

# BEHIND THE SCENES: CIVIC ROLES

This information sheet provides an overview of different civic roles, highlighting key responsibilities, personal insights from young people in these positions, interesting facts, and practical steps on how to get started.

## SCHOOL GOVERNOR



**SAMI**  
Age: 21

Hi! I am Sami Gichki, I am 21 and a school governor. As a school governor, I share my views and unbiased opinions and make sure the school's leaders are taking accountability for any decisions made! However, I do NOT get involved in the day-to-day management of the school.

**“THOUGH I FIND BEING A GOVERNOR CHALLENGING AT TIMES, I FIND IT JUST AS REWARDING AND MEANINGFUL KNOWING THAT I HAVE AND WILL BE GIVEN ALL THE SUPPORT I NEED ALONG THE WAY BY MY PEERS.”**

### INTERESTING FACT:

You don't need to be a parent or education expert to volunteer as a school governor.

### Roles & Responsibilities:

- Setting the school's vision, aims, and objectives
- Approving the school budget
- Appointing the headteacher
- Ensuring high curriculum standards
- Handling safeguarding incidents appropriately

### How to Get Started:

- Direct Application: Schools often have vacancies for young governors that you can apply to. (Check out Education & Employers).
- Support through Training Programmes: Many schools provide governor training, making it accessible for young people without prior experience.
- Your Local Council Website: You can find out about governor vacancies and training on your council's website.

## YOUTH BOARD MEMBER



**HANNAH**

Age: 16

Hello there! My name is Hannah Yue, I am 16 and live in Greater Manchester. I sit on a Youth Advisory Board for a charity. What this means is I can make meaningful change through my lived experience to improve how the charity supports young people.

**“BEING ON A YOUTH BOARD IS EMPOWERING FOR ME AS I KNOW MY VOICE AND OPINIONS MATTER. I’M NOT TALKING FOR THE SAKE OF IT, THE CHARITY WILL TAKE ON BOARD MY FEEDBACK AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!”**

### INTERESTING FACT:

There is no legal age requirement to be on a Youth Board.

#### Roles & Responsibilities:

- Supporting the charity’s accessibility
- Ensuring youth-friendly practices
- Proper use of charity resources

#### How to Get Started:

- Youth Charities: A lot of youth charities will already have Youth Boards so talk to your local Youth Charity to find out.
- Check out the Young Trustees Movement.

## TRUSTEE



**ROUKAGIA**

Age: 23

Roukagia is Co-Chair of Young Manchester and Founder of Muslim Northern Women and first became a Trustee aged 18. Trustees are volunteers who lead charities and decide how they run. They are also known as Board Members or Members of the Board.

**“I TELL MYSELF I AM DOING ALL OF THIS BECAUSE IT’S IMPORTANT TO ME AND BECAUSE I WANT TO GIVE SOMETHING BACK. IN REALITY, I GET LOADS OUT OF IT AND I’VE LEARNED A LOT THAT HAS HELPED ME IN MY BUSINESS.”**

### INTERESTING FACT:

There are over 1 million trustees in England and Wales, volunteering their time for charities.

#### Roles & Responsibilities:

- Setting the charity’s vision, mission, and values
- Ensuring compliance with laws
- Fair use of resources (staff, money, etc.)

#### How to Get Started:

- Youth Charities: Many youth-focused charities appreciate having young trustees.
- Training & Mentorship: Organisations often offer trustee training and mentorship opportunities to guide young trustees.
- Check out the Young Trustees Movement.