

Youth Voice & Influence Consultants

Applicant Pack May 2026



Welcome from our CEO

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the National Youth Agency (NYA).

The NYA is both the steward and champion for youth work and young lives are increasingly complex, as they transition from child to adulthood in a society shaped by rapid technological advancements, social change, climate change and unprecedented global challenges. The digital era has transformed communication, education, and employment, presenting boundless possibilities, yet also giving rise to concerns about screen time, online safety, and digital wellbeing. Furthermore, the Covid-19 pandemic has underscored the significance of resilience, adaptability, and mental health support for young people.

In these ever-changing times, the NYA remains adaptable, innovative, and responsive to the evolving needs of our young people and the extraordinary youth workers who support them. We believe in the power of youth work to help shape the future of young lives.

We are looking for young people like you, who are passionate about the work we do. Whilst working alongside the NYA team, you'll have the opportunity to help imagine and realise a stronger and more positive future for young people. You'll be committed to our mission and values and keen to expand your range of skills and experiences by working with our team. We particularly welcome applications from young people who will help NYA's consultants better reflect the diversity of the youth sector.

If you believe you possess the attributes, skills, and knowledge that would benefit our development we are excited to hear from you. We're committed to help you with your development, and the successful applicants will receive a full induction programme on all aspects of working with the NYA as a YV&I Consultant.

Join us and help us to continue transforming the lives of young people through youth work.

Yours faithfully,

Leigh Middleton
CEO



About Us

All young people deserve a productive, fulfilling future. Society needs the spark and energy of young people to make it tick, yet somehow thousands of young people feel blocked by the complex, sometimes disheartening challenges the modern world throws at them.

Youth work is the best methodology to unlock young people's potential by providing high quality support and opportunities. Skilled youth workers build relationships that support young people to explore their personal, social, and educational development. Youth work enables young people to develop their voice, influence, and place within society.

As the national body for youth work, NYA has a dual function. We are the professional, statutory, and regulatory body (PSRB) responsible for qualifications, quality standards and safeguarding for youth work and services in England. In line with our charity mission and aims, we also champion youth work through research, advocacy, campaigns, and programmes.

We work in partnership and believe in collaborative leadership, listening to youth workers and the youth work sector so that we can understand their needs and respond to the challenges they face. **We are ambitious for youth work and for young people** and integrate youth voice and influence across our work

NYA continues to work closely with government to inform policies with young people, and in support of regional youth work units, local authorities, and voluntary services across communities. We lead on workforce development for qualified youth workers, volunteers, and related professions.

The NYA places young people at the heart of all we do. That is why today 34% of our employees are young people collaborating to help make the big decisions that affect them.



OUR VISION

A world where every young person can access youth work



OUR MISSION

Enable more people to deliver great youth work



OUR PURPOSE

Enable great youth work to happen by setting the standards, growing the capacity and building the case to improve the quality and quantity of youth work in England

Our values



COLLABORATIVE

We connect to share, learn and grow. We know that together we are greater than the sum of our parts.



DETERMINED

We are ambitious for youth work and for young people and push ourselves to overcome barriers and open up new opportunities.



INCLUSIVE

We embrace, respect and value diversity in all its forms and act in a way that demonstrates this in all we do.



AUTHENTIC

We say what we believe and follow it up with action.



BOLD

We are evidence-informed and innovate to push boundaries.

Directorate Overview

The **Programme Directorate** leads the design, delivery, and oversight of programmes that directly benefit young people and strengthen the youth work sector. With a commitment to quality and efficiency at the core of our work, we ensure resources from multiple funders are invested where they have the greatest impact.

Our collaborative, agile team delivers a high volume of contracted and grant work, engaging partner organisations to broaden expertise and reinforce the fabric of youth work across England.

By creating opportunities that build confidence, skills, and improved life outcomes for young people, and by strengthening the capacity and standards of the youth sector, we act as a bridge between funders, youth providers, and young people, maximising the reach and effectiveness of every programme and ensuring every investment delivers meaningful, lasting change.

We work hard, and we are committed to doing our best for youth work and young people at all times.

We create the conditions for great youth work to happen.

About the role and responsibilities

About the Role

As a Youth Voice and Influence Consultant, you'll help NYA ensure young people have a genuine say in how programmes, services and resources are designed and delivered. You'll provide insight and advice that shapes NYA's decision-making, supports a more inclusive and responsive approach to the needs of young people and the wider sector, and helps embed meaningful youth involvement across everything we do. You'll support our internal teams to involve young people from the start (not just consult them at the end) and help make it clear what actually changed because of what young people said.

Find out more about our strategy here [Our strategy - National Youth Agency](#)

Responsibilities will include:

- **Co-design programmes and services:** take part in workshops, focus groups and online sessions to shape what programmes include, how they run and what the experience feels like for young people
- **Be a critical friend:** share honest, youth-led feedback at key moments (planning, mid-point and evaluation) about what will or won't work, and why
- **Spot and tackle barriers:** identify what makes it hard for young people to get involved (cost, travel, timing, language, access) and suggest practical solutions
- **Keep engagement meaningful:** help teams choose the right ways to involve young people and ensure sessions are genuinely inclusive and influence real decisions
- **Track and share impact:** help capture what young people said, what changed as a result, and feed this back to young people in clear "you said, we did" updates
- **Review resources and communications:** check that guides, tools and content are relevant, accessible and make sense to young people
- **Represent NYA:** join youth work forums and events to share what NYA is doing and bring sector insights back to the team

No two days are the same in the NYA. We are creative, responsive and flexible, and work together to achieve our goals set out in the 10 Year Vision for Youth Work.

How that looks day to day

As a Youth Voice and Influence Consultant you will have the opportunity to:

- Attend bi-weekly meetings on Tuesday evenings from 5:30-7pm.
- Collaborate with other Youth Voice & Influence Consultants and external young people.
- Liaise and communicate with internal teams and projects.
- Review internal projects, documents, systems, and structures.
- Be involved in Youth Governance, working with NYA's Senior Leadership Team and our Trustees, to make crucial decisions and ensure the voices and opinions of young people are heard and actioned.
- Support the ongoing development and delivery of our youth participation strategy.
- Attend/Support workshops, conferences and events for the NYA as and when needed.
- Represent the NYA and supporting relationships with organisations and young people.
- Support the implementation and delivery of youth participation within the NYA. (for further information see: [Youth Voice and Participation - National Youth Agency](#))
- Work with the other YV&I Consultants to think of new creative ideas and suggest new projects to improve outcomes for the NYA and young people.

About You

Our ideal Youth Voice and Influence Consultant should have the following:

- Be aged between 16-25
- Live in the UK and have the right to work in the UK
- Be digitally competent (know how to use a tablet, laptop or other device to access the internet, write documents, use emails etc).
- Have the confidence to work fully remotely and work independently (with reasonable adjustments if required).
- Have knowledge of youth work practice and youth participation. Or knowledge of the local youth work offers in your area
- The commitment to work well with others as a team
- Appreciate the impact of youth participation on diverse groups of young people and their communities
- Advocate on behalf of a wide range of young people
- Have an understanding of Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- Be willing to learn and grow within the role
- Be willing to undertake reflective practice (supervision)
- Good verbal and written communications skills

In Addition

Our Commitment to Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

The National Youth Agency is an equal opportunities organisation. We welcome applications from all backgrounds so that our consultant team mirrors the community we serve. We welcome applications from anyone regardless of disability, ethnicity, heritage, gender, sexuality, religion, socio-economic background and political beliefs.

We are committed to providing an inclusive experience for all those who want to apply, and we are committed to removing any barriers in our recruitment processes. So, during the application process we commit to:

- Paying for childcare whilst you are at interviews where these take place in person.
- Paying for your travel costs to the office and back for interviews held in person.
- Making any reasonable adjustments – for example ensuring sign language interpreter organised in advance if you'd like them.
- Providing this document in a word document format if required for accessibility, just email recruitment@nya.org.uk
- Offering a guaranteed first stage interview with for disabled applicants who meet the minimum requirements for the role.

Why work with us?

Our team members rated NYA **9 out of 10** as an employer **90%** would recommend working at NYA to their friends and family.

What our team say about working at NYA*:

'A great environment to work, with colleagues who I care for & who care about me'

'I feel INCREDIBLY supported & grateful to work for this fantastic organisation'

'Always willing to listen, providing trust & freedom as an employer'

*Source: NYA staff survey November 2023

- NYA offers an exceptional flexible working approach which encourages our team and consultants to balance professional responsibilities with their personal life.
- Predominantly a remotely based team, spread across England, fostering inclusivity and diverse talent. Despite geographical distances between team members, NYA maintains a highly motivated and connected team through the optimisation of digital tools.
- At NYA we have a shared vision and objectives and our team often express how our supportive work culture increases motivation and promotes teamwork and productivity.
- NYA is committed to supporting the continual personal and professional development of our team and helping them achieve their ambitions.

Additional Information & How to Apply

Location – Home based/remote working

This role may require travel to meetings, events and conferences at times.

Terms of Appointment – Casual Work Agreement expected to last at least 12 months

An offer of engagement will be made once applicants have been interviewed and will be subject to satisfactory completion of eligibility checks, including references, UK Right to Work and DBS checks.

Remuneration

Basic rate: £12.31, Holiday enhancement at 12.07%: £1.49, **Total: £13.80 per hour**

As this will be a casual working agreement, your holiday is provided as rolled-up holiday pay. This means that your holiday pay is included in your hourly rate and therefore you will not receive additional pay when you take leave.

Hours

This role is offered as a casual working agreement, reflecting the flexible nature of the position. We anticipate a minimum commitment of approximately 10-hours per month, including meetings over Zoom around every 2 weeks, usually on a Tuesday but subject to change. You may choose to work additional hours if you accept any opportunities to contribute to other NYA projects and programmes. Many of our YV&I Consultants work across a variety of NYA projects at different times, and we hope this role will provide you with valuable transferable skills and a rewarding insight into a career in the youth work sector.

Safeguarding

This role is subject to the provision of all child protection legislation, and all policies governing staff and consultants that work with children and vulnerable adults.

Our Support for You

We will provide a full induction and supported journey into the role.

If you wish to apply for this role

This opportunity is available to those aged between 16-25. Please apply via our [online application form](#).

You will need to provide general personal contact details and information on your qualifications and work experience, so having an up-to-date CV to upload will be helpful.

You will also be asked to answer the following questions,

- How does your lived experience make you a good fit for this role?
- Why do you feel it's important for young people to have influence and make decisions within youth organisations? This includes with trustees and senior leaders.
- Why are you committed to championing youth voice and influence?

You will also be asked for a short personal statement to explain why you feel you are a Good fit for the Youth Voice & Influence Consultant role.

You will have the option to submit a video link if you wish for this section. Full instructions on how to do this are in the form.

Additional Information & How to Apply

You will be asked to provide anonymous diversity monitoring data at the end of your application. This is for our internal monitoring purposes as part of our ongoing commitment to EEDI.

Providing this information is optional and your data is anonymous so will at no time be connected to you or your application.

If you experience any difficulties applying via our online application process, please email recruitment@nya.org.uk for support.

Closing date: Sunday 7th June 2026

Interviews: Held remotely, in the early evening on 29th & 30th June

These will be informal group interviews where you will usually be asked to participate in a group task very similar to how you would work in the role. This also provides the opportunity for you to decide if the role is right for you.

Unfortunately due to schedules, we are unable to offer any alternative dates to attend the group interview, so please ensure that you are available before applying.

More about us

Discover more about the National Youth Agency and our work at: nya.org.uk

National Youth Agency

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Company registration no. 2912597

Register charity in England and Wales no. 1035804

nya.org.uk