

YOUNG LABOUR BRANCHES



GETTING STARTED

INTRODUCTION

The 2024 General Election saw Young Labour members play a crucial role in Labour's landslide victory. We know that our Party is at its best when young people's voices are elevated and given a stake in Labour's future achievements and election victories.

This guide will give you all the steps and tips you need to set up a local Young Labour branch in your area that can engage and bring together young members near you. These branches are the lifeblood of Young Labour and create welcoming spaces where thousands of young members will begin their journeys in the Party.

All Labour members under the age of 27 are automatically members of Young Labour.

We know that our Party is at its best when young people's voices are elevated and given a stake in Labour's future achievements and election victories.

Young Labour is led by a National Committee elected every two years. They organise training, campaigning and activities for young members in the Labour Party. The committee also supports the work of regional and national (Wales & Scotland) Young Labour groups. Local branches of Young Labour exist around the country for members to get involved in.



CLP YOUTH OFFICERS

Every CLP (Constituency Labour Party) should have a Youth Officer on its committee. If your CLP doesn't have a Youth Officer or you're unsure whether it does, reach out to your CLP Chair or Secretary to see if there's a vacancy! Otherwise, the position will be elected every year at your AGM (Annual General Meeting).

CLP Youth Officers make sure that young members are represented and engaged. They are vital in ensuring that Young Labour is a campaigning force in every corner of the country.

Young Labour should be exciting and a chance for young members to make the most of their experience!

What makes a good CLP Youth Officer?

- ✔ **Friendly and approachable** – young members especially new members will come to you to get involved in the party, make sure to be a positive and welcoming face to all.
- ✔ **Creative** – making other young members feel engaged and energised can sometimes mean thinking outside the box. The Labour Party can be a confusing place for young members. Young Labour should be exciting and a chance for young members to make the most of their experience!
- ✔ **Proactive** – as with any role, there's a level of responsibility that comes with being a CLP Officer. People will always be willing to help you where they can, but often you may need to reach out or take the first steps to show that you're able to deliver.



WHO TO REACH OUT TO WHEN GETTING STARTED

Young Labour National Committee

The National Committee organises Young Labour's national events and activities but are also here to provide support and advice to local groups and members when you need it. Please note the committee are serving on an entirely voluntary basis and may not always be able to get back to you straight away.

You can find a full list of the Young Labour National Committee [here](#).

Every region and nation has a Young Labour group and representative who sits on the National Committee. They are the link between the National Committee and local branches.

Regional and National Young Labour Groups

Every region and nation has a Young Labour group and representative who sits on the National Committee. They are the link between the National Committee and local branches. These groups will host events for your entire region and nation and are a great way to meet members from other areas without having to travel very long distances. During the election, they were crucial to ensuring we had active campaigning across the country.

The Labour Party's regions and nations are:

Scottish Labour

scottishlabour.org.uk

Welsh Labour

welshlabour.wales

Labour East

laboureast.org.uk

East Midlands Labour

eastmidslabour.org.uk

London Labour

labourinlondon.org.uk

Labour North

labournorth.com

Labour North West

labournorthwest.co.uk

Labour South East

laboursoutheast.org.uk

Labour South West

laboursouthwest.org.uk

West Midlands Labour

westmidlandslabour.org.uk

Yorkshire and the Humber Labour

yorkshirehumberlabour.org.uk

CLP Chair/Secretary

Your local CLP Chair or Secretary are a great first point of call for organising young members within your CLP. If you're setting up a branch or organising an event, you can ask them to send an email to all local young members to advertise it.

Labour Party HQ

You can email younglabour@labour.org.uk if you don't have an active Young Labour group in your area and a member of staff will get back to you as soon as they can.

SETTING UP A YOUNG LABOUR BRANCH

Local Young Labour branches can cover one or several CLPs, in general we would recommend that they cover multiple CLPs, a whole borough or a town/city to ensure a large membership who can participate in all your events.

If you're a CLP Youth Officer and you want to set up a Young Labour branch that covers more than one CLP, you should get in touch with your counterpart in the CLPs you want to work with to make sure you've agreed on your plans.

To be an official Young Labour branch you will then need to elect at least four officers: a Chair, a Secretary, a Membership & Campaigns Officer and a Women's Officer (who must be a woman).

Your group can decide on and elect other officers if you wish such as BAME, LGBT+,

You can register your new Young Labour branch for approval via this [link](#)

Disabled, and Social Secretaries. But the first four are the ones you must have elected. These should be elected at a meeting open to all young members in the geographic area you have chosen to cover.

Once you have done this you can register your new Young Labour branch for approval via this [link](#), this will then be put before the Young Labour National Committee to approve the group.



HOLDING AN EVENT

Once you've set up a branch, get started with hosting events for young members in your area! Inactive groups that don't host events will struggle to grow and engage new members.

Here are some tips to remember when organising an event:

- ✔ Choose an accessible and easy to reach venue. Young members are disproportionately likely to rely on public transport links so make sure it's easy to reach by bus or train.
- ✔ Be innovative! You don't have to stick to the same formula all the time, consider holding fun social events like a quiz, film night, pizza and policy, a workshop or something completely different!

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- ✔ If you are holding a speaker event, work on getting an interesting speaker who will appeal to your target audience and deliver an exciting event.
- ✔ Don't go over the top on formalities. No one wants to sit through bureaucracy at every event, unless it's a formal meeting





like an AGM. New members will be put off if the event feels inaccessible to someone who doesn't know the ins and out of how the Labour Party works.

- ✔ **Publicise it properly.** Ask your CLP to email young members, and if you know young members in your area already or someone who might be interested, a personal message can go a long way to convincing someone to come along. Your regional/national group may also be able to publicise it via their social media.
- ✔ **Combine campaigning with a social event.** Labour's election victories are the result of the hard work of thousands of volunteers like yourself. Campaigning is rewarding but combining it with a social event before or afterwards can make people more likely to come along and help out with knocking doors.
- ✔ **Say thank you!** Once it's all done, make sure to thank people for coming. Especially if it's a campaigning event, knocking on doors or delivering leaflets a thank you lets people know they're valued and they'll be more likely to come to your next event!

Jargon Buster

AGM – Annual General Meeting: Yearly meetings of all members within a branch or CLP where the executive committee reports on activity and elections are held to fill roles for the next year.

CLP – Constituency Labour Party: This is the local Labour Party within your parliamentary constituency. There is a Constituency Labour Party in every Parliamentary Constituency of England and Wales, for every Holyrood Parliamentary Constituency in Scotland.

CLP Officers

Role holders, including Youth Officer, handle the day-to-day running of the local party. The positions are voted on each year at the AGM

YLNC – Young Labour National Committee:

They are elected biannually to represent young members in the party and to lead on the organisation and campaigning of Young Labour across the country.

NLS – National Labour Students:

The student wing of the Labour Party represents all Labour Party members who attend a higher education or further education institution. They often work closely with Young Labour on campaigns and events.



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