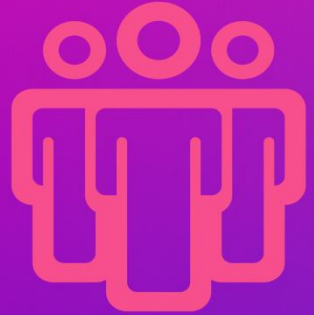




# Youth IV Champions and Advisory Group Description

## What is the NIVN?

An Independent Visitor (IV) is a volunteer who is there to befriend care-experienced children and young people; they listen, advice and support them and are there for the child alone. The NIVN started in March 2014 and has over 130 members from IV services in England and Wales. It aims to make sure that all looked after children and young people who wish for an IV have one, and that the IV is the right person for each child.



## What is a Youth IV Champion?

The NIVN Project Team are looking to recruit, train and a group of care-experienced children and young people with experience of IV, to become Youth IV Champions. IV Champions will represent children and young people's voices to the NIVN Steering Group and plan and get involved in exciting activities. Here are some examples of the ways Youth IV Champions may get involved in NIVN activity and influence decision-making:

- Represent the needs and views of care experienced children and young people and care leavers in relation to having an IV
- Campaigning in your own local authority and nationally
- Creating digital content to promote IV
- Shape present and future NIVN planning
- Research and consultation with other children, young people
- Share your own experiences of IV services

We are looking for members to be committed to the group for 6 meetings annually (minimum of 4).

Any travel expenses and refreshment and meal costs will be reimbursed.

IV Champions will be provided with a £20 voucher per session attended.

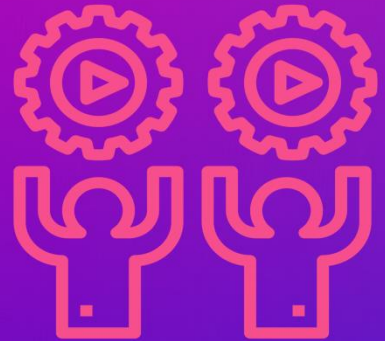
# Youth IV Champion Role Description

## IV Champions will:

- Use their experience and knowledge to give ideas about consulting with children in care and care leavers;
- Represent the needs and views of all children and young people in care and care leavers;
- Consider the bigger picture when making recommendations or sharing ideas;
- Consult with other children and young people about their experiences in an safe and appropriate way
- Respond to occasional requests for feedback by means of consultations/survey questions/or other methods
- Attend bi-monthly meetings (minimum requirement of four each year)

## Role Specification:

- Be passionate about IV
- Be committed to promoting IV services
- Be a good listener
- Respect others views and opinions



## I'm interested but what will I get out of it?

### Reward and Recognition:

Becoming a member means as well as building skills, knowledge and confidence and having fun, you will receive a welcome pack, payment for attending IV Champion sessions and new of unique opportunities on offer

### Connection:

The chance to connect with people who have similar or shared experiences helps everyone to feel understood, respected and like they belong. We will support and resource safe spaces, bringing members together to build peer relationships to shape IV locally and nationally.



## **Rights and entitlements:**

1. Understand the rights and entitlements of children and young people and specifically care experienced children and young people.
2. Learn how to promote and protect your rights and those of other care experienced children and young people.

## **Shaping:**

We will support and empower members to develop as representatives who can speak on behalf of other care experienced children and young people. We will gather members together and support them to build a collective voice. Our members will help to shape decision-making around IV services in England and Wales as well as having the aspiration to contribute to a better future for care experienced people.

## **Personal and Professional development:**

1. Develop practical skills such as presenting ideas; producing newsletters and posters; making digital campaign materials; public speaking; problem-solving
2. Develop interpersonal skills such as communication, negotiation, team-work, decision-making
3. Enhance self-confidence and self-esteem
4. Feeling valued and successful
5. A feeling of ownership over the services you use
6. Gain greater awareness of children and young people's rights
7. Gain experience that can be put to use in future employment (work can be shared on CV/Job applications)

## **I want to get involved, what's next?**

Please email [Rebecca.Jordan@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:Rebecca.Jordan@barnardos.org.uk) or send a short video instead and tell us:

Why you want to become a Youth IV Champion?

Share something about yourself? Likes, dislikes, hobbies?

If you are interested but would like some help, ask your project worker/volunteer support/parent or carer to send an e-mail.