

Youth Advisory Group

Terms of Reference

Role

The function of our Youth Advisory Group (panel) is set out in the Commissioner for Children and Young People (Jersey) Law 2019. The group will provide advice and assistance to ensure the Children's Commissioner's responsibilities are delivered effectively to provide the best outcomes for children and young people.

Purpose

The Youth Advisory Group (YAG) provides its members with the opportunity to actively contribute to the work of the office by giving insight, advice, ideas, inspiration, knowledge, feedback, and experience. The Office of the Children's Office Jersey (OCCJ) aims to give members the opportunity to develop skills and experiences, participate in ongoing consultations and make a positive contribution to other children and young people in Jersey, they will:

- Have regular interaction with the Commissioner and her team
- Provide advice, assistance and challenge to the office
- Give advice on issues that are important to them
- Have influence on decisions that are made by the Commissioner and her team
- Contribute to strategic planning and annual reporting

Membership

- Membership is open to all children and young people in Jersey. There will be two age groups represented:
 - 8-12 Years
 - 13-17 Years
- Both groups will have the same schedule of meetings but will be offered different options for engagement
- Young advisers will be recruited through an invitation process
Applications for membership will be advertised by OCCJ across a range of platforms, such as the OCCJ website, social media channels and direct contact with a wide range of children and young people through schools and youth organisations
- The YAG can have membership of up to 20 children and young people, who will bring a range of experiences, backgrounds, and skills to the group. We will actively seek ways to ensure the group is representative of Jersey's diverse community
- Children and young people who do not have experience of formal participation structures and those who come from less listened to or heard will have priority.
- Membership is for a maximum period of **3 years**.

Commitment

There will be a minimum of 5 in person meetings each year

- OCCJ will cover all travel costs, accommodation and reasonable expenses associated with the Youth Advisory Group. We are keen that there are no financial barriers to people participating in YAG
- Regular feedback will be shared with the group on how their input has influenced progress. The group will operate within the framework of the policies of OCCJ whilst modelling the values of the office
- Members are representative of OCCJ while engaged in OCCJ-related activities

Support & Development

- The designated Youth Participation and Engagement Lead will be responsible for recruitment to the YAG, organising, arranging, and setting up of meetings, and for monitoring online engagement through the appropriate OCCJ channels
- The wider OCCJ Team will support the YAG at meetings and provide additional support as appropriate
- OCCJ will strive to ensure that membership is a positive and fulfilling experience. This includes appropriate safeguarding
- There will be a clear framework of expectations and behaviour, this will be co-created by the young advisers and OCCJ team members. This will be built on the foundations of respect, equality, and non-discrimination
- The OCCJ will support group members by providing learning opportunities to develop member's knowledge, understanding and awareness of the UNCRC and a Children's rights approach

Participation Principles

- The group will be supported to develop their knowledge and understanding of meaningful participation as outlined Article 12
- The group will use the Lundy model of participation in their work and can have the opportunity to explore other models as appropriate
- Activities will be co-designed and young person led where possible
- Members will champion children's and young people's human rights and hold OCCJ accountable for promoting and accessing opportunities for the voices of children and young people to be heard.