



Fostering Excellence Youth Ambassadors

Role description

Ambassadors will play an exciting and active role in:

- representing the voice of young people in care across Wales, using their experience and knowledge to give ideas about consulting with children in care and care leavers
- represent the needs and views of all those in care and leaving care whilst considering the bigger picture when making recommendations or sharing ideas
- promote fostering and the work of The Fostering Network to the wider community
- attending events and workshops
- sharing their opinions and experiences through online blogs
- acting as a positive role model, offering support and encouragement to children and young people in care
- helping to develop and create our highly acclaimed and award-winning young people in care magazine, *Thrive*
- respond to occasional requests for views on policy by means of consultations, and questionnaires
- attend and contribute to quarterly Saturday meetings
- train as researchers in a one day workshop with Cardiff University.

Person specification

The Fostering Excellence ambassadors programme is open to applicants between the ages of 16 and 23 years who have the following qualities:

- a desire to promote fostering and the wellbeing of children in care
- a willingness to attend project events and training
- be able to understand complex ideas that might be written in complicated language, with support from project officer
- be able to explain your ideas clearly, both in writing and when speaking
- be good listeners and respect the views of others
- be able to think critically about the care system and what needs to be done to make it better.

You don't need to have previous experience of volunteering or being an ambassador – all we ask is that you are committed to the project, keen to learn new skills, eager for a new challenge and want to make a difference in your community.

Expenses and reimbursement

For the Saturday meetings, The Fostering Network will reimburse ambassadors up to £5 towards the cost of lunch (for which receipts will be required).

We will also reimburse ambassador travel expenses, up to a maximum of £100 for those travelling long distances. Travel must be booked as early as possible to make sure that the cheapest options are available (and receipts will be required).

Volunteer appreciation

As a thank you and to show our appreciation to our ambassadors' for their commitment and efforts, all ambassadors will receive a £20 gift voucher for attending the Saturday meetings.

The youth ambassador agreement

Ambassadors will be required to sign an agreement, which will set out the responsibilities of group members and The Fostering Network. At the first meeting of the ambassadors, we will agree a code of conduct for sessions. If you fail to keep to the policy advisory group agreement, you may lose the opportunity to take part.

About The Fostering Network

The Fostering Network is the UK's leading fostering charity. We are the essential network for fostering, bringing together everyone who is involved in the lives of fostered children. We support foster carers to transform children's lives and we work with fostering services and the wider sector to develop and share best practice.

We work to ensure all fostered children and young people experience stable family life and we are passionate about the difference foster care makes. We champion fostering and seek to create vital change so that foster care is the very best it can be.

Visit thefosteringnetwork.org.uk/become-youth-ambassador

Email charlotte.wooders@fostering.net

Call 029 2044 0940



/thefosteringnetwork



@fosteringnet