

# future VOICES

**Youth Voice Ambassador (paid)**  
Application Pack



**APPLY BY: SUNDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2024**

# Youth Futures Foundation

**1 in 8 young people are currently not in work or education (872,000 in total).**

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. Which is 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. We do two things:

**1. Gather evidence and insight** to understand the things that really work to help young people get into good jobs and stay in them. We gather this evidence and insight in lots of ways – from doing research, to testing new programmes of support for young people and gathering insight from young people themselves.

**2. Put evidence and insight into action.** This means taking what we are learning to important people who have the power to make big changes for young people. We want them to listen to the evidence and what young people are saying and then do the things we know will be the most helpful for boosting youth employment.

**The key important people we are focused on working with and speaking to are:**

**a) Policymakers** – these are people working in government or who are Ministers or members of Parliament who make laws and decide on public services and funding for things like employment support programmes or education and training.

**b) Employers** – who are able to provide job and career opportunities for young people.



# What is our Future Voices Group?

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

Being on the Future Voices Group is a paid young ambassador role.

Your role on the Future Voices Group is all about using your experiences as a young person navigating education, training, support services and getting into work. Your individual experiences and issues that matter to you, other young people your age and your communities are essential in helping us and others learn and bring about the change we want to see to enable all young people to thrive.



# What does the Future Voices Group do?

## The Future Voices Group

- To help to advise us (Youth Futures) on what we're trying to do and how we do it.
- Support us in representing the stories and experiences of young people who have faced challenges in getting and keeping jobs wherever possible.
- Work as a whole group and also in smaller groups with more detailed areas of responsibility and opportunity to influence change (see below for more detail).
- Be champions of and Ambassadors to the Youth Futures Foundation, helping to raise the profile of our mission and vision.
- Engage in discussions with a range of people including policymakers, employers, researchers or the media.

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

**You do not need professional experience or have done anything like this before to become a member of the Future Voices Group.**

You need to be aged 18-24 in 2025 and live in England.

You might be in education, on an apprenticeship, be in training or have a job or you may be out of work, not able to work or have chosen not to work. We are particularly interested in hearing from young people who have had difficult experiences trying to get a job or keep a job and those currently unemployed.



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

**We are also very keen to recruit young people that bring experience of, or identify with, at least one 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
- 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

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.

# Interested in applying?

## Here's everything you need to know:

**Pay:** £13.15/hour (paid by bank transfer or vouchers).

**Monthly Commitment:** You should ideally be able to commit 15 hours a month.

**Work Hours:** We usually host meetings in evenings to accommodate those who have work, study or other daytime commitments. There may be some daytime meetings but we can make adjustments that work for you.

**Start Date:** Early January 2025.

**Duration:** 1 year (ends December 2025).

**Who you will work with at Youth Futures:** Youth Inclusion team, other young people and Youth Futures staff

**Location:** Online, with some in-person days throughout the year (support with travel will be provided and paid for by Youth Futures Foundation).



# What will the year as an ambassador of the Future Voices Group look like?

For the **first half** of your time will receive training to help you in your role. You will then join a Youth Futures group of your choice to work on projects with other young people (see below).

In the **second half**, when you have had the opportunity to learn more and build your confidence, you will also have an opportunity to use your experience to get creative and lead on ideas which will help Youth Futures in achieving its mission and vision. For example, our 2024 Future Voices Group produced a zine showcasing their experiences of youth unemployment. This has been really powerful in making the case for change that needs to happen.



# What will the year as an ambassador of the Future Voices Group look like? Continued...

## **Collaborating with Youth Futures Foundation Teams**

Whilst you will spend some time as a whole group, most of your time will be spent collaborating with a Youth Futures Foundation team that focuses on a specific area. These smaller groups will cover three different areas that are important to our mission which are: Policy Engagement, Employer Engagement and Translating Evidence.

Each area will focus on dedicated projects and you will work closely with staff at Youth Futures who have relevant expertise and specialist skills to support you.

You will be able to choose which area you would like to focus on at a later stage, so don't worry about this for now [**or you can let us know in the questions**].

## **What happens once the programme is over?**

Once you have completed the programme, you will have the opportunity to stay connected to us as part of our alumni network where you can engage with other past members, and gain access to further opportunities and alumni meet-ups.

# Support for 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 six-week training period at the start of the programme, to bring you up to speed with our work. Some of this will be done in person and some will be online.
- Regular 1-to-1 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.
- Travel, accommodation and food will be provided and paid for by Youth Futures Foundation during in-person days.



# How do I apply?

**All you need to do is go to [this short application form](#) and answer the questions by **Sunday 17 November 2024**.**

You can apply in the format that best suits you; written, video recording or voice note (if you would like to submit in another format please contact [youthinclusion@youthfuturesfoundation.org](mailto:youthinclusion@youthfuturesfoundation.org)).

We will shortlist applications for a group meeting which will take place over a video call (such as Zoom or Microsoft Teams) in November 2024. The group meeting will be friendly and informal and last around 1 hour.

During the meeting you will learn more about our work and take part in a group discussion where you will be able to share your experiences and voice on issues about youth employment. You will be asked some questions which will be sent in advance, and there will be time for you to ask us questions. After the meeting, we will let you know if you have been selected to become an FVG member.

If you have any accessibility requirements, we will support you so that you can participate in the meeting, please just let us know beforehand.

**Please submit your application by  
Sunday 17 November 2024**

# Frequently asked questions

## Is this a job?

Although this role is paid, it is not considered a form of employment. Instead you will be 'engaged' with as an ambassador.

## Will this role affect my Universal Credit?

If you are worried about how this engagement could affect your benefits or universal credit please get in touch. We also offer alternative forms of payment (vouchers).

## 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, so we understand that some may have a criminal record. If this is something that 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 send an email to the Youth Inclusion team at [youthinclusion@youthfuturesfoundation.org](mailto:youthinclusion@youthfuturesfoundation.org). Alternatively, you can book a 15 minute chat with Ellen, Youth Inclusion Officer, [here](#).