



POWER OF YOUTH CHARTER



Foundation

The Co-op Foundation believes that all children and young people should be empowered to make a positive difference on the issues that affect their lives, their communities and broader society. We therefore adopt this Charter, committing to growing the power of youth in the following areas:

WE WILL...

EXAMPLES:

WHAT WILL YOUR ORGANISATION DO?



PRIORITISE SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO TAKE SOCIAL ACTION

We will create opportunities that empower more young people, particularly from low-income and ethnic minority backgrounds, to be positive changemakers

- Incorporate youth social action into your organisational strategy
- Focus on creating more youth social action opportunities through your funding programmes
- Incorporate youth social action into our training or curriculum programmes

- We will continue to provide opportunities for youth social action by using our underspend to extend our #iwill Fund delivery to December 2023.
- We will continue to give young people a voice and break down power dynamics through unrestricted funding for the Young Trustees Movement.
- We will continue to promote the opportunities provided by the #iwill youth ambassador movement.



OPEN UP OUR DECISION-MAKING STRUCTURES

We will offer opportunities for young people, particularly from low-income and ethnic minority backgrounds, to participate in decision-making, leading and shaping both the activities they are involved in and wider organisational decisions

- Recruit young trustees under 25
- Set-up a youth advisory group or shadow youth board
- Involve young people in grant-making or recruitment panels

- We will continue to give diverse young people a voice in our funding decisions, empowering them to use their lived experience to make life better for their peers and the wider community. We will take a holistic, respectful and inclusive approach to supporting any young people with whom we work.
- We're proud to have recruited younger trustees to our Board. We will share their voices and amplify their unique experiences so they can influence our decision making and inspire other young people to follow their lead.

ORK COLLABORATIVELY WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

We will work collaboratively with other organisations to create more high-quality opportunities, reach young people from low-income and ethnic minority backgrounds to take part, share learning and achieve shared goals

- Work with schools, colleges and youth groups to reach more young people
- Work with funding organisations to create more opportunities
- Create resources that support others to empower young people

- We will continue to work closely with UK Youth to identify opportunities to achieve the aims of the wider #iwill movement.
- We will continue to drive positive change in communities through our campaign work, informed by young people. This is something we have done with our youth co-designed Lonely Not Alone campaign.
- We will continue to work with other funders and youth organisations to develop a more consistent approach to sharing data across the sector.

VIDENCE THE BENEFITS OF YOUTH SOCIAL ACTION

We will capture and share insights, stories and data on how we are working with young people, and the positive impact this has on them, their communities and our organisation

- Report your progress annually through the Power of Youth Index
- Incorporate evidence into your annual reviews and evaluation reports
- Focus gathering evidence on community impact

- We will share #iwill Fund programme learning through both our annual Impact Report and through programme-commissioned evaluation reports.
- We will create blogs from our findings and those of our partners. We will continue to share both formal and informal learning from our partners through relevant learning channels – including our #iwill Fund Teams Channel, and the #iwill Fund Match Funders Teams Channel.

ECOGNISE AND CELEBRATE YOUNG PEOPLE'S IMPACT

We will use our communication channels to advocate for and celebrate young people as positive and powerful changemakers.

- Create opportunities for young people to takeover your communication channels
- Give young people a platform at your meetings and events
- Give young people awards, eg. 'Young Volunteer of the Year'

- Our 2022 strategy launch showcased the importance of young people and we encouraged them to share their experiences directly through videos and quotes. We will continue to amplify young people's voices in our comms so they can influence change and have control over their story.
- We will set up a collective made up of young people who will participate in meetings and events. We will also provide them with ad hoc opportunities, such as social media takeovers.