

Youth Advisory Group (YAG) Recruitment Pack 2026/27

Are you...

- ✓ Aged between 14-25 years old
- ✓ Living in England
- ✓ Open to sharing your experiences to help improve careers education for all young people

[Click here to apply](#)

Recruitment opens: Wednesday 3rd June

Closing date: Monday 6th July at 09:00am



? Who is The Careers & Enterprise Company (CEC)?

The Careers & Enterprise Company (CEC) is the national body for careers education in England. We help every young person find their best next step.

We work with schools, colleges, employers, and careers providers to:

- Deliver high-quality careers programmes, including work experience for all young people, irrespective of their background.
- Connect with local Careers Hubs to help young people gain skills, insights, and experiences of the workplace.
- Target support for young people whose needs are not sufficiently served. Driven by [our largest student voice dataset](#).



Rylie and Ava, Youth Board members



Youth Advisory Group members

What is our Youth Advisory Group (YAG)?

The YAG is a group of approximately 20 young people aged 14-25 from across England who influence and shape CEC's work.

YAG members use their unique lived experiences to challenge and enrich CEC's work. Sharing their perspectives helps to:

- Embed youth voice at every level of our organisation and work
- Make our work more effective and impactful for all young people
- Bring more young voices into the wider careers education system

What is involved in being a YAG member?

- A 1-year commitment (with an option to continue for a second year)
- Meeting monthly for 1.5 hours online to contribute to CEC projects or for skill development sessions
- Meeting in person for strategy days – approximately 4 Saturdays a year (all expenses paid)



Why apply?

Between meetings, there are lots of exciting opportunities to represent CEC and share your story in blogs, videos, events, conferences and much more.

Being a YAG member is an opportunity for personal and professional development. These skills can be used in CVs and job applications. There is also the opportunity to step into leadership roles, for example, you could be our next Youth Board member, YAG Chair or Vice Chair.

Please note that you do not work with young people in schools within this position.

Skills that you'll develop:

- Advocacy
- Leadership
- Public speaking
- Critical thinking
- Problem solving
- And more!



Featured in our Let's make it work: [The Podcast](#)



Produced content for campaign weeks
i.e. [National Apprenticeship Week](#)



[YAG members met with Jacqui Smith](#), the Minister for Skills

Who can apply?

We welcome young people aged **14–25 (as of 1 September 2026)** from **any region in England**, whatever your background or education journey. Whether you're in school, college, training, work, or still deciding your next steps, you're encouraged to apply.

We're looking for a range of educational experiences, including:

- Secondary school
- Further education or college
- Alternative Provision
- SEND or specialist provision
- Home education
- T-Levels
- Apprenticeships
- Other training routes



⇒ How to apply

Find out more and apply

You can choose to apply in one of the following formats:

- A written statement, we encourage you to write 1-2 paragraphs per question
- A voice recording (3 minutes maximum)*
- A video (3 minutes maximum)*

You can record videos and voice notes directly in our online application system. You'll be able to review it and re-record it until you're happy to submit. Any issues support or questions, please email youthvoice@careersandenterprise.co.uk

After submitting your application, you can expect:

- Within one week of the advert closing, we will contact you to confirm whether your application has been successful. We may also suggest a short call with our Youth Engagement Officer.
- Successful applicants will be invited to a group interview.
- If you are offered a place on the YAG, you'll be expected to attend two online introductory sessions and an in-person introduction day, with all expenses covered.

Unfortunately, due to the volume of applications we expect to receive we will not be able to provide individual feedback.



! Safeguarding, references and DBS checks

Equal Opportunities

CEC is committed to fostering a culture of belonging. We know that engagement at work relies on feeling included and valued. Inclusion is both a choice and a practice, for us as an organisation and for individuals within our team. CEC values the visible and invisible qualities that make each member of our team who they are.

We are a Disability Confident employer and commit to interviewing applicants with disabilities who successfully demonstrate the essential criteria on the person specification and meet the minimum requirements for this vacancy. If you need any assistance or support during the application process, please contact youthvoice@careersandenterprise.co.uk

Safeguarding

Keeping everyone safe is really important to us. If you are invited to join the YAG, we'll ask for some references to help with this. We usually ask for:

- One reference from education or work that covers the last 3 years, and
- One character reference from an adult who has known you for at least 3 years and is not a family member.

If getting these references feels difficult for any reason, please talk to our Youth Engagement Team. We are happy to look at other options and will take your situation into account. If you are 18 or over, you will also need to complete a basic DBS check (a background check). This will be free of charge, and we will support you through the process.

We welcome applications from young people with experience of the justice system. Having a criminal record or police caution does not automatically stop you from joining. We look at each situation carefully and make decisions on a case-by-case basis. However, serious offences, especially those involving children, may mean you cannot take part.