



Youth Justice Young Advocates: Application Guide

Please read these notes carefully before filling in your application.

1. What is the Youth Justice Young Advocates project?

The Young Advocates project will enable young people aged 14-20 with youth justice experience to have a stronger voice on the system - by supporting them to engage with their peers to shape decision-making for the better.

We plan to train young people with personal experience to:

- Become 'Young Advocates' for youth justice improvement
- Comment on important policy topics
- Collaborate with professionals
- Have face-to-face conversations about the youth justice system with other young people with similar experiences

The Young Advocates Project is a collaboration between [Leaders Unlocked](#) and the [Standing Committee for Youth Justice \(SCYJ\)](#), supported by Children in Need. We will have help from the [Young Adult Advisors on Criminal Justice](#) who also have experiences of the justice system and took part in a similar project.

The SCYJ is an alliance of over 60 non-profit organisations who work with, or on behalf of, children and young people in contact with the law. The alliance is entering an exciting new phase and we are looking for young people to join this journey, feed into our organisation's future work and help to put young people at the heart of the system.

2. Who can join the project?

We are trying to find 15 passionate young people who:

- Live anywhere in England and Wales
- Are aged 14-20
- Have personal experience of the youth justice system (these could include policing and arrest, youth offending services, courts, custody or alternative interventions)
- Can be 'experts through their experience'



If you are a team player and willing to get involved with all the project's activities then we want to work with you! We are also very keen to make sure that the Young Advocates group engages a diverse range of young people from different backgrounds and areas of the country.

3. If I join, what will I have to do?

Between September 2020 and April 2021, Young Advocates will be asked to:

- **Take part in Young Advocates events:** You will participate in 4 Young Advocates events (September, November, February, April). At these events, you will come together as a team to set goals for the project and work with young adult advisors, SCYJ staff and experts from the justice sector. In these sessions you will develop skills and come up with creative ideas for workshops. You will also reflect and review the progress of the project.
- **Gather the views of young people:** We know that young people have the most open and honest conversations with other young people, so we will help you run workshops and discussions with other young people who are passionate about the youth justice system. As a rough guide, we would expect each Young Advocate to take part in at least 2 of these engagement days - but you're welcome to do more if you want to!
- **Feed back findings to decision-makers:** You will help us understand the most important points from the conversations you've had with your peers, and create ideas for change that you'll share with the SCYJ alliance, policy-makers and other professionals.

4. What will I get from being part of the Young Advocates project?

As a Young Advocate, you will have the opportunity to:

- **Discuss issues with decision-makers:** You will meet key professionals from the justice sector, and help them to understand what young people in your peer group think about the youth justice system, while learning more about how and why the youth justice system is the way it is.
- **Develop your skills and experience:** You will gain valuable skills and experience, which you will be able to use for your CV and applications to further or higher education or employment. We also aim to connect each Young Advocate with



opportunities for personal development through shadowing and volunteering with SCYJ alliance members.

- **AQA accreditation for your involvement:** You will receive an accredited qualification related to the skills you develop whilst working on the project.
- **Represent the views of other young people:** You will amplify the voices of young people from different communities by helping them to get their views heard.
- **Meet new people:** You will meet a diverse range of other passionate young people from across England and Wales, and work alongside professionals from different organisations.

Due to the current circumstances all our meetings are happening online but as soon as the situation changes, we will return to meeting in person. Meetings will be held in London and travel expenses and lunch will be provided at each meeting.

5. How do I apply?

Please fill in the enclosed application form and email it to rose@leaders-unlocked.org by **August 31st 2020**.

- If you are under 18, you must also fill out the section regarding your parent/guardian/carer. All members under the age of 18 will be asked to send a signed consent form before the first event.

6. What happens next?

After the deadline, we will carry out telephone interviews with shortlisted applicants. All applicants will be informed of the outcome by 13th September.

Please note: If you are not successful this time round, there are still a number of ways for you to get involved with the Young Advocates project. If you would like to find out more about how you can be involved, please contact rose@leaders-unlocked.org

Remember: Please email your completed application form to rose@leaders-unlocked.org by **31st August 2020**.

We look forward to receiving to receiving your application!