

**Become a UK Youth Trustee
and make a difference for
millions of young people**

Appointment brief June 2026

UK YOUTH



Contents

03 Welcome from Chair

04 UK Youth Strategy

07 Now recruiting

08 Trustee responsibilities

09 Your commitment to us

10 Our commitment to you

11 How to apply

12 Recruitment timetable

UK YOUTH



A letter from Matt Price, Chair of UK Youth

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Trustee of UK Youth. UK Youth has a long and proud history of supporting youth organisations and youth workers across the country, championing the power of youth work and creating opportunities for young people to develop skills, confidence, belonging and leadership. Our new strategy builds on these foundations while challenging us to deepen our impact, strengthen our network and influence wider systems for the better.

Strong and inclusive governance will be central to achieving these ambitions. We are seeking new Trustees who will bring fresh perspectives, sound judgement and a deep commitment to our mission and values. We are particularly looking to strengthen our Board through the appointment of Trustees with experience in grant-making, outdoor learning and safeguarding leadership, alongside Trustees aged 18–22 with lived experience of youth work, outdoor learning and/or the youth sector.

We warmly encourage applications from candidates from global majority backgrounds, disabled candidates, those based outside London, and people with experience across the four nations of the UK. You do not need previous trustee experience to apply. We recognise that leadership and potential can come from many different places, including education, volunteering, youth participation, professional experience and lived experience. What matters most is your commitment to young people and willingness to contribute thoughtfully and collaboratively to the stewardship of UK Youth.

In return, we are committed to creating a supportive, inclusive and engaging Trustee experience, with strong induction, development opportunities and a collaborative Board culture. Thank you again for considering this opportunity to contribute to UK Youth's future. We look forward to hearing from you.

Matt

UK YOUTH



UK Youth Strategy

Across the country, youth workers are changing – and often saving – young lives.

They are trusted adults helping young people find confidence, connection, purpose, and joy.

Despite fifteen years of severe cuts and rising need, they continue to show up with extraordinary courage and creativity.

Every young person deserves a youth worker. UK Youth exists to make that a reality.

We support a network of thousands of youth organisations across the UK to improve young lives every day.

At the same time, we are transforming the policies, investment, and ideas needed to future-proof youth work and outdoor learning for generations to come.

We exist to widen the reach and deepen the impact of youth work and outdoor learning.

To create a society that backs every young person – through each spark, struggle, and success.

UK YOUTH



UK Youth Strategy

To keep youth work relevant to young people's changing lives, our programmes, grants, and influencing will focus on urgent issues where youth work can make a major positive contribution and where UK Youth already has credibility to act.

We back youth work leaders

Youth workers are often the first to show up for young people when things feel uncertain or overwhelming. We equip these leaders with the skills, networks and confidence they need to provide consistent, life-changing support.

Over the last five years, we've invested more than £30 million into youth organisations across the UK. Through our Grants+ approach, we don't just fund programmes—we stand alongside youth workers, offering practical support, training and connections that help organisations strengthen their services and reach more young people who need them most.

We keep youth work effective

We increase the quality and accessibility of youth work, and futureproof it.

In the last 5 years we've supported more than 750,000 young people to grow in confidence and capability. At our flagship outdoor learning centre [Avon Tyrrell](#), more than 20,000 young people every year step beyond their comfort zones, developing the co-operation, self-belief and problem-solving skills that will help them achieve brighter futures.

We inspire lasting change

We shape the policies, resources, and attitudes that enable youth work to thrive.

Through the [#Iwill Movement](#), we empower young people by giving them influential platforms to make changes in their communities. Most recently, our [Deliver You Campaign](#) engaged 14,000 young people in a nationwide listening exercise that has informed the Government's [National Youth Strategy](#). We champion youth voice at the highest levels, challenging policy development that too often ignores those who will be affected most.

UK Youth Strategy

Young people are facing multiple challenges – including severe pressures on their mental health, employment prospects, and even physical safety.

Youth work is proven to change lives. But despite this, millions of young people are still isolated from the support they need.

Access to youth work remains deeply unequal, with young people from wealthier backgrounds more than four times as likely to receive support (DCMS Barriers & Enablers Research, 2025).

As young people's lives continue to evolve, youth work must adapt to remain relevant, effective, and accessible for all whilst staying true to the values and relationships that make it so powerful.

We must work tirelessly to widen the reach and deepen the impact of youth work and outdoor learning.

To keep youth work relevant to young people's changing lives, our programmes, grants, and influencing will focus on urgent issues where youth work can make a major positive contribution and where UK Youth already has credibility to act.

Mental Health & Wellbeing

One in five teenagers now experiences a **mental health problem**, with long waiting lists for specialist services and high levels of worry about the future.

Employability

1,000,000+ young people are **not** in education, employment, or training (NEET). **This is the highest it has been for 11 years.**

Social cohesion & community safety

Young people tell us they fear for their safety both online and in public spaces. This means they **cannot participate fully** in education, work, or community life.

Now recruiting...

We are seeking to appoint four new Trustees in 2026 to strengthen and diversify our Board skills and characteristics, embed youth voice and support the governance of UK Youth's new strategy. We are specifically looking to recruit:

- Two Trustees aged 18–22 (under 25 at the end of a three year term), with lived experience of youth work and/or engagement with the youth/outdoor learning sector. We encourage applications from those who can also demonstrate skills or experience in at least one other relevant area, gained through education, volunteering, employment, or lived experience.
- One Trustee with professional grant-making experience, including experience of funding strategy, governance, equity in grant-making and accountability.
- One Trustee with expertise in outdoor learning operations and safeguarding leadership, with a strong understanding of delivering safe, high-quality outdoor or residential programmes.

We are committed to building a Board that reflects the communities we serve. We especially encourage applications from candidates who are from global majority backgrounds, live outside London, have experience working across the four nations of the UK, and/or identify as disabled. All Trustees will be expected to demonstrate a strong commitment to UK Youth's mission, clear alignment with our values, and a willingness to uphold the Nolan Principles for Standards in Public Life.



Trustees Responsibilities

Main Responsibilities of Trustees

The Charity Commission identifies the following 6 Trustee Responsibilities:

1. Ensure your charity is carrying out its purposes for the public benefit;
2. Comply with your charity's governing document and the law;
3. Act in your charity's best interests;
4. Manage your charity's resources responsibly;
5. Act with reasonable care and skill;
6. Ensure your charity is accountable.

UK Youth describes these as follows:

- Set and oversee the strategic direction of UK Youth, ensuring that it pursues its objects and purposes in accordance with its Memorandum and Articles of Association and the wider operating environment.
- Ensure that UK Youth complies with all applicable legal, regulatory and governance requirements, seeking professional advice where appropriate.
- Safeguard the long-term financial sustainability of UK Youth, ensuring effective stewardship of funds and proper financial accountability.
- Oversee the management of risk and assurance, including ensuring that appropriate controls, insurances and compliance arrangements are in place.
- Ensure that UK Youth has the leadership, people, property and resources required to deliver its charitable purposes effectively and in accordance with relevant legislation.
- Promote high standards of governance, accountability and organisational effectiveness across all aspects of UK Youth's work.
- Act as ambassadors for UK Youth, supporting its development and maintaining effective governance and constructive relationships between the Board and executive team.

Your commitment to us

- ✓ Commit to investing the time to learn about UK Youth and our mission and strategy. A tailored induction programme will be provided.
- ✓ Be a strong advocate of the work of the Charity and to promote what we do through your networks.
- ✓ Attend and prepare for four full board meetings per year, including one away day.
- ✓ Sit on one of our four sub-committees: People, Finance & Risk, Governance and Impact, which meet during the day, 4 times per year.
- ✓ Attend ad-hoc events, working groups and meetings where required and available.



Our commitment to you

- ✓ Provide an induction programme to support you in learning about UK Youth's mission, strategy, governance and impact.
- ✓ Support your ongoing development as a Trustee, including opportunities to deepen your understanding of the youth sector, governance, and the issues affecting young people.
- ✓ Pay expenses for all reasonable costs incurred on UK Youth business, and support with paying for travel in advance if required.
- ✓ Provide a trustee mentor or buddy to support you through your first year in role.
- ✓ Ensure meetings are well-structured and scheduled in advance.
- ✓ Foster an inclusive, collaborative and values-led Board culture where Trustees are supported to contribute fully and where diverse perspectives are welcomed and valued.



How to apply

To apply to become a Trustee of UK Youth, please send us:

- An up-to-date CV (or equivalent summary of your experience), and
- Either a supporting statement (maximum 500 words) or a short video submission (maximum four minutes).

We would like you to tell us:

- Why you are interested in becoming a Trustee of UK Youth; and
- How your skills, knowledge, lived experience and/or perspectives would help strengthen our Board of Trustees, particularly in relation to the priority areas outlined on page 7.
- The names of two referees who can tell us more about your suitability for the role.

We welcome applications from first-time trustees and recognise that relevant experience can come from education, volunteering, work experience, youth participation, community leadership, or lived experience, as well as from professional roles.

You are also invited to complete the diversity monitoring form. The information on the form will be treated as confidential and used for statistical purposes. The form will not be treated as part of the application.

Please submit your CV and supporting statement to people@ukyouth.org.



Recruitment and appointment timetable

**17
July '26**

Deadline for applications:

**2
Sept '26**

Interviews

Interview date option 2; candidates will attend on one of the interview dates. We can be flexible to accommodate availability.

**Next
up**

Following the September away day trustees will be formally appointed, given a full induction, assigned to a committee that suits their skills and interests and offered a board buddy or mentor to support them.

**12
Nov '26**

Board meeting

This will take place at Fivefields, our London Office.

**25
Aug '26**

Interviews

Interview date option 1; candidates will attend on one of the interview dates. We can be flexible to accommodate availability.

**17
Sept '26**

Appointed trustees to attend the Board away day and dinner on 17th September 2026 in London if possible.

**Final
Appointments**

Formal appointments are conditional on satisfactory background checks, including enhanced DBS.

**25
March '27**

Board meeting

This will take place at Fivefields, our London Office.

Thank you for your time

**We look forward to hearing
from you.**

UK Youth London Office

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