*youth* **legal**

**Youth Advisory Board**

*Aged 16-25 and passionate about young people’s rights? Come and join us!*

**What we do**

At Youth Legal, we are passionate about ensuring those in power respect and uphold young people’s rights.

We help young people understand their rights and sort out problems with money and benefits, housing, homelessness, immigration and to obtain support from social services if you are a care leaver, need to be in care or if you have 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.

Due to Covid-19, much of our work is currently carried out remotely by telephone, webchat, email and Zoom. We normally also provide face-to-face help to young people through our centre in Wandsworth and hope to re-open this soon.

Young people in the UK experience 5 million problems requiring legal advice each year, but few make it to 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.

**Youth Advisory Board**

We are setting up the Youth Advisory Board because we want young people to have a greater say over the decisions the charity makes. We already have two young Trustees on our Management Committee, but want to ensure the voices of a wider group of young people drive our priorities.

We are looking for individuals aged between 16 and 25 with a passion for young people’s rights and ideas for how to improve services for young people.

By joining the Youth Advisory Board, you will:

* 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

**Meetings**

The first meeting will be held remotely by Zoom on Wednesday 7th July from 6.00 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. (If you can't make this first meeting, but want to get involved in future, that's fine.)

At the first meeting, we will introduce you to the charity, telling you a bit more about our work. We will then discuss how you want the Youth Advisory Board to work and what you want it to achieve. At the end of the meeting, we hope you will want to remain involved, but there will be no obligation on your part if you feel it’s not for you.

We will probably meet once a month initially.

**To express interest in joining the Youth Advisory Board**

Please email:info@youthlegal.org.uk, telling us:

* Your name
* Your age
* What area you live in
* Why you would like to join the Youth Advisory Board (a few sentences is all we need)

We look forward to hearing from you!