

Closing date: Tuesday 12th November

NHS Youth Forum 2019-20

Application Pack





About the NHS Youth Forum

Young people make up nearly one quarter of our population and are thus prominent users of GP practices, hospitals, clinics, online NHS services as well as many other healthcare facilities. It is crucial for us to have a say in our healthcare, feel empowered to feedback our views and give recommendations on what the future of the NHS looks like for us.

- Children and young people make up nearly 25% of the population in England, 40% of all primary care activity relates to children and young people.
- Moreover, 15% have a long term condition, 6% have a disability, 50% of all mental health Problems in adulthood start by age 14 and 700,000 are young carers¹.
- Listening to the views of young people and ensuring they are part of NHS decision making structures is essential in developing appropriate service for the future.

Since 2014, NHS England has had a Youth Forum, made up of young people from all over the country, who have a passion for improving health services. It gives a voice to young people to express their thoughts on the health issues that matter most to them. By bringing young people together to share their perspectives and experience, and those of their peers, it is possible to identify and address key areas for healthcare improvements. The Youth Forum works in partnership with NHS England, Public Health England and Department of Health enabling them to have a direct impact on the health services that young people use. Working in partnership with these bodies, the Youth Forum's core aims are to:

- Support health professionals by providing advice about national programmes of work in NHS England
- Challenge existing policy and suggest improvements to health services for young people
- Encourage other young people to get actively involved in their own healthcare

You can read more about the NHS Youth Forum, see some of the resources they've created, and watch videos they have made here:

- <http://www.byc.org.uk/uk/nhs-youth-forum>
- <https://www.england.nhs.uk/participation/get-involved/how/forums/nhs-youth-forum/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLT6IPYyVXYWaAp7P4RM372oqAJNKGePDX>

¹ <http://www.youngpeopleshealth.org.uk/reaching-marginalised-young-people>



About the British Youth Council

The British Youth Council is the National Youth Council of the UK. A youth-led charity, we empower young people aged 25 and under to influence and inform the decisions that affect their lives. We support young people to get involved in their communities and democracy locally, nationally and internationally, making a difference as volunteers, campaigners, decision-makers and leaders. The British Youth Council (BYC) has led the NHS Youth Forum since 2014, in partnership with NHS England, Public Health England and Department of Health.

Our vision

A world in which every young person is empowered to create social and political change.

Our mission

As the national youth council of the UK, BYC brings young people together to find their voice and use it to improve the lives of young people. We work with others to amplify young people's voices to create an environment in which young people views are valued, sought and acted upon.

Our values

Youth led – young people are agents of change and will always be at the forefront of our work. As a youth-led charity, young people are our leadership through our governance structures. They lead and shape our work, and we support them to define their own action for change. We champion youth leadership across all sections of society, evidencing the benefits of engaging young people in decision making and delivery and supporting that to happen.

Collaborative – we actively seek to collaborate with others to make positive change happen. We seek to work with relevant partners to add value to our campaigns and activity, and to be more creative in our approach to making change happen with and for young people. And we recognise the skills, knowledge and experience of young people, volunteers, staff and partners, and strive to achieve more by maximising the opportunities that collaboration provides.

Inclusive – we respect and value diversity and act in a way that includes all. We ensure that all our activities are inclusive, recognising the needs of young people across different communities, and bring young people and partners together to learn from each other.



The project

Between November 2019 and March 2020, we will be recruiting up to 25 young people aged 16-25 to take part in a unique and exciting project.

For the last 5 years, The NHS Youth Forum has successfully brought together a diverse range of young people with different skills and experiences, to work in collaboration with NHS England to embed the voices of young people in policy making and service design.

In order to build on our success, we want to use this opportunity to bring young people for this five month project together to:

- Ensure the experiences and voices young people are heard within the implementation of the NHS Long Term Plan
- Review our progress so far, and create next steps for youth engagement in the health sector

This is not the same as previous years and recruitment rounds. This is for a shorter period and we already know what areas the group will be focussing on. Within this work there will be plenty of opportunity for young people to shape and deliver the work.

The NHS Long Term Plan

Earlier this year, the NHS published the [‘The NHS Long Term Plan’](#) which sets out its priorities for healthcare over the next 10 years.

In order to make sure the NHS is fit for the future. The NHS will change to better meet the needs of patients and their families in the following areas:

- Primary Care
- Mental Health
- Digital transformation
- Cancer
- Learning disabilities and autism
- Personalised care
- Prevention
- Workforce – including youth volunteering/social action
- Starting well
- Respiratory disease
- Cardiovascular disease

In 2018, we supported 300 children and young people to take part in a nationwide consultation, where they told the NHS what was important to them. The NHS Youth Forum has worked over the last year to make sure that these priority areas are being embedded within service planning. We want to make sure that the voices and needs of young people are, and continue to be, included in the ongoing development of the NHS Long Term Plan. We told the NHS what our priorities are, now we want to see action.



The role

Overall purpose

As an NHS Youth Forum member, working with staff and volunteers from across England your role is to advocate for young people on issues they face around healthcare. This includes attending meetings or events as a youth representative, sharing your own experiences, and being active on social media. You also act as ambassadors for the British Youth Council and NHS England.

Main areas of responsibility

Leadership and representation

- Consult with other young people and share their views and experience on a national level
- Be a positive role model for other young people
- Be accountable, sharing your work and achievements
- Be an ambassador for the British Youth Council and NHS England

Campaigns and communications

- Identify relevant priorities for young people
- Hold NHS decision makers to account on their work to engage young people
- Capture activity and positive stories about young people's local work, celebrating successes
- Regularly check the NHS Youth Forum communication channels

Events

- Work with British Youth Council staff, partners and volunteers to attend a range of events and meeting to represent the NHS Youth Forum
- Co-facilitate/facilitate workshop sessions at relevant events

Key activities

There will be 1 day meeting and a residential during the project term:

- 9am – 5pm Saturday 23rd November, Leeds (to be confirmed)
- Residential, March 2020 (venue and date to be confirmed)

These meetings are a mix of training and development workshops, team building and activities and discussions. Decision makers from NHS England and other key organisations often attend to speak with the Youth Forum.



In between the face to face events, there are a range of support and opportunities available:

- Opportunities to attend one day events and meetings. These might be to attend as a participant to learn and feed back to the Youth Forum, or to represent the NHS Youth Forum in a presentation, workshop or conference stall.
- You will receive a regular email with a summary of current activities, actions and upcoming opportunities that you will be expected to read.
- You will be added to a Facebook group to enable communication.
- There will be a 1 hour monthly online meeting which you will be expected to attend. Dates will be published in advance and these will take place on a weekday evening.

The role will involve travel within England, the cost of which will be covered by the British Youth Council. Reasonable expenses incurred as part of the role will also be covered.

The person

We believe that in order to better support the development and delivery of the NHS Long Term Plan during the project, that it is essential to recruit young people with a variety of experiences which match the key areas of work. As part of this project young people will also be required to consult with a wider network of their peers to inform the NHS Youth Forum's work.

In the application form young people will specify which areas of the LTP they have previously or currently worked on, which areas they have personal experience of and which areas they would prefer to continue working on.

As part of the shortlisting process we will be looking at your application for evidence of the following:

Knowledge
An understanding of the National Health Service
Knowledge of how you can influence change in your local area
Skills
<i>Team work:</i> Able to work within a team to achieve a shared positive outcome
<i>Public speaking:</i> Able to speak on behalf of other young people and represent their views
<i>Independent:</i> Self motivated and able to keep in touch with the wider group and support project work remotely.
<i>Consultation:</i> Able to consult with other groups of young people in order to inform the NHS Youth Forum's work
Experience
Experience of using healthcare services as a patient, or young carer



Able to represent the voices of a wider group of young people
Have taken part in a health related youth voice programme, youth forum or project which shaped health service policy
Values
Passionate about representing the voices of young people
Enthusiasm for youth social action and creating positive change in the NHS

You will need to be able to attend the following dates:

- 9-5pm Saturday 23rd November, Leeds

We particularly welcome applications from seldom heard groups including:

- Those who have been excluded from school
- Looked after children
- Young people from gypsy and traveller communities
- Refugees or asylum seekers
- Those with a learning disability and/or autism
- Young carers
- Those with experience of safeguarding
- Those with a substance misuse background
- Those with criminal justice experience

How to apply

Please complete the [online application form](#) by **Tuesday 12th November 2019 at 9am** .

Unfortunately due to the number of applications we are likely to receive, we are unable to give feedback to applicants not selected.

If you have any questions, or require this form in an alternative format please contact nhsyouthforum@byc.org.uk or call 07809507358