



INFORMATION FOR - Parents, Carers, Guardians, School Teachers

This short document gives you some important information about the Young People's Advisory Panel at the Office of the Children's Commissioner for Wales

We would be thrilled to receive an application from your child, young person, pupil or student for a place on our Young People's Advisory Panel at the office of the Children's Commissioner for Wales.

The position of Children's Commissioner for Wales was set up to safeguard and promote the rights and welfare of the children and young people in Wales, and it is the Commissioner's job to listen to children and young people and to work for them. Sally Holland is the current Children's Commissioner for Wales.

It is vital that children and young people have a say in deciding the Commissioner's work plan each year. This is why we are recruiting Young People to our Advisory Panel, to take part in these discussions.

What will they do?

Members of our Advisory Panel must be aged between 11 and 18 years of age and must live in Wales.

A young Panel Member will serve for a **period of 2 years** beginning with the first annual meeting on **17th July 2018** in mid Wales. At this meeting the successful applicants will meet the other young people who have been selected for this opportunity, and the existing young panel members who will provide support for the new members during their first year.

The panel will provide advice and support to Sally Holland, the Children's Commissioner, about the way her organisation works with and represents children and young people in Wales.

They will be supported at the meetings by trained staff members from our Team and will be encouraged to participate in well planned interactive activities where they will learn new skills, bring their own unique experiences and have fun. All of our Team are DBS checked, many of them are bi lingual and all venues are risk assessed and checked for accessibility. Lunch and refreshments will be provided throughout the meetings.

In between meetings we hope that our Panel Members will keep in contact with us through social media and e mail where we will share other opportunities for them to be involved with our work, such as participating in the recruitment of staff or supporting events with our Ambassador programme in schools.

Our young panel members will learn a lot about their rights and will become well equipped to raise awareness of children's rights and promote the work of the Children's Commissioner for Wales with their schools and community groups.

When and where do they meet?

The Advisory Panel meets **3 times a year** for a whole day.

The first meeting takes place on **Tuesday 17th July 2018**. It is a National meeting so will be held for all members in **Mid Wales**.

The other 2 meetings are held in various venues in either North or South Wales, whichever is closest to home, on **Saturday 6th October 2018** and **Tuesday 26th February 2019**.

There will also be a **½ day or evening training session** 'Getting on Board – How to be a board member training' in the autumn, date still to be confirmed

As mentioned above there are additional optional opportunities to be involved in the work of the Team during the year.

Your child or young person will need to be available to attend all 3 meetings in Year 1 and the Getting on Board Training **in order to qualify to apply** for the role. They do not have to participate in the optional opportunities.

They will be expected to organise their own travel arrangements to and from the meetings and the Office can help with costs to enable this. You or a Support Worker/Teacher are welcome to accompany the young person to the meeting if this enables them to fully participate. All travel costs will be reimbursed in line with our travel policy. Please remember to keep public transport receipts.

Attendance at meetings and events may require time off from school. The three annual meetings are planned to fall on one school day, one weekend day and one day during half term. We can provide a formal information letter for your attendance records where necessary.

How do they apply?

Your child/young person will need to fill in an application form and tell us more about themselves in writing or in a video. For further information and an application form, please visit our recruitment page at:

<http://www.childcomwales.org.uk/en/recruitment/>

Consent from Parents/Carers/Guardians

All young panel members will need to have consent from their parent/carer/guardian. Parents/Carers/Guardians will need to complete a consent section on the application form for their child/young person to submit an application for this opportunity.

You will also need to complete a further consent form if your child/young person is successful and offered a place. On this further form you will confirm that you are happy for your child/young person to accept this opportunity and that you understand about the work of the Advisory Panel and will support your child/young person to travel to our meetings. You will also be able to tell

us about any support needs your child/young person requires to attend and participate fully in our meetings.

Young people aged 16-18 years old living independently do not need permission to apply for this opportunity.

Do you have any questions?

You or your child/young person may have some questions that need to be answered before they apply. Please feel free to contact Kath Mattingly by telephoning 01792 765 600 or by emailing

Kath.Mattingly@childcomwales.org.uk