PORTLAND YOUTH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS

September 2025 - July 2026

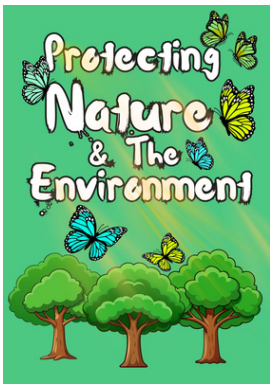
Part funded

Dorset Council

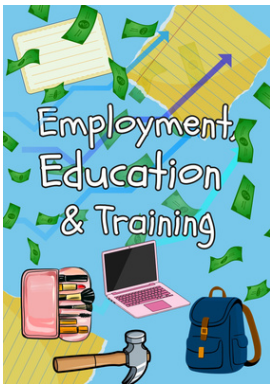
COMMUNITY FUND

Portland Youth Council

Priorities











Who we are

Our current group is made up of 17 young people aged 11-16.





What we do

Every year, once we're all signed up, we have a teamwork day to get to know each other and do some PYC training, including agreeing on our year's aims and ground rules.

After that, we meet fortnightly for two hours with some of us acting as the meeting Chair or Secretary. Throughout the year, we take part in training sessions, run meetings, organise consultations, go on research trips, organise fundraising activities, act as a focus group or youth advisory board for other organisations, deliver presentations and campaigns, and every year plan a large-scale trip or event for young people on Portland.

Year 4

September - October 2025

Recruitment:

- Assembly for an estimated 224 students at Atlantic Academy.
- Youth led open evening with eight people turning up to see how to sign up.
- Social media campaign.

17 members recruited

Sessions & Activities:

- Youth Council led interviews.
- Team building day.
- 2 hour workshop with The Colour Works Foundation for personal insight and resilience.
- Meeting training.
- Fundraising training.
- 4 members attended First Aid and Interview training from Dorset Youth.









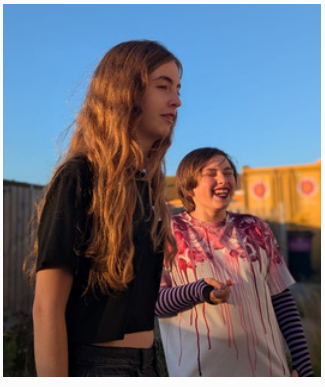




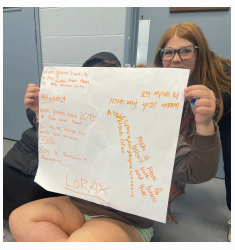














November 2025











Sessions & Activities:

- Kelly from Active Dorset worked with the group to understand their view on being active. Members told about paid opportunities to research. 5 people got offered a place on the research team.
- Save The Children offered our members the opportunity to apply to sit on their Climate Fund panel. 4 young people were recruited.
- Christmas fundraiser strategy planning and preparation.
- Laying a wreath for Remembrance Day and helping with Order of Service distribution. Approx 200 people attend.
- Facilitator Gina joined Local Alliance Group as Vice Chair.
- Acted as a focus group for representatives for the Primary Care Network Health Inequalities Lead and Public Health and Prevention. Giving insight into young people's perceived barriers to GP services.









December 2025

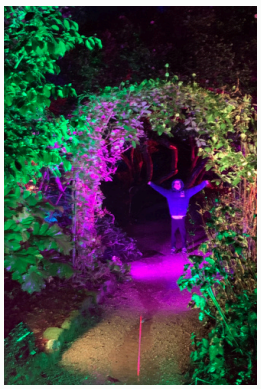
Sessions & Activities:

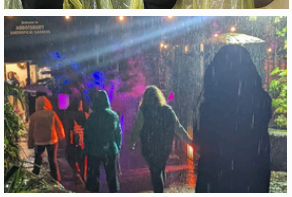
- Three members attended a litter pick at France Quarry.
- Took part in a Portland Quirkies Workshop - creating fictional creatures that might exist in the future as a response to climate change.
- Nominated for a 12 days of Christmas: Community Champions by members of the community.
- Took part in the end of year Town of Culture hat wearing celebration during a PYC meeting.
- 4 x members were selected to be part of Active Dorset's Youth Engagement Workshops in 2026.
- Christmas Sparkle - PYC fundraiser. Approx 65 people interact.









January 2026



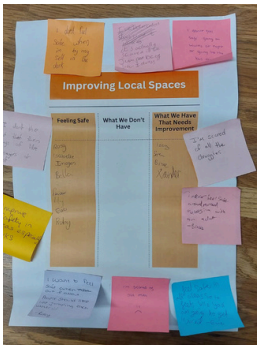


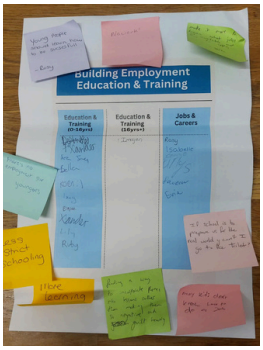












Sessions & Activities:

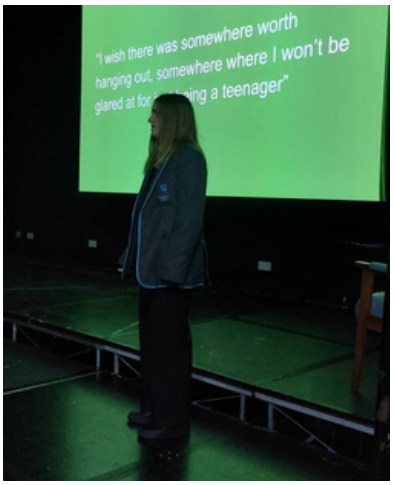
Understanding Our Island

- 15 PYC members met with PTC Facilities Coordinator to feed into the Royal Manor (Weston) Playing Field MUGA consultation.
- Seren petitioned Atlantic Academy to send the consultation details to all parents and allow every student to fill in the consultation during school time.
- Members voted on the issues that they want to discuss with their MP and started to research the challenges for individuals based on their own experience.
- Kim Wilcocks from ICA presented some interesting statistics about Portland to help with this task.
- Shared Portland's key youth issues with Budmouth Academy 6th Form AED Students (who were looking for problems they could try to find solutions for).

Growing Us

- Izzy RP spoke in front of over 200 people at the Stop Portland Waste Incinerator protest.
- Seren delivered 3 x assemblies at Atlantic Academy to introduce the PTC Royal Manor playing fields MUGA consultation. Approx 300 engaged.
- Seren also stood for UK Youth Parliment.
- Rosy fed back her success at raising £506 with the support of her family's business, Nouveau Tattoo & Piercing, during the Christmas break.
- PYC identified priorities and issues for Budmouth 6th Form EPQ Yr 12 students to also focus on.









February 2026









Sessions & Activities:

London Trip

- 15 members planned and delivered a presentation to South Dorset MP, Lloyd Hatton, during a trip to The Houses of Parliament, London. They also enjoyed a tour of the Palace of Westminster, including the opportunity to watch Ed Milliband present his Green Energy Bill.
- 15 members braved the London Dungeons.

Out & About

- 11 PYC members attended the first workshop as part of Active Dorset's new Youth Engagement Research Program.
- 2 members (Izzy RP and Lily) spoke at PTC's meeting to request that funding be directed to support the purchase of 2 acres of France Quarry.



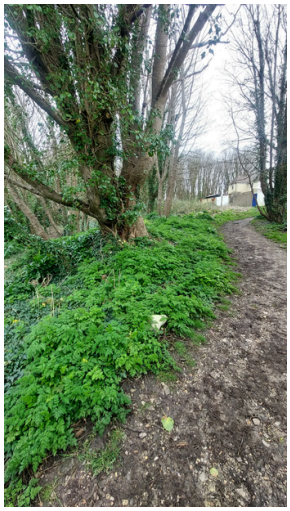


- 17 members recieved now hoodies and t-shirts to wear when representing PYC.









Easter Planning

- Members voted on the stalls they wanted to run during their Easter fundraiser. They also planned the questions and activities for six of the animals included in the Nature Trail.

March 2026

Sessions & Activities:

Youth Councils Meet Up

- 25 young people and 8 adults attended a meeting hosted by PYC from South Dorset's 4 Youth Councils.
- 4 x current and 1 x retired PYC members facilitated the different agenda items.
- All 17 x PYC members took part in the presentation with 16 publicly speaking in front of their peers and adult facilitators.















Film Workshop

- 7 x current members and 2 x retired members of PYC took part in a day long Film Making Workshop led by Turner Prize-nominated Director Rory Pilgrim, exploring what young People on Portland feel about safety and the law.

Active Dorset

- 12 x young people took part in their 2nd and 3rd Active Dorset Community Engagement & Research Training workshops.

UK Youth Parliament

- 1 member Seren stood for UK Youth Parliament elections.

  Unfortunatly Atlantic Academy students were not given the chance to vote!

Risk Assessment Training

- 10 x young people attended a walk through the Nature Trail route to agree stopping places and identify potential hazards, followed by a Risk Assessment Training session.

April 2026

Sessions & Activities:

France Quarry Litter Pick

- 5 children and young people and 7 adults collected 13 black sacks of litter from around France Quarry in preparation for the Nature Trail.





Easter Nature Trail

- 132 children plus their families took part in PYC's Easter Nature Trail around France Quarry. 100% of participants said that they had enjoyed the trail and learnt something new, while around 65% said that they had not explored France Quarry before.













Easter Fundraiser

- 15 members volunteered a combined total of 53.5hrs delivering stalls and activities to raise a total of £680. Members voted to use £1000 of total fundraising efforts towards their donation to purchase France Quarry.







How to Deliver Engaging Activities for Children Training

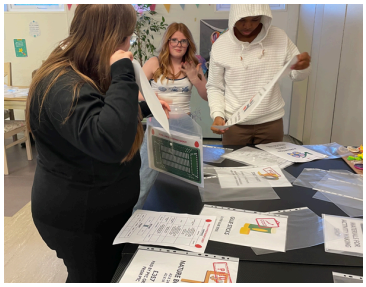
- 15 Members attended an engaging 3hr training session at the Andrew Simpson Centre to learn more about how to engage children in learning about the environment and sustainability.

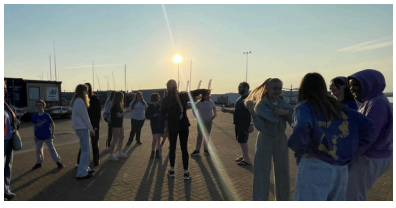
Budget Training

- 6 Members completed training on Personal Budgets whilst 8 long-term PYC members looked at how budgets are managed in organisations.









- 1 young person on work experience placement at ICA.

May 2026



Sessions & Activities:

- Members pushed themselves with a Public Speaking workshop from Casterbridge Speakers.





- 2 bank holidays meant only one session happened.
- Fed into House of Lords 'Built Environment' consultation.
- 2 members took part in Dorset Youth safeguarding and music workshops.
- Stormbreak/Active Dorset group meetings.
- Facilitator, Gina, signed up to do her Level 2 Youth Work qualification.

June 2026

Sessions & Activities:

- Event programme planning.
- Presentation writing for Portland Town Council full council meeting.
- A visit from Lisa, Service Manager, at The Drop In (Youth Provision) to tell our group about their services.
- 3 members preparing a presentation with Active Dorset to be done at their System Leaders event.





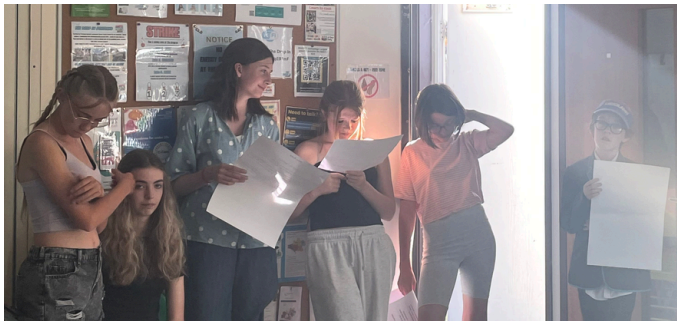












- 2 members represented PYC at Dorset's High Sheriffs County Lines Awareness event on Portland.
- Nature Day at Atlantic Academy saw 400+ Primary and Yr 7 students engaged in nature activities and learning.
- Discussion about the government's Social Media Ban for under 16's.
- Reflection on Youth Council research and voting on the next 2 year campaign. Championing and Celebrating Equality and Diversity.

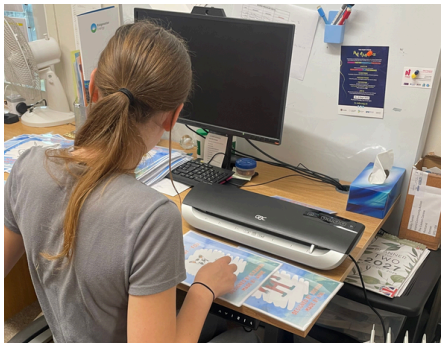
July - August 2026

























Sessions & Activities:

- Practicing speech.
- 2 work experience students in placements with ICA.
- Gina and work experience student (PYC member) joined Dorset Youth VCS Youth work stratergy meeting.
- 2 members presented the findings from the Stormbreak research project at Active Dorset's System Leaders event.
- Quirkies event launched with PYC's programme going ahead on the Saturday.
- End of year self reflection and reviewing personal plans.
- End of year Portland Town Council presentation.
- Portland Quirkies Unearthed event (1,600+ people attend).
- Celebration and presentation evening at PQU VIP event.
- 2 young people attended 'Becoming: Belonging' event by The Justice League, Opera Circus and The Complete Freedom of Truth.
- Successfully nominated for 'Sea Change - Rising Tide Award' from Plastic Shores CIC for their environmental campaign. 4 young people collected.
- 2 young people attended a 16+ event held by The Complete Freedom of Truth, Opera Circus and The Justice League. Discussions about human rights advocacy and democracy.

END OF YEAR REVIEW

After its fourth year since launching, Portland Youth Council has had its highest retention rate yet.

We are seeing a natural progression happen in members: our newest members finding their feet with new skills and knowledge, our second-year members using their new found confidence to access opportunities outside of the group, whilst longer standing members are using their initiative to kick-start change independently and honing their leadership skills in supporting newer members.

The members continue to seek experimentation, adaptation, and growth and we try to ensure the programme mirrors this as we take feedback from the group and evolve our approach accordingly.

76.47% of the group need additional support in order to engage in the programme. With this in mind, we have made a decision to up the age limit to 12 and cap the number of participants to 15 in future years. We hope this ensures that we can continue to empower each member to reach their potential.

Membership break down:
9 new members recruited initially
9 members retained from last year
17 members stayed for the whole programme

FUNDERS:
- Portland Town Council
- Dorset Council
- The National Lottery Community Fund
- Portland Rotary
- Nouvea Tattoo and Piercing (through fundraising efforts)

CORE PARTNERS:
- Portland Town Council

COLLABORATIONS & TRAINING PARTNERS/SERVICES:
- All Saints Academy
- Andrew Simpson Centre
- Atlantic Academy
- Casterbridge Speakers
- Christians Against Poverty
- The Colour Works Foundation
- Damory Coaches
- Dorchester Youth Council
- Dorset Wildlife Trust
- Dorset Youth
- Dorset Youth Council
- The Drop In
- Friends of Victoria Gardens
- Future Portland
- High Sheriff of Dorset
- Isle of Portland Orchids
- Islanders Youth and Community Centre
- Opera Circus
- Plastic Shores
- The Portland Association
- Rory Pilgrim
- Save the Children
- Weymouth and Portland Marine Litter Project
- Weymouth Youth Council

ADVISORY ROLE TO:
- Island Community Action (ICA)
- Active Dorset
- Budmouth Academy
- Dorset Council (including the Portland Local Alliance Group)
- Dorset Youth Voice
- House of Lords
- Lloyd Hatton
- NHS Primary Care Network, Dorset
- Portland Town Council
- Portland & Weymouth Towns of Culture
- Public Health Dorset
- Stormbreak

PORTLAND YOUTH COUNCIL
Summary of Youth Councillor Engagement

YEAR 4
September 2025-July 2026

Hours of offered supervised sessions: 80+
Member interactions with sessions: 357+

Estimated total of PYC volunteer hours: 1000+

Estimated social value (YP volunteering* + YP direct benefit **) £82,800

Estimated public interactions with PYC related activities: 1,545+

36 Collaborations (Projects & Advisory)

100% retention*

*1,000 hrs @ £8 minimum wage for under 18 yrs = £8,000

**17 x £4,400 per young person within the 2025-26 delivery period of the project = £74,800

YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBER EXPERIENCE

“*PYC makes me yipee, like the yipiest yipeeeeeeeee*” Eirlys, aged 12, member for one year.

“*Katy and Gina supported me to make my idea come to life. This made me feel really happy, special, and fantastic. It encouraged me to think of new ideas in the future. It also showed me that everyone can be important in their own way.*” Xander, aged 12, member for one year.

"*When I first joined, I was not very confident, and now people say that I'm really confident and that I really put myself out there. When I was in primary school, I didn't sign up for anything. I didn't do anything because I was just so scared about what people might think about me, and then I joined the 'Portland Youth Council', and people just boosted my confidence up.*” Rosie, aged 14, member for two years

“*Joining PYC started as a small whim after a school assembly, but I clicked with it instantly. It completely transformed me. I found my voice, discovered my power to drive real change, and drastically improved my social skills through unique opportunities like speaking with our MP. This single decision sparked incredible growth, and I am forever grateful for that.*” Koen, aged 13, member for one year.

“*Since becoming a member of PYC I’ve had many opportunities, including creating a speech which we presented to our local MP in the Houses of Parliament. Fun activities like visiting the London Dungeons as well as new skills such as public speaking. I’ve been involved with lots of fundraising, which has been hugely beneficial to our community. I’ve met a lot of new people and gained so much confidence. The support that Katy and Gina give to each member is priceless, and the PYC has become a big part of my life. I am very thankful for that*” Daisy, aged 15, member for two years