



Standing Committee for Youth Justice

## Young Board Member Application Pack

### Welcome from the Chair

Thank you for your interest in the Standing Committee for Youth Justice (SCYJ). I am delighted that you are considering applying to become a Board Member. This is the first time the SCYJ has recruited for the position of 'Young Board Member', a role that is especially important for the organisation and the Board.

Having long been a supporter of the SCYJ, I became Chair of the Board in September 2019. I have worked in the field of youth justice for over 20 years and my professional commitment for all of the work I do, is to support justice-involved young people to be treated fairly and with respect.

We are at an exciting moment in the SCYJ journey, as we embark on our new programme of work to continue advocating for young people in the youth justice system. Find out more about our areas of priority [here](#).

Once again, thank you for your interest in the SCYJ and I wish you well in your application.

Hannah Smithson  
(Chair of the SCYJ)

### Who are we?

The SCYJ has grown into an alliance of over 60 non-profit organisations working together to improve the youth justice system in England and Wales. We advocate for a distinct and child-focused system that tackles the underlying causes of offending, respects rights and promotes positive long-term outcomes. We focus on influencing policy, legislation and practice to address issues affecting young people involved in the youth justice system - from prevention and policing to custody and resettlement.

SCYJ has built an impressive track-record as the most influential group campaigning for improvements to the youth justice system. We aim to positively influence the context in which statutory agencies and the youth sector respond to and work with young people, to benefit all those involved and their wider communities. We do this by:

- Advocating for responses that treat children in trouble with the law as children first
- Promoting a focus on constructive approaches and positive long-term outcomes
- Informing the narrative about how to keep children out of trouble
- Reducing criminalisation and imprisonment of children
- Facilitating meaningful participation of young people and the organisations supporting them to influence policy



## About the Board

The SCYJ Board are leading a programme of change. We have expanded the work of the organisation through the appointment of a Director and we now have a staff team in place. Part of this programme of change is to recruit new members to the Board.

The roles are unpaid voluntary positions however reasonable expenses are paid. Board members are expected to attend four board meetings per year, but also to participate in the life of the organisation between board meetings, advising the staff team and acting in an ambassadorial role for the SCYJ. Board meetings are currently held weekday afternoons in London. Positions are advertised for a period of 3 years.

## What does a Board Member do?

Board Members of the SCYJ have a duty to:

- Support the SCYJ in pursuing its stated objectives and purposes by defining its goals, developing, and agreeing a long-term strategy and evaluating against agreed targets.
- Contributing to the effective and efficient administration of the SCYJ, including in relation to the financial stability, policies and procedures and resources of the organisation.
- Identify and manage any conflicts of interest.
- Uphold the name and values of the organisation.
- Follow proper and formal arrangements for the management and oversight of the Director.
- Taking reasonable care and making use of skills and experience, considering appropriate advice and acting accordingly.
- Actively preparing for and participating in board meetings and all other aspects of the role.
- Demonstrate that the SCYJ ensures appropriate accountability to members.
- Support accountability within the organisation, particularly where the Board delegates responsibility.

## What's in it for you?

- You'll have the opportunity to use your passion, knowledge and expertise, while gaining new skills and experiences.
- You'll have a chance to gain perspective and understanding of the sector as well as your area of interest, you'll also connect and exchange ideas with professionals.
- Being a Board Member is one of the most powerful ways in which you can contribute to a cause you really care about and help create meaningful change.

## Who are we looking for?

We are looking for young people with:

- Commitment to the organisation and its objectives, social justice and bringing about positive change for children and young people
- A genuine interest and understanding of the issues affecting children in the youth justice system
- Good interpersonal skills, with the ability to engage with people from a range of backgrounds and develop collaborative relationships



- A willingness and ability to devote the necessary time and effort to the requirements of the Board
- Strategic vision
- Good, independent judgement
- An ability to think creatively
- A willingness to speak their mind
- A willingness to understand and accept the legal duties, responsibilities, and liabilities of Board Membership
- An ability to work effectively as a member of a team

## Other information

We welcome and encourage applicants from all backgrounds and do not discriminate on the basis of age, disability (physical or learning), gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.

We will provide reasonable support to disabled applicants throughout the recruitment process. Please contact us ([policy@scyj.org.uk](mailto:policy@scyj.org.uk)) to identify any additional support that you may require to enable you to make an application.

SCYJ actively promotes equality of opportunity for all and encourages applications from a wide range of candidates, including those with criminal records and those with experience of the areas we cover. The SCYJ seeks to ensure diversity in its Board as well as in its staff base and consideration will be given to ways in which groups that are under-represented on the Board might be reached and encouraged to apply. SCYJ select all candidates based on their skills, qualifications, experience, and ability to do the role advertised.

## Ready to apply?

To express an interest in the role and to be considered, please submit your application including the following to [policy@scyj.org.uk](mailto:policy@scyj.org.uk):

- an up-to-date CV
- a supporting statement that addresses all criteria in the Person Specification and outlines your motivation for applying

The closing date for applications is **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020** and we expect to interview via Zoom on **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020**.

If you have any queries about any aspect of the appointment process, need additional information or wish to have an informal and confidential discussion, please contact Hannah Smithson (Chair of the Board, on 07811 421632 or Gess Horner-Aird (Deputy Chair) on 07912 034322.

Please also feel free to contact our Director, Pippa Goodfellow [pippa.goodfellow@scyj.org.uk](mailto:pippa.goodfellow@scyj.org.uk) to find out more about the organisation and our work.

