

A photograph showing a woman with blonde hair and blue glasses smiling, with a young man with a beard leaning his head on her shoulder. An older man with white hair is smiling and looking towards them from the right.

Information

for parents and carers

It's fantastic that your child is interested in joining the Young Ambassadors Board. It's a chance for them to learn new skills, have some fun and make a positive difference.

We've created these FAQs to give you a bit more information about the Board. Please read it before completing the parent/ carer digital consent form on our website. And if you have any questions just email us at youthvoice@actionforchildren.org.uk

What does Action for Children do?

Action for Children is a UK Children's Charity, and we've been running for more than 150 years. We protect and support children and young people, providing practical and emotional care and support. And we ensure young people's voices are heard, and campaign to bring lasting improvements to their lives. We run 447 services in local communities across the UK, in schools and online to give more children a safe and happy childhood.

What is the Young Ambassadors Board?

The Young Ambassadors Board has been formed to make sure young people are at the heart of what we do. By having a Young Ambassadors Board we can hear directly from children and young people about the issues that matter most to them. This will help to inform and influence our work.

The Young Ambassadors Board is for young people from all backgrounds, aged between 13-25, who live in the UK. Anyone can apply, whether they have used our services before or not.

These are the four main areas of our work:

- Family support
- Children in care
- Disabled children
- Mental health and wellbeing



We are particularly keen to hear from young people who have lived experience or knowledge of one or more of the areas listed above.

This **group is free to join**, with meetings taking place online once a month. There will also be opportunities to travel across the country, take part in fun projects, exciting events, high-profile campaigns and so much more.

Young people don't need any experience to apply. They will be fully supported with information and training so they can confidently take part.

Young Ambassadors Board

What's the commitment?

Young Ambassadors will be on the Board for a **two-year term from March 2023–March 2025**.

The board is voluntary, but we do encourage attendance at each online meet-up and face-to-face events. If your child can't attend a meeting, we just ask that you let us know in advance.

What will my child gain from participating in the Young Ambassadors Board?

By being a Young Ambassador, they will...

- ★ Join a friendly, safe and non-judgmental space to share their views and ideas on issues that matter to them.
- ★ Attend monthly meet-ups with other young people from across the UK and make new friends.
- ★ Meet decision-makers including our Executive Leadership Team, Trustees and politicians. This is a great chance for them to share their views.
- ★ Speak to other children and young people who use our services, so we know what's working well and what we can do better.
- ★ Represent Action for Children at big events, such as galas and awards. This might involve trips to new places across the UK.
- ★ Build their CV with new experiences and skills by taking part in free training on topics such as public speaking, campaigning and research.
- ★ Gain interview experience by supporting us to recruit new staff. And by taking part in the 'Dragons Den' panel, where they can help decide where funding goes for new projects.
- ★ See first-hand the difference their views are having and the positive changes that happen as a result.
- ★ There will also be opportunities to travel across the country, take part in fun projects, events, campaigns and much more!

Is there any costs involved?

No. This is a voluntary opportunity, so there is no cost to take part. There will be opportunities to meet in person. We will cover the cost of travel, accommodation and reasonable expenses for face-to-face meet ups. And we'll tell you what costs we can cover in advance.

How will you keep my child safe?

Safeguarding and protecting the children, young people and vulnerable adults we work with is our top priority. We want everyone to feel safe to participate in our activities and understand that it's their right to be protected from all forms of harm.

Our staff, volunteers and carers are accountable for the way they exercise authority, manage risk and use resources.

Here's how we create a safe space for children, young people and staff:

- ★ All staff working with your child are police checked with references.
- ★ All staff receive regular supervision and support to ensure they are working in line with our policies and procedures, ensuring the safety of all children, young people and vulnerable adults they work with.
- ★ All staff complete mandatory safeguarding training and keep up to date with policies and procedures.
- ★ All staff are aware of how to raise a safeguarding concern and are fully supported when doing so.
- ★ Risk assessments are completed for any online or in person activity. And consent forms are completed for each child or young person attending.

How can my child apply?

Your child can apply on our website actionforchildren.uk/youthvoice by **13 February 2023**.

If your child would prefer to apply in a different way, like a short video or voice note, please email us.

We'll contact you and your child by **Wednesday 22 February** to let you know if they have been shortlisted for a fun, informal online group activity, on **Saturday 4 March 2023, 10am–11am**.

Sadly, it's not possible to offer everyone a place on the Board as we only have 15 spaces. If your child isn't selected this term, there are still plenty of opportunities for them to share their views.

Who can I contact if I have questions?

We're here if you need anything, including support for your child to apply.

Email us at youthvoice@actionforchildren.org.uk