

CO-OPERATIVES UK

INFORMATION PACK

YOUTH ADVISORY GROUP

August 2026



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1. WELCOME

We are looking for young people – aged 16-30 years – to join our Youth Advisory Group.

In March 2022, Co-operatives UK launched a new strategy with empowering young people as one of its core themes. We are on a mission to inspire and support the next generation of co-operators to help secure a sustainable future for our movement and society.

In September 2024, the Youth Advisory Group started meeting regularly where it worked to help shape the National Youth Summit. The group is now working on refining its aims and proposing a series of projects that it looks to execute in this next term.

To address barriers to participation and in recognition of the commitments involved, members of the Youth Advisory Group **are paid for their time.**

About Co-operatives UK

As the voice of the UK's co-operative movement, we empower and support co-operative enterprise with specialised knowledge and expertise, to grow the co-operative economy and create a fairer society.

By promoting shared wealth through member ownership, we are committed to enable anyone in the UK to form, or join, thriving and sustainable co-ops.



2. WHAT IS A CO-OP?

Co-operatives are not just the supermarket – they are much more!

A co-op is a business that is owned and controlled by its members. The members can be its customers, employees, residents or suppliers. Profits are shared between people who have a stake and a say in how the co-operative is run, not distant investors or shareholders. All co-operatives share a core set of values and principles.

There are more than 7,000 co-ops in the UK, which contribute £40bn to the economy.

You can find co-operatives in pretty much every industry – from healthcare to housing, renewable energy to music venues, sports to social care. And they are every shape and size, from multi-billion pound businesses to small community enterprises.



3. OUR VALUES

Equity

We treat each other with fairness and respect

Honesty

We are open and honest

Self-responsibility

We are empowered to get things done

Solidarity

We stand together



4. CO-OPS FOR ALL

Our aim is to become a truly inclusive organisation that is as diverse as the co-operatives we serve.

We treat all applicants equally, regardless of age, disability, gender identity or gender expression, race, ethnicity, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation or any other equality characteristic.

We particularly encourage applications from disabled, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) candidates, and LGBTQ+ and non-binary candidates as they are under-represented within our organisation and sector.



5. YOUTH ADVISORY GROUP

Young people are the future of the co-operative movement and it is vital that they are given the platform to be involved across all elements of decision making.

The Youth Advisory Group will support Co-operatives UK to implement one of the core themes of our strategy: 'empowering young people'.

Members of the group will be young people aged **16–30** who bring their perspectives and ideas to Co-operatives UK.

You will work alongside us to champion youth voice and advocate for meaningful participation in everything that we do.



6. THE OPPORTUNITY

As a member of the Youth Advisory Group, you will:

- Add vital youth perspective and embed youth voice in key areas of our work.
- Contribute innovative ideas aimed at fostering youth involvement in co-operative activities.
- Champion the needs of young people and their involvement in the delivery of our services.
- Act as an advocate for the co-operative movement, raising awareness and helping spread the word about co-operatives to other young people.
- Share experiences and insight into issues faced by young people.



6. THE OPPORTUNITY

As a member of the Youth Advisory Group you will:

- Receive opportunities to help support your personal and professional growth.
- Have the opportunity to work on and develop youth voice projects and give your insight into decisions regarding Co-operatives UK's youth engagement.
- Have all the support you need to take part in our programmes, events and workshops.
- Receive expenses for travel, accommodation, and ad-hoc costs to take part in in-person meetings. Expenses will be processed in line with Co-operatives UK's Expenses Policy.



6. THE OPPORTUNITY

What we ask you to commit to:

- Attend bi-weekly Youth Advisory Group meetings online – approximately 1 hour; and one other in-person meet-up over the course of a year.
- Actively participate in and support the Youth Advisory Group: its purpose; objectives; work; and activities including the National Youth Summit.
- Representing Co-operatives UK at flagship events, including Co-op Congress and the National Youth Summit.



7. ABOUT YOU

- Between 16 and 30 years of age at the time of candidacy
- Interested in co-operative values and principles or actively participating in/with a co-operative.
- Passionate about the need to support and advocate for young people by providing them with alternate solutions.
- Have a good understanding of the issues or challenges a young person might face
- Able to work within a team to achieve a shared positive outcome
- Willing to take on the responsibility of being a committed member of the Youth Advisory Group
- Willing to represent Co-operatives UK at internal/external events and engage with respective stakeholders



8. HOW TO APPLY

**Please complete the application form
signposted at: www.uk.coop/YAG**

The short application form will tell us a little more about who you are, why you want to become a Youth Advisory Group member, and the skills and experience you have.

We accept applications via written text, video or audio. Applications from young people with all levels of experience and skills welcome.

**Application deadline: 11:59pm, Sunday 6
September 2026**

Direct any queries to: youth@uk.coop

