

ChildFair State Project: About this opportunity

Please read these notes carefully before filling in your application.

1. What is the ChildFair State Project?

The *ChildFair State* Project is a major national inquiry being run by the charity Children England. It's about creating a vision for the future of our society to give children and young people the best possible start in life.

The *ChildFair State* Project is looking at some big questions: What are the biggest issues that children and young people face today? What's good or bad about support for children and young people in this country? How could your needs be better met? What help do young people need to really thrive?

Children England believes in putting young people's voices at the heart of this work. That's why we are seeking a diverse group of young leaders to help drive the Project through creativity, research, influencing and advocating for change.

Children England is the voice of children's charities in England. Our mission is to put children at the heart of society and change the world for England's children. To read more go to: <https://www.childrenengland.org.uk/>

2. Who can join the ChildFair State Project?

We are looking for young people aged 13-21 who are currently living in England. We would like to have young people from as many regions of the country as possible, including those from particularly rural and urban areas.

This role is open to anyone who is interested and keen to apply. In total, we are seeking approximately 25 young people across the country. We are looking for people who are team players and willing to get involved with all the activities of the project.

We are also very keen to make sure that the Project involves young people from different backgrounds and a wide range of life experiences. We want to hear from young people who have been affected by different issues and challenges – including (but not limited to) care experience, migration, poverty, experience of hospital stays, being a carer, living in different forms of housing, alternative education, special educational needs and disabilities.

3. If I join, what will I have to do?

This project will last from October 2019 to October 2020. Over this time, members of the ChildFair State Project will:

- **Take part in design sessions**

You will take part in two, half-day sessions at the start of the project (19th October and 16th November). At these sessions you will work together, debate the ideas behind the Project, and come up with creative ideas for engaging other young people. You will also take part in practical activities to develop the skills you need to engage other young people.

- **Carry out research with other young people**

You will be involved in designing and delivering workshops to gather the views of other young people. You will help to get other young people involved in conversations about the issues that affect them and their visions for the future. We expect each member of the group to take part in at least 3 of these workshops in Spring/Summer 2020 (we'll make sure these workshops fit with your other commitments and would never expect you to miss your education to take part).

- **Create a vision for new services and communities**

With the rest of the leadership team, you'll discuss what you've found out from young people, and come up with ideas for change that will meet their needs, whether that's in local communities or on a larger scale. You'll have the chance to pitch your ideas to an expert panel, and work with them to create a new vision for 'child-centred' services and communities.

- **Launch your vision at a major event**

Later in 2020 we will hold a major event to bring together decision-makers, experts and influencers to hear from you as a team of young leaders. At this event you will have a platform to present your results and your vision for change, and to kick off a campaign to make your vision a reality.

4. What will I get from being part of the Inquiry?

As a young leader on the *ChildFair State* Project, you will have the chance to:

- **Discuss issues with experts and decision-makers:**

You will meet key experts and decision-makers at the national level, and help them to understand what issues young people are facing today and what changes are most needed.

- **Develop your skills and experience:**

You will gain vital skills and experience, which will be valuable for your CV, job applications and applications to courses. This experience will help you to stand out from the crowd and get the opportunities you want in the future.

- **Become an advocate for other young people:**

You will give a voice to children and young people across England, helping them to get their views heard by decision-makers. You will play an important role at the national level, acting as an advocate for change and communicating your vision for the future.

- **Meet new people and build your networks:**

You will meet a diverse range of young people from across England, and work alongside professionals from different organisations.

5. How do I apply?

Please fill in the application form and email it to anna@leaders-unlocked.org by **Friday 27th September 2019**

If you are under 18, you must fill out the section regarding your Carer/ Parent /Guardian. All members under the age of 18 will be asked to bring along a signed consent form to the first event.

6. What happens next?

After the deadline, we will carry out telephone interviews with shortlisted applicants. All applicants will be informed of the outcome by 12th October 2019.

Please note: If you are not successful, we will let you know about other ways for you to get involved with the *ChildFair State* Project. You can be a part of a network of young people who give their views towards the Inquiry by virtual/digital means. Once the youth-led research process launches, we will be able to tell you about ways to give your views online. You may also want to invite the Inquiry to come to your youth or community group to run a workshop. If you would like to find out more about how you can be involved, please contact anna@leaders-unlocked.org.

We look forward to receiving to receiving your application!