



## **NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK**

### **Youth Board Terms of Reference**

#### **1 Purpose and Scope of the Youth Board**

Mission Statement: We exist to represent the voices of young people; to shape the future of the New Forest.

1.1 The New Forest Youth Board (NFYB) is an advisory group that will enable youth voice to be heard and considered by decision-making groups on issues affecting the New Forest National Park. The Youth Board will be a platform to empower young people living in and around the National Park to help lead action on climate and nature and have a positive impact on young people and their communities.

1.2 The NFYB will consult on issues, work programs, strategies, and other items that it agrees are relevant to the Board's aims or are brought to it by staff or Members of the New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA) and partner organisations. The NFYB can request items to be brought to it and will be regularly informed of relevant issues and developments by the NFNPA and partner organisations. The NFYB can also work on specific projects which it agrees will further its development and the delivery of National Park partnerships, purposes and duties.

1.3 To help facilitate a wide range of youth voice within its work, the NFYB will consult with other young people aged 11 to 18 years old, in accordance with the NFNPA Safeguarding Policy. The NFYB will use a range of engagement methods, both in person and online, to reach a diverse audience.

#### **2 Membership**

2.1 The NFYB will consist of a diverse group of between 5 to 15 young people between the ages of 16 and 30, with the intention of widening this to include 16 and 17-year-olds as work progresses. Over half the members must be present (in person or online) for the NFYB to make a decision.

2.2 The target demographic of the NFYB is young people who are passionate about national parks or have a strong connection to the New Forest, and/or a specific interest such as, but not limited to, commoning, conservation, wildlife, heritage, access, communications, climate change, planning, education and the rural economy.

2.3 The NFYB is open to young people living in the New Forest and surrounding areas, including Hampshire, Dorset and Wiltshire. Permanent residential location should not be a limiting factor to membership of the NFYB.





2.4 New members can be added at any time, through an ongoing recruitment process. Expression of interest to be received and informal interview conducted collaboratively between NFNPA staff and existing NFYB members. Addition of new members is subject to availability on the Board.

2.5 Terms of membership on the NFYP is flexible. All individual memberships to be reviewed on an annual and case-by-case basis as the need arises. As members reach the upper age limit, to consider options for progression roles, subject to demand for entry by new members.

### 3 Roles & Responsibilities

3.1 Roles and responsibilities identified and appointed by the NFYB include, but are not limited to, a rolling Chair and Scribe and a Coordinator.

3.2 Chair and Scribe positions to be rolling, appointed on a meeting-meeting basis, according to interest. Coordinator to be appointed for six-month terms, according to order of expression of interest and mutual agreement of those Members, or by vote if necessary.

3.3 The NFYB will be supported by a member of the NFNPA's Education and Youth team to help facilitate its work and provide a contact point for additional expertise/supportive measures.

### 4 Meetings

4.1 The NFYB will meet six times a year or at such other frequency as is deemed appropriate. Meetings will take place both in person and online to aid accessibility to members. Support to attend NFYB meetings is available through the YouCAN accessibility fund, via the NFNPA's Education and Youth Team.

4.2 The NFYB will agree meeting etiquette and formalities such as minutes/note taking during the commencement of their meetings.

4.3 Non-members are encouraged to attend meetings by agreement of the NFYB. The process for this will be decided by the Board.

4.4 All NFYB members acknowledge and agree the need to uphold the values and principles of the NFYB and wider to those of the NFNPA. All NFYB members agree to meet and maintain these standards throughout their work in relation to the NFYB. (ref: appendix ## to follow)





## 5 Reporting

5.1 At least one member of the NFYB will have the opportunity to attend the YouCAN Project Board meetings to represent and report back to the NFYB. Different Youth Board members can attend each time as long as the minimum requirement is met. This could continue throughout the duration of the YouCAN project, after which a new reporting process will be identified.

5.2 Feedback mechanisms will be developed and agreed between the NFYB, the NFNPA and partner organisations to support interactions between groups and allow for information to flow between them.

## 6. Amendments/modifications

6.1 These Terms of Reference may be amended, varied, or modified in writing after consultation and agreement by the NFYB.

### Annex/Appendix (if needed)

This could include:

- Interactions with partner organisations etc.
- Members of the board
- Additional support/points of contact from NFNPA
- Reference documents
- Recruitment process
- Process for attendance of non-members

No appendices deemed necessary at time of agreement of initial terms by the NFYB. To be added at any such time in the future as considered appropriate and valuable.

