

# future voices

Young Voice Ambassador  
(paid - £14.80/hour)

Application Pack



APPLY BY: SUNDAY 22 FEBRUARY

# Youth Futures Foundation

**Almost one million young people are currently not in work or education.**

We also know some groups of young people have more challenges than others, facing barriers based on their background, or the experiences they have lived through. Helping these young people reach their full potential isn't just essential for them – it benefits all of our society.

Change is needed. That's why, at Youth Futures, our vision is to have a society where **every young person can achieve good work.**



# What do we do?

Youth Futures Foundation is the **What Works Centre** for youth employment in England.

## What we do:

- We **analyse** existing evidence about what works to help marginalised young people into good work.
- We **create** new evidence where it's needed.
- We **translate** evidence into resources that policymakers, employers, and funders can understand and use.
- By influencing these audiences to take action, we **embed** evidence of what works into the youth employment system.



# What is our Future Voices Group?

**Our Future Voices Group is made up of approximately fifteen young people aged 18-24 from across England.**

Future Voices Group members are paid youth ambassadors. They draw on their lived experience as young people looking for work, transitioning out of education or training, or engaging with support services. They play an important role in informing our mission.

Your individual experiences – and issues that matter to you and your communities – are essential in helping us learn and bring about the changes we want to see in systems that support young people.



# What does the Future Voices Group do?

**The Future Voices Group has the following responsibilities:**

- To advise us (Youth Futures Foundation) on what we're trying to do and how we do it.
- To support us in representing the stories and experiences of young people who have faced challenges in getting and keeping jobs.
- To work as a team on co-produced projects with a view to influencing key groups in the system (especially policymakers and employers).
- To engage in discussions, and share your ideas, with key groups including policymakers and employers.
- To be ambassadors for Youth Futures Foundation and the youth employment challenge.



# Who can apply to be on the Future Voices Group?

**You do not need professional experience to become a member of the Future Voices Group. You need to be aged 18-24 and live in England.**

You might be in education, training, work, or doing an apprenticeship. Or, you might be out of work, unable to work, or have chosen not to work.

We are particularly interested in hearing from young people who have had difficult experiences when trying to get or keep a job, and those currently unemployed.



## We are very keen to recruit young people who have experience of, or identify with, any of the following:

- Taking a 'vocational pathway' to work (i.e. not university)
- Currently undertaking a Level 2 or 3 **apprenticeship**
- Receiving **Universal Credit/benefits**, or engaging with the Jobcentre
- The **care system** (having been 'in care', sometimes called being 'looked after')
- The **justice system** (having experiences with the police, courts, prison, or probation services)
- Facing **discrimination** when trying to find work based on your **race or ethnicity**
- Being **autistic**
- Having a **learning disability or learning difficulties**
- Having a **mental health** condition
- Having a **long-term health** condition

We particularly welcome applications from people from ethnically minoritised backgrounds, especially those of Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Black Caribbean or Black African heritage, and those with refugee or asylum seeker status.



# Why apply?

**This is a personal and professional development programme for those looking to gain skills and experience.**

Here are some examples of what you could gain...

## Skills:

- Communication and relationship-building
- Problem-solving and critical thinking
- Presenting and public speaking
- Advocacy and leadership
- Teamwork
- Story-telling
- Networking



## Experiences:

- Attending parliamentary events
- Speaking on panels and at events
- Co-production of creative assets (e.g. videos, artwork, animations, spoken word)
- Using your lived experience to change the system
- Being part of research projects
- Writing blogs and creating social media content
- Interviews with journalists and government officials

# Interested in applying?

## Here's everything you need to know...

**Pay:** £14.80/hour (London Living Wage), paid monthly by bank transfer

**Monthly Commitment:** 10 hours per month (with potential for additional hours)

**Work Hours:** We host meetings on **Wednesday evenings**. There may be some daytime meetings, but we can make adjustments that work for you. There will be an **online induction (Saturday 28 March)** and an **in-person training day (Saturday 25 April)**.

**Start Date:** March 2026

**Duration:** 21 months (ends December 2027)

**Who you will work with at Youth Futures:** Your regular points of contact will be the Youth Inclusion team, and the rest of the Future Voices Group, including our senior members. You will also have the opportunity to engage with other staff in the organisation.

**Location:** Online, with some in-person days (travel will be paid for by Youth Futures).

# Who do we work with?

There are **three main groups** of people that we think can make a difference and that is who we are focused on working with, and speaking to:

- a) **Policymakers:** The people working in government (e.g. Ministers or Members of Parliament). They make laws and decisions about public services. They allocate funding for things like employment support programmes, education and training.
- b) **Employers:** The people who provide job and career opportunities for young people.
- c) **Funders:** The people who put money into the system to improve it.

The Future Voices Group will be focused on **two** of these key groups: **policymakers** and **employers**.

The voices of young people are integral to our mission. We cannot create better outcomes for young people's futures without actively involving them in the process – through our Future Voices Group.



# What will my time as an ambassador in the Future Voices Group look like?

In the first **six weeks**, before beginning to work on projects in your sub-groups (see below), you will receive **training** and be supported to build the skills you need for your role.

After the training phase, you will have opportunities to use your **experiences** and **insights** to **shape Youth Futures' work**. This could include working on research projects, key policy themes, initiatives to influence employers, and creative assets that amplify our message. For example, our 2025 Future Voices Group produced a response to our Youth Employment Outlook; they created an [open letter to the government](#) outlining the urgency of the youth employment challenge and their vision to unlock the potential of more young people.



# Sub-group responsibility

## What do we mean by a 'sub-group'?

As well as working as a whole group, you will be part of a smaller group with a **specific area of responsibility**. These groups cover two different areas that are important to our mission: Policy and Employers.

You will work on dedicated projects, with staff members from across Youth Futures who have the relevant expertise and specialist skills to support you.

You will be given an opportunity to state which of the two sub-groups you would be most interested to work in.

## What happens once the 21-month programme is over?

On completing the programme, you will have the opportunity to join our **Youth Alumni Network** where you can engage with other past members and access further opportunities.

# Supporting you

**Drawing from personal experiences can be difficult.** We prioritise wellbeing and seek to empower young people to share their experiences in a way that best suits them.

## Members of our Future Voices Group receive:

- A training period at the start of the programme, to bring you up to speed with our work. This will take place online and in-person.
- Regular one-to-one check-ins with a member of Youth Futures Foundation staff.
- Training and skill development sessions.
- Accessibility adjustments to ensure everyone is able to participate.
- Equipment or tech support e.g. laptops or mobile data if needed to attend meetings.
- Holiday pay (per hours worked).

Travel, accommodation and food will be provided and paid for by Youth Futures Foundation during in-person days.



# How do I apply?

**To apply, please complete this short application form by Sunday 22 February 2026.**

You can apply in the format that best suits you: written, video recording or voice note. If you have any questions, please email:  
[youthinclusion@youthfuturesfoundation.org](mailto:youthinclusion@youthfuturesfoundation.org).

We will shortlist applications for a **one-hour group meeting with other applicants** on Zoom (between 25 February and 6 March). The meeting will be a **supportive, informal discussion**. You will learn more about our work and have an opportunity to share your experiences and ideas. There will also be time to ask questions.

If you have accessibility needs, or require adjustments, please let us know so that we can provide support.

**Please submit your application by Sunday 22 February**

# Frequently asked questions

## Is this a job?

This role is paid, but you will not be employed by Youth Futures Foundation. Instead, you will be 'engaged' with us as an ambassador.

## Will this role affect my Universal Credit?

As you will be paid as an Ambassador, and therefore receiving additional income, it will likely be acknowledged as part of your wider income. However, if you are worried about how this engagement could affect your benefits or Universal Credit please get in touch, or speak to your work coach.

## Can I apply if I need a visa sponsorship?

Unfortunately, we are unable to sponsor visas, or residence permits for this role.

## Can I apply if I have a criminal record?

Yes. We encourage young people with experiences of the justice system to apply. If this applies to you, you can let us know in your application. We may ask you to disclose further details so we can support you.

## Who can I contact if I have questions?

Please email the Youth Inclusion team at [youthinclusion@youthfuturesfoundation.org](mailto:youthinclusion@youthfuturesfoundation.org). You can also book a 15-minute slot with a member of our team to learn more about the Future Voices Group opportunity.