



Election Pack

What is Bright Minds Big Futures

Bright Minds Big Futures (BMBF) is a nationally award-winning youth-led movement, working together with Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council to make the Borough a great place grow up.

Open to any young person aged 11-19 or up to 25 with Special Educational Needs, it is a great way for young people to make friends, gain valuable life skills, increase confidence, and be involved in making a real difference to the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees. Members don't just get the opportunity to get involved in volunteering, fundraising and campaigning - they can also use BMBF activity to support awards like the Duke of Edinburgh by counting their volunteer hours.

By joining BMBF, young people are given amazing opportunities which include corresponding at Council events, managing social media platforms, organising and delivering live music events, developing campaigns and creating fundraising activities to name a few.

Role of BMBF members

BMBF members are added to SLACK our online communications app! This is where they can meet other members, find out what opportunities are coming up and share their ideas on projects or initiatives.

Members can invest as much or as little time as they want, and it is entirely their choice which events, activities or campaigns they want to be involved in. We hold virtual and in person meetings and can support all BMBF members with transport and refreshment costs – plus all members receive a BMBF hoody and t-shirt.

We encourage all BMBF members to sign up to SLACK and also join Youth Viewpoint, the Council's online survey for young people.

To join, young people simply need to complete the 'Join the movement' online form available at

https://consultation.stockton.gov.uk/public/hrlc/ce/bmbf_join_the_movement

Role of BMBF Heads

BMBF is managed by an elected panel of young people known as The Big Committee. The Big Committee is made up of the following areas, each of which have an elected BMBF Head:

- Communications and Engagement
- Community Safety
- Health and Wellbeing
- Environment and Green Spaces
- Special Educational Needs
- Equality and Diversity
- Business, Regeneration and Transport
- Arts, Leisure and Culture
- Children and Young People Services

Heads of Department work with Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, local charities and voluntary organisation, along with other members of BMBF, to develop key objectives and priorities. Heads will work towards these objectives throughout the year by developing projects, initiatives, and campaigns.

Heads are the main point of contact for any projects or initiatives that fall under their remit and will be asked to write an article for Stockton-on-Tees News to give their perspective on their BMBF aims. All Heads may appoint a deputy who can attend meetings, events or activities on their behalf. Heads will be required to attend The Big Committee meetings once a month to represent their department - if they are unavailable, they should make necessary arrangements to send your Vice or a written update.

Applying to be a Head of Department is another great way for young people to increase confidence, learn leadership skills and become an active part of change in the Borough.

If you would like to discuss BMBF or get support in helping young people join, email Sophie.Haste@stockton.gov.uk or phone Sophie Haste, Community Engagement Officer, on 07770 678356.

For more information about BMBF visit www.stockton.gov.uk/BMBF