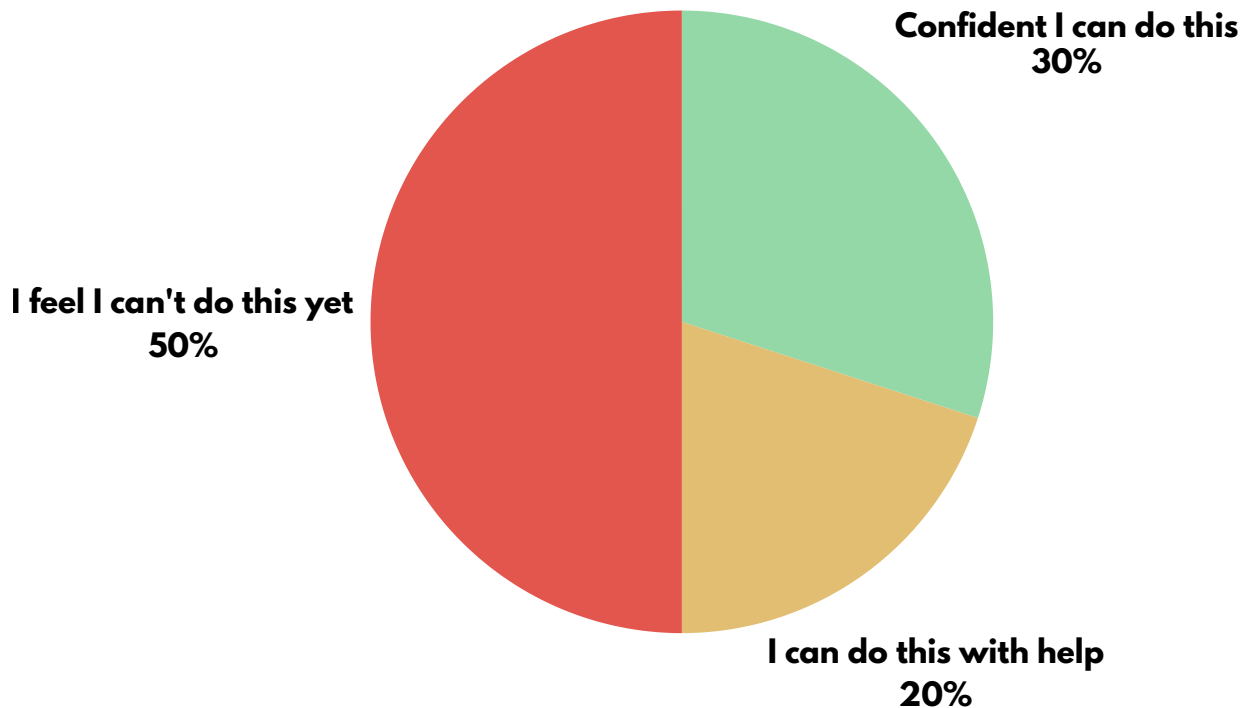
- All students (464) in the secondary years received a red envelope with chocolate coins and a consultation kit for the forthcoming PYC summer trip
- An hour of Chinese New Year activities for 30 secondary students, planned and led by 17 of our youth councillors
- 100 spring rolls and 100 fortune cookies shared out during secondary lunch
- A sit-down Chinese meal for 87 primary and secondary students
- ICA window takeover.



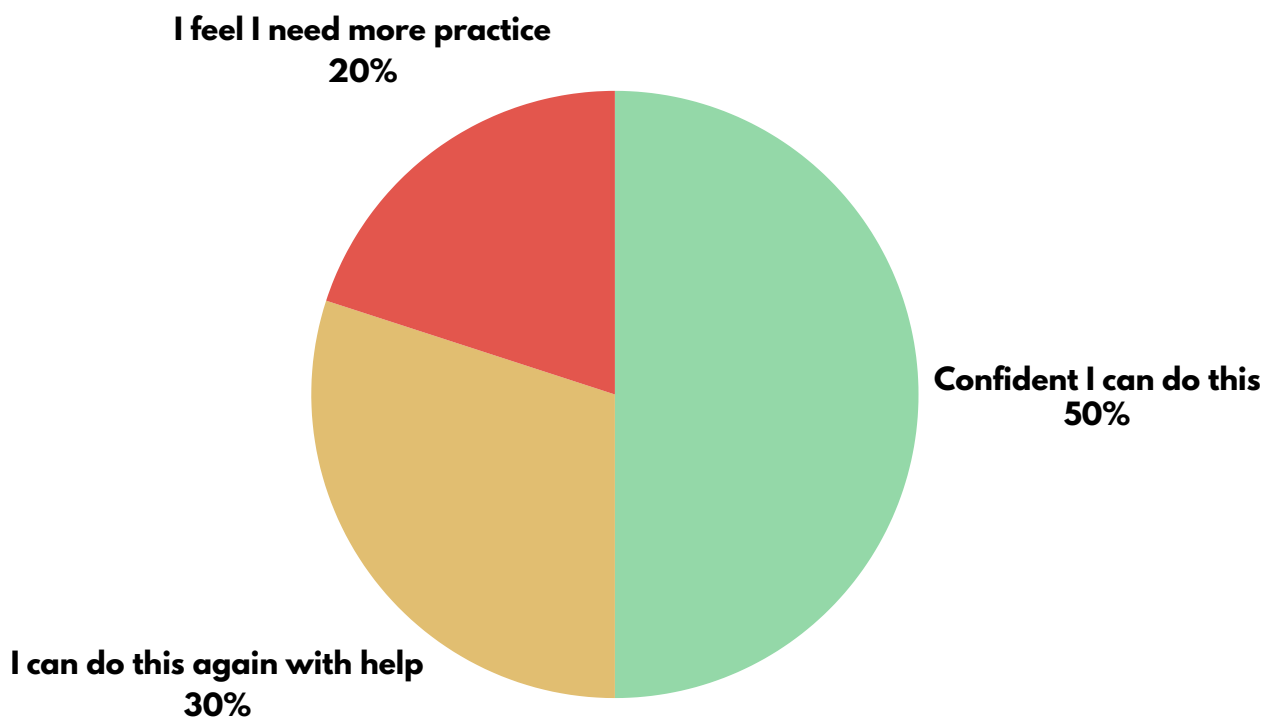
95% of young people who participated reported that they had learnt something new about Chinese New Year.

Public Speaking Training from Casterbridge Speakers

Confidence in public speaking before training

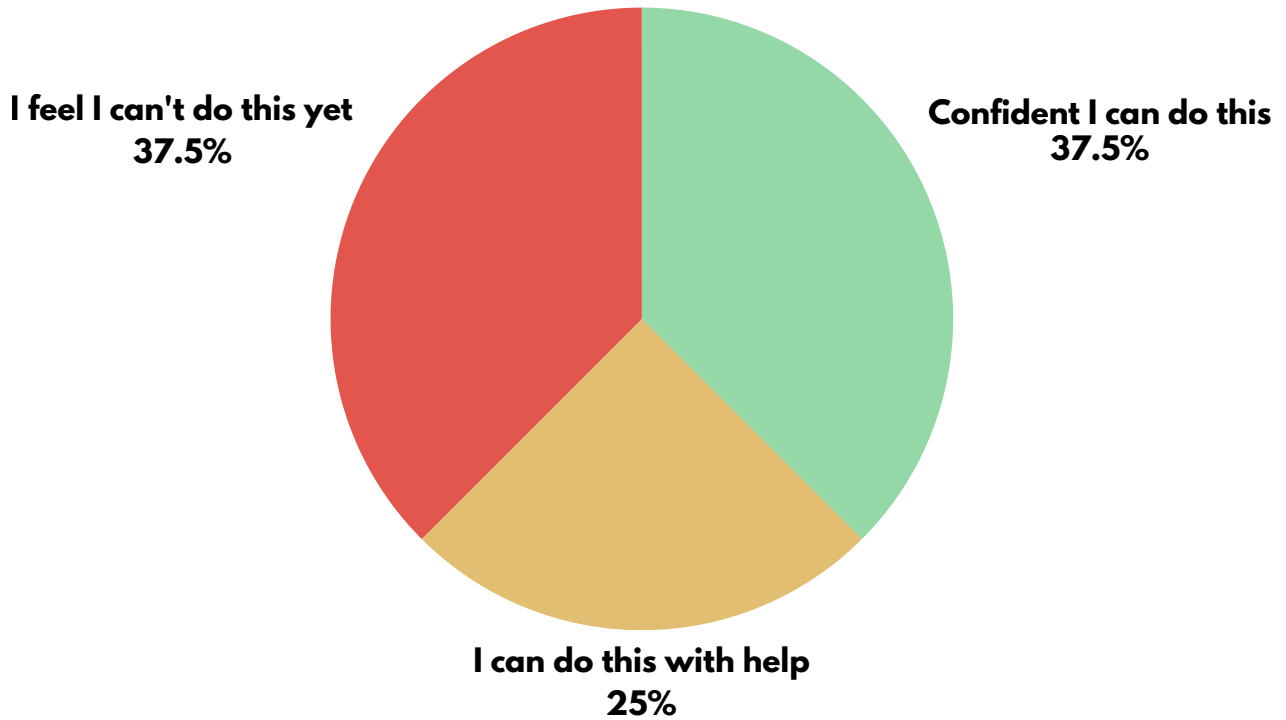


Confidence in public speaking after training

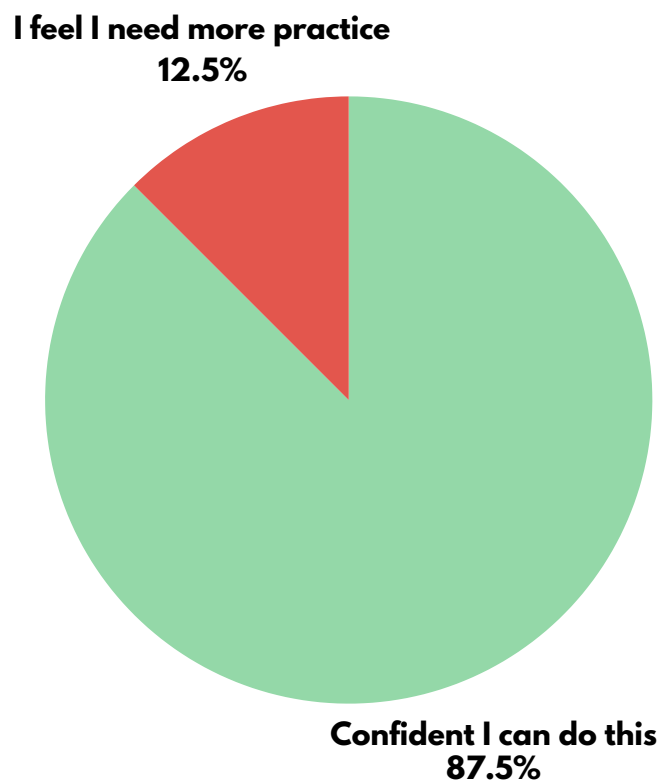


Budget and Finance training from Christians Against Poverty

Confidence in knowledge before training



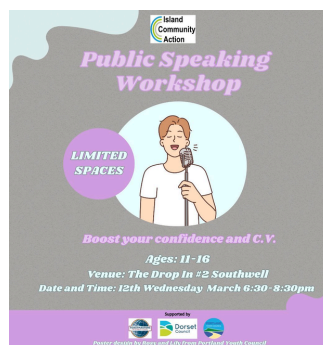
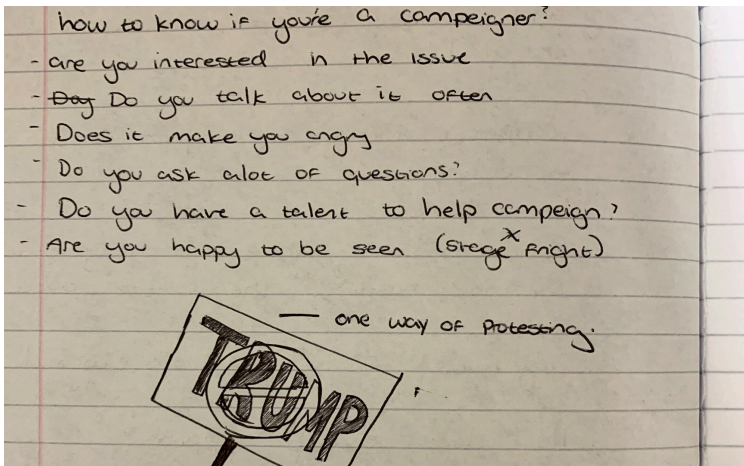
Confidence in knowledge after training



February 2025

Sessions & Activities:

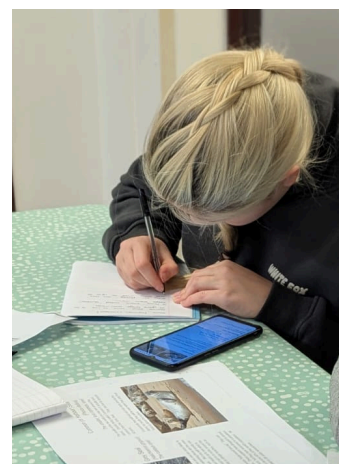
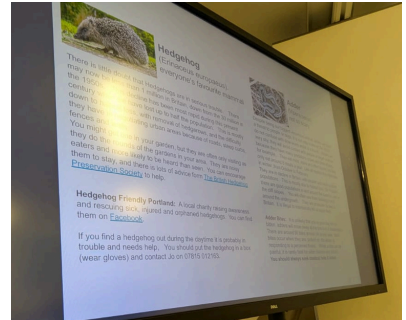
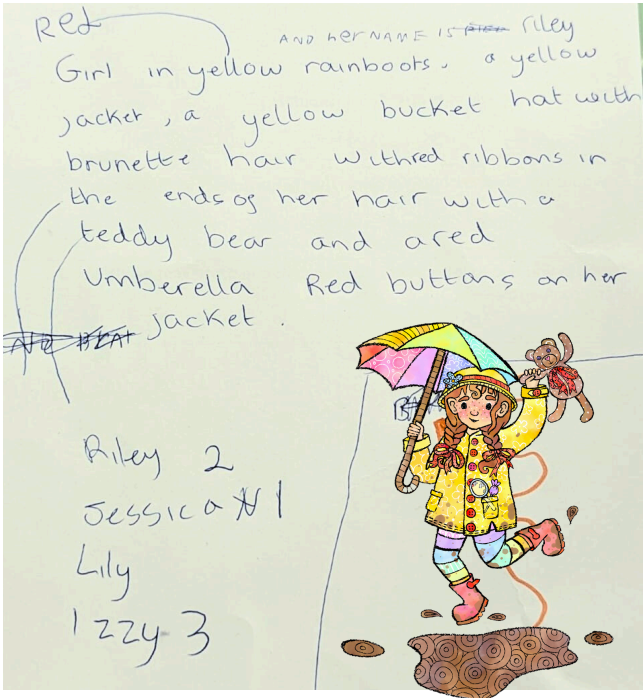
- Poster & Graphic Design training
- Finance & Budget training from Christians Against Poverty
- Campaign Delivery training from Save The Children
- Designed poster for Public Speaking training
- Data input and analysis from Chinese New Year consultation
- Preparation for Protecting and Respecting Local Wildlife and Public Spaces campaign. Included democratically choosing a campaign artist (Charlie Pascoe)
- Met with the Chesil Youth Pride lead.



March 2025

Sessions & Activities:

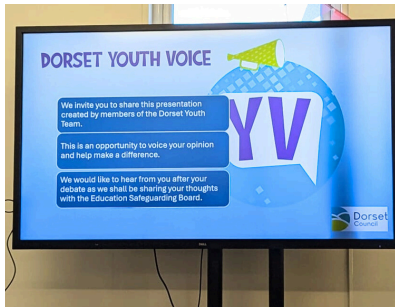
- Public Speaking training workshop for six non-PYC people living on Portland
- Session from biodiversity specialist Steve Christmas to inform campaign
- Submitted thoughts to Dorset Local Nature Partnership's Youth Food Conversation
- Prepared for Easter fundraiser
- Helped to direct and feed into campaign art with Charlie Pascoe
- Researched facts for campaign booklet
- Met with Rory Pilgrim to find out about a local film project around youth voice.



April 2025

Sessions & Activities:

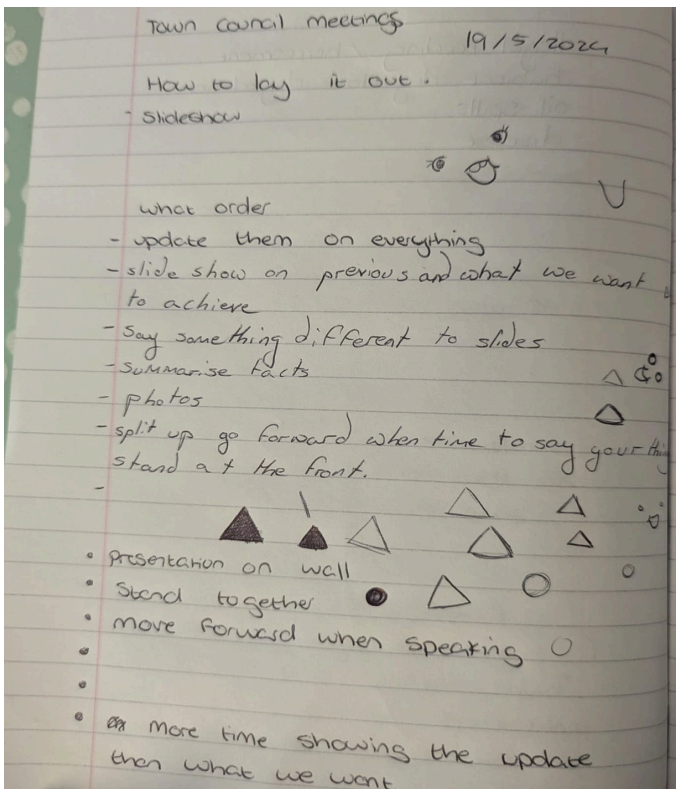
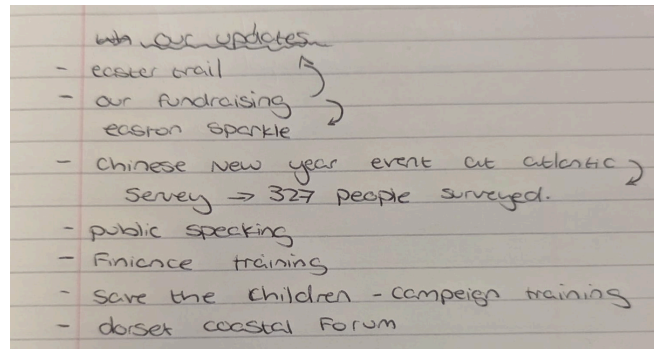
- Paignton Zoo trip to inform next stage of campaign. Included a conservation talk from the Zoo's Education Team
- First part of campaign launched with a nature trail for children and families. 129 children took part
- Easter fundraiser and Portland Rotary Club coffee morning
- Met with Dorset Youth Voice to discuss how Portland Youth Council members can stand to represent Portland in the county.



Sessions & Activities:

- **Wild Words writing competition launched as part of PYC's Protecting and Respecting Local Wildlife and Public Spaces campaign**
- **Claudia from Saint Nics visited to talk about an opportunity to get involved with the steering group for Portland and Weymouth Towns of Culture's Cultural Passport scheme**
- **PYC members attended County Hall, Dorchester to meet with Weymouth, Dorchester and Dorset Youth Councils and take part in discussions around children's rights and the the Dorset Local Plan (2026-2043)**
- **Preparing for Portland Town Council full meeting presentation**
- **Decisions around recruitment in September**
- **2 former PYC members interviewed and offered places for Portland Rotary's Leadership course based in Wales.**

PYC member!

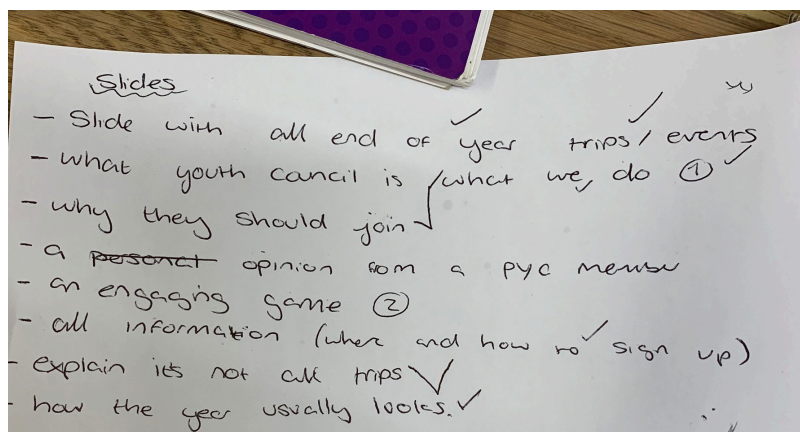
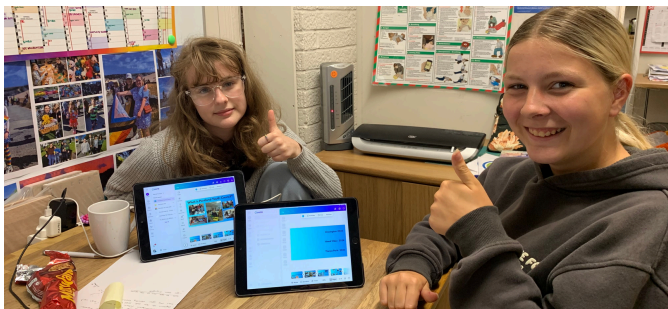


Tier 1 changes: Eco friendly/ Green feature on building where Portland Town Council are based. Bird
 - make 4 areas - verges - rare ^{protected} ^{lady} ^{tree} ^{Bug}
 Tier 2 changes: Skate park - natural elements ^{made} out of recycled materials. Built to Play. Biosurfer gardens - filtering pollutants. Nature themed building
 Tier 3 changes: Changes to the Neighbourhood plan require new buildings to include nature friendly features

June 2025

Sessions & Activities:

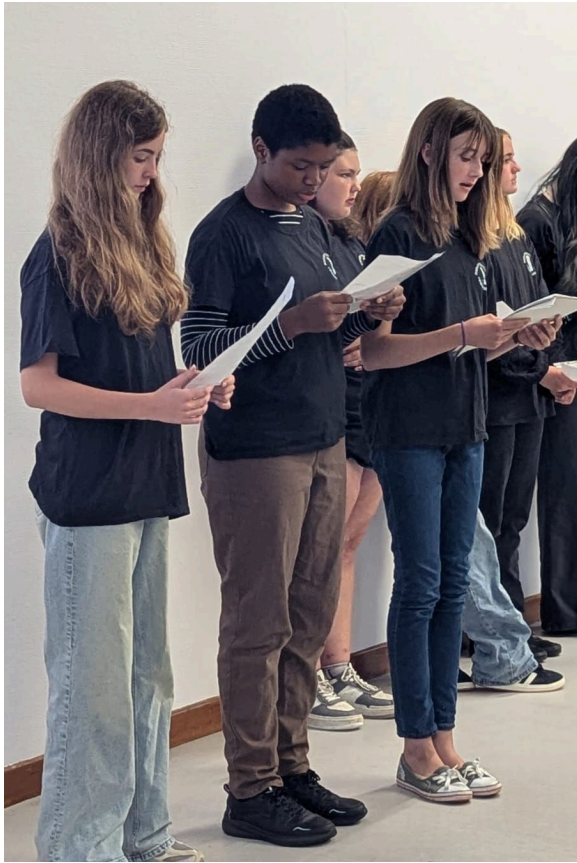
- 2 PYC members joined the steering group for Portland and Weymouth's Cultural Passport scheme
- 70 applicants to Wild Words story competition
- Presentation and year end preparation
- 2 members joined Dorset Youth Voice
- 2 in house work experience placements
- Youth led PYC recruitment campaign activity for 2025-26 term
- Preparation for youth trip for 47 local young people.
- Wildlife Day with Atlantic Academy for 300+ primary students with an additional 18 secondary students volunteering to support its delivery.



July 2025

Sessions & Activities:

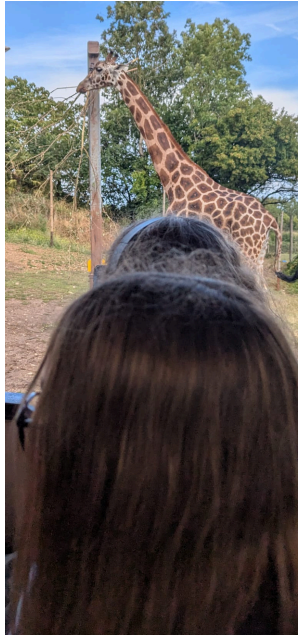
- Presentation to Portland Town Council
- Preparation for Chessington World of Adventures Trip for 47 local young people.
- Requested Portland Town Council to consider three key campaign points:
 1. New housing developments to include bird and bee bricks
 2. Saving a patch of local 'rare' orchids
 3. Changes to the Neighbourhood plan to include wildlife preservation considerations in new developments.
- End of year celebration



August 2025

Sessions & Activities:

- Nature & Shared Spaces workshop with 6 young people, included walk and artist workshop to explore themes of public spaces and how we respect them
- 7 young people signed up to our Young Peoples Entrepreneur Market with 4 selling on the day
- 400+ young people engaged in creating items for ICA's Woolly Wonderland Yarn Bomb Festival
- End of a 12-week crochet club; engaging 21 young people aged 7-14 to create items for the installation.
- Woolly Wonderland Busy Bees competition attracts 79 participants
- 47 Portland young people went on a trip to Chessington World of Adventures.



END OF YEAR REVIEW

As we come to the end of another PYC year, we can reflect on the achievements and the lessons learned during a period of continued experimentation, adaptation, and growth - values that are important in any youth work.

This year saw the launch of a new, ambitious model for the PYC - a pilot approach aimed at enhancing engagement, flexibility, and impact through the introduction of a range of new and varied roles, which allowed us to open the programme up to the biggest number of members yet.

While the intention was to improve how the PYC operated, the reality proved more complex. The new structure didn't deliver all the outcomes we had hoped for, and it highlighted areas that need further refinement, especially in terms of maintaining momentum, ensuring clarity of roles and expectations and balancing resources. However, despite its challenges, the approach and experience delivered some incredible results, along with some valuable insights into what works and what needs to evolve.

During the year, we have seen the Leadership and Delivery team settle at 12 core members and revert to meeting fortnightly after losing some members to external factors. A further six members have continued to engage in the Event Team opportunities. As a group and as individuals, these young people have shown commendable commitment and passion, continuing to turn up, contribute, and shape the work of the PYC in many varied and meaningful ways.

Going forward, we intend to focus on a core group of up to 16 Youth Council members, whilst retaining the Event Team opportunities for anyone who wishes to join the fun! This will ensure that the high-quality work Portland Youth Council is known for continues, and we are still able to offer each young person personalised support in their journey through their early teenage years.

24 members engaged:

- Leadership team x 14
- Delivery team x 6
- Events team x 4

25 members recruited:

- Leadership team x 13 (1 didn't commit after signing up)
- Delivery team x 6
- Events team x 6 (gained 2)

18 members retained:

- Leadership & Delivery team combined (full youth councillors) x 12
- Events team x 6
- Members lost x 7 (all due to external factors)

FUNDERS:

- Portland Town Council
- Dorset Council (including Children's Services and the Portland Local Alliance Group)
- The National Lottery Community Fund
- Portland Rotary

PROJECT & TRAINING PARTNERS:

- The Butterfly Conservation Trust
- Casterbridge Speakers
- Christians Against Poverty
- Dorset Wildlife Trust
- The Drop In
- Friends of Victoria Gardens
- Hedgehog Friendly Portland
- Isle of Portland Orchids
- The Portland Association
- Portland Rotary
- Save the Children

ADVISORY ROLE TO:

- Island Community Action (ICA)
- b-side
- Chesil Youth Pride
- Dorset Coast Forum
- Dorset Council (including the Portland Local Alliance Group)
- Dorset Youth Voice
- Local Nature Partnership
- Portland & Weymouth Towns of Culture

CORE PARTNERS:

- Portland Town Council
- Atlantic Academy



PORTLAND YOUTH COUNCIL

Summary of Youth Councillor Engagement

YEAR 3
September 2024-August 2025

Session and Events
hours
93

Estimated total of
person hours
1000+

Completion rate
12 Councillors
6 Event members

Estimated public
interactions with
PYC activities
450+

13
Partners

72%
retention*

*Within the delivery period of the project.

YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBER EXPERIENCE

In their words...

“Being part of Portland Youth Council makes me feel accepted, happy and safe” - Connie Hawkins, Portland Youth Council member, aged 14

“Before I joined I thought I was going to get bored and now I'm excited to do it next year” - Ugochi Favour Ihuoma Azubuike, Portland Youth Council member, aged 13

“I feel good about being part this because it gives me a really good reputation” - Bella Cronin, Portland Youth Council member, aged 12

“I feel more confident and proud of myself. It feels good to know I'm taking part of something meaningful and I feel hopeful for the future generations on Portland” - Grace Hawkins, Portland Youth Council member, aged 15

Overall impact...

98% feel they have learnt a lot from the programme, including (but not limited to) the amount of support available on Portland for young people, how to make a change in their local community and new skills like public speaking and campaign delivery.

99% feel like their ideas and experiences were listened to during their youth council experience.

11% increase in confidence in championing other people's voices and a 7% increase in confidence in being able to make their own voices heard.

**AND THIS IS JUST
THE BEGINNING**