

YOUR TURN (YOUNG SOCIALISTS?)

Your Turn... for young potential leaders

What is Your Turn?

Your Turn is Common Purpose's campaign that challenges teenagers to think in new ways about their town or city and their world.

Your Turn takes young people at a time when their horizons are expanding exponentially and exposes them to a radical new set of influences: the people who make the decisions that govern their world – people such as police chiefs, business executives and community leaders. The resulting encounters open minds on both sides – often in remarkable ways.

Who is it for?

Your Turn Programme is for 13-14 year-olds attending school in Year 9. The programme is for young people who enjoy sharing knowledge with others and want to understand how their town or city works so they can make a difference in the future.

Your Turn is also for schools who want their students to gain the knowledge and skills to operate effectively as active citizens.

What issues are explored and how?

The programme takes place over three days. During the three days participants have the opportunity to look at the themes of 'Influence' and 'Change' through the places they visit, speakers, group discussions and activities. The first two days, looking at 'Influence', are typically consecutive, with the final day, looking at 'Change', taking place a week later.

Participants groups consist of around 30 young people from two or three different schools within a district. Your Turn works best when participants come from a diverse range of schools from across each local authority area and include schools from both the state and independent sector. For West Yorkshire activity in 2005 we will be looking at running the programme with 10 pupils from 3 different schools.

Whilst on the programme, participants look at the influence of political and democratic power, the place of economics and business in decisions making, what social exclusion might mean and how young people can have a role in making a difference.

Every young person will meet adults who are in a position to create change, selected from Common Purpose's network. Every programme also includes sessions looking at key skills, for instance communication (eg voicing an opinion), networking, teamwork, decision-making, problem solving, presentation and self-reflection.

Each young person will observe the process of change from pinpointing a problem to working through an action plan to provide a solution.

When and where is it held?

Each day of the Your Turn programme, will be held in a different venue across the area, which are selected to give participants an insight into organisations and companies across the programme area. Teachers are sent an 'agenda pack' a week before the programme starts telling you exactly where you need to be and at what time.

In general, programme days start at 9.00am and finish at 3.30pm and are hosted by venues in the local area.

How do people apply?

Students must apply through their schools. Interested schools will work closely with Rosie to identify and choose suitable students, to encompass diversity both within the group and from across the district.

What's the benefit?

Your Turn inspires future leaders to recognise their potential and give them the knowledge and skills to affect change in society, or their part of it at least.

Young people who participate in Your Turn benefit from:

- the development of key skills such as communication, decision-making and presentation
- an opportunity to work with senior decision-makers from outside the school environment
- an increased understanding of their role as young leaders ?
- increased skills to be able to make more informed life choices
- access to a peer group who are more likely to be involved in the life of their local areas
- raised aspirations and expectations for their own futures and of their community and school
- a deeper understanding of how their community works.

Schools that participate in Your Turn benefit from:

- an innovative approach to delivering the citizenship and enterprise curriculum
- a stimulated group of young people recognising their potential as young leaders
- links with individuals, organisations and business leaders who contribute to the programmes.
- the opportunity for students to work with young people from a diverse range of schools within an area

- a group of young people who have a further understanding of decision making - many Your Turn graduates go on to become active members within their schools, for example through school councils or pupil mentoring.

Organisations and businesses who contribute to Your Turn programmes benefit from:

- innovate ways to address Corporate Social Responsibility agendas
- relationships with schools, young people and other businesses in the local area
- developing the transferable skill base in young people that will benefit local organisations and businesses in the future
- an opportunity to invest in deprived areas in an innovative and exciting way
- an opportunity to give young people a taste of business and business a taste of young people - breaking down barriers and stereotypes

What young people think about Your Turn...

"It really gave me a chance to expand my group skills and it allowed everyone to interact with people from backgrounds that they may not have met otherwise."

"I'm now part of my school council and have sent a letter to Ken Livingstone (Mayor of London) to build new playgrounds around Camden for young children and adults."

"I took away the skills of listening to others and seeing things from all different perspectives."

"It's about teamwork, and you make new friends, meet people, go to places you have never been to before. It all helps young people understand more about the environment in which they live."

"It's a unique experience, you learn how the city works."

"The programme has helped us all hugely. We have all kept in touch with each other and have all become good friends. The programme has altered our ways of thinking and our perspective towards our surroundings."

How will it work in West Yorkshire?

As you know, Rosie Cottrell, Your Turn Programme Manager will run the Your Turn programmes across West Yorkshire, working out of the Bradford office.

Initial activity will be concentrated in the Bradford and Leeds areas due to a history of interest in Your Turn from key players here, with the aim to develop programmes across the Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield areas throughout the year.

For Common Purpose to employ Rosie to work across West Yorkshire we have secured a three year commitment from funders in Leeds and Bradford to make the post viable.

The basic operational cost for a three-day Your Turn programme is £5,000. Experience of Your Turn across the UK shows that programmes work best when there is a strong buy-in from the heads of each school involved. This buy-in is usually a financial contribution to each student's place on the programme. Programmes suffer when schools think that Your Turn is some government-funded initiative. These schools have tended to select the wrong pupils and have not respected the time to attend the programme or prepare for it. The contribution to be made by the school has been set at £50 + VAT per pupil.

Programme dates have now been set for Your Turn activity in Bradford and Leeds for 2005 and these are as follows...

YT Bradford	Power 18 Jan	Power 19 Jan	Change 26 Jan
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YT Bradford	Power 2 Feb	Power 3 Feb	Change 9 Feb
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YT Leeds	Power 2 Mar	Power 3 Mar	Change 10 Mar
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YT Leeds	Power 11 Apr	Power 12 Apr	Change 22 Apr
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YT Bradford	Power 17 May	Power 18 May	Change 25 May
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YT Leeds	Power 22 Jun	Power 23 Jun	Change 30 Jun
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Our aim is to develop the Your Turn campaign across the whole of West Yorkshire and once we are up and running with the first few programmes we will then be able to progress with development elsewhere.