



Home Office Young People's Board (YPB)



What is the YPB?

A collection of 4 participation groups (1 each in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales) for young people to discuss and give their views on a range of issues relating to migration, borders, and citizenship.

Why has it been set up?

For the Home Office to engage effectively with children and young people on issues that are a priority for and directly affect them. The importance of doing this was brought to light by the independent Windrush Lessons Learned Review.

What does it look like?

Each group contains 10-20 young people, aged 13 to 24, who have personal experience of the Home Office.

What support is available?

The YPB has a designated safeguarding lead to support participants who need it. If a safeguarding or protection related issue arises, appropriate actions are considered by the safeguarding lead, in consultation with the young person affected.

How does it work?

A 1-hour session (either online or face to face) typically takes place every 6-8 weeks.

Who facilitates these meetings?

The Home Office Safeguarding Advice and Children's Champion (SACC) team, but participants will also have the opportunity to perform this role themselves, with our support.

Can young people decide what is discussed?

Yes. Participants can propose issues for discussion. This is alongside ministerial recommendations and suggestions from Home Office policy and operational leads.

Won't the Home Office just take control here?

SACC is independent from the Home Office migration, borders, and citizenship decision-making process. Our primary focus is supporting young people to provide their views on the issues that are a priority for them.

Will the Home Office consider YPB suggestions?

The Home Secretary has publicly expressed her commitment to the YPB. As part of this, considerations and recommendations are shared with senior officials and young people are encouraged to personally present these, where possible.

Why join the YPB?

- For the **opportunity to be heard** and contribute to longer-term progress and change.
- To help identify areas for **strengthening policies, procedures and practices** across the Home Office.
- To ensure we deliver a **child and young person-centred service** in accordance with our statutory duty to children and wider safeguarding responsibilities.

How will you benefit?

You will build your communication, influencing, and leadership skills. The Home Office will also recognise your participation by providing you with a certificate of participation, which can be part of your community and civic duty contribution.

To learn more about the YPB, please contact Christine.Smart@homeoffice.gov.uk or Mark.Walsh@homeoffice.gov.uk