

## Youth Advisory Board

*Join our community of passionate changemakers  
advocating for young people's rights.*

### Who are Youth Legal?

At Youth Legal, we care deeply about ensuring that young people's views on their legal rights are heard, represented, respected and upheld by people with the power and influence to make a positive difference.

We help young people to understand their rights and find solutions to their problems with money and benefits, housing, homelessness, immigration and to obtain support from social services for youth living in care, care leavers and those living with disabilities.

Our youth-friendly lawyers and caseworkers provide free specialist advice and legal representation, support and advocacy, and 'Know Your Rights' sessions to young people across London and the surrounding area.

According to research conducted by [Youth Access](#), young people in the UK experience 5 million problems requiring legal advice each year, but many struggle to find and benefit from the expertise of a reputable adviser. As a small charity, we can only advise a small proportion of the young people who need our help, so we also work to change the system through policy work and strategic litigation.

### What is the Youth Advisory Board?

Our Youth Advisory Board, or YAB for short, has been running since 2020 and was established because we want young people to have a greater say over the decisions our charity makes. We already have two young Trustees on our Management Committee but we want to ensure the voices and perspectives of a wider group of young people drive our priorities.

The YAB helps to:

- provide advice and insight about what matters to young people

- work with a diverse group of young people to help us develop our services to better meet young people's needs and preferences
- join with adult professionals from the organisation to shape our new strategy
- act as an ambassador for Youth Legal, helping us raise awareness of our services and campaigns
- get the opportunity to speak at local and national events about our work (if you want to)
- understand how a charity works
- gain experience and skills for your CV
- make new friends and expand your networks

## Am I eligible to join the YAB?

If you can identify with some or all of the points below, we'd love to hear from you:

- Aged 16 to 25
- Have a passion for youth rights
- Have ideas on how to improve services for young people
- Have experience of being in care, being a migrant, dealing with housing issues, money worries or living with a disability
- Based in or around London (as this is the area that our services cover)

## What is the time commitment for the YAB members?

There are 4 in person YAB meetings a year, taking place quarterly in February, May, August and November. These are usually 2 – 3 hours, maximum.

At the first meeting, we will:-

- Introduce you to the charity and tell you a bit more about our work
- Share ideas for group projects that we want to work on together
- Hear your views on how you want the YAB to operate
- Understand what you want the YAB to achieve
- Set the schedule of meetings and activities for the year ahead

Between meetings, there will be regular opportunities to interact with progress calls in March, June, September and December. These calls are 45 mins to 1 hour each. The purpose of these is to:-

- Check in with you on your projects
- See what help you might need with them
- Keep you updated on our work and current plans

We are committed to providing development opportunities for you so there will also be 'Soft Skills & Social' sessions taking place in April, July, October and January. These will be half a day, maximum. In these, we will provide:

- Interactive learning sessions with professional soft skills trainers on topics that will help you to flourish in the world of work
- Opportunities to hear from and interact with leading industry professionals
- A chance to socialise and bond with your fellow YAB members
- Food and fun!

So the total time commitment as a YAB member is:-

- 4 2 - 3 hour meetings
- 4 one hour calls
- 4 2 - 3 hour social sessions

A maximum total of 4 and a half days a year. The full YAB year looks like this:

### Timeline and schedule for Youth Advisory Board activity



### I'm interested, how do I sign up?

Please email: [info@youthlegal.org.uk](mailto:info@youthlegal.org.uk), telling us:

- Your name
- Your age
- What area you live in
- Why you would like to join the YAB (a few sentences is all we need)

We will respond with some date options for an informal chat with our YAB facilitator and a Youth Legal representative. Look forward to hearing from you!