Youth Advisory Group Frequently Asked Questions

What does Teenage Cancer Trust do?

Teenage Cancer Trust offers unique care and support, designed for and with young people. We fund specialised nurses, youth workers and hospital units in the NHS, so young people have dedicated staff and facilities to support them throughout treatment.

What is the mission of this group?

For Teenage Cancer Trust to put young people at the heart of our work and help to make sure we are providing the best possible support to young people affected by cancer.

What's the purpose of the group?

The Youth Advisory Group (YAG) brings together enthusiastic young people who have been affected by cancer. The group helps shape the direction of the charity both now and in the future and is involved in big decisions across the charity. We know it's vital to listen to, learn from and be advised by experts who know what it is like to be a young person dealing with a cancer diagnosis or the effects of cancer treatment. YAG don't just tell us what they think – they directly shape the support we provide. YAG get involved with critical activities, such as helping recruit members of our Senior Leadership Team, creating our strategy and shaping our policy work, as well as helping us engage with more young people, develop new resources and improve our services across the UK. YAG is designed to reflect the diversity of young people across the UK, but we don't expect YAG members to speak on behalf of others, we only ask that members bring their own experiences to help inform our work.

Who can be part of the group?

We're looking for young people who:

- were diagnosed with cancer or had cancer treatment between the ages of 13-24 years old*
- have finished treatment within the last two years (not including maintenance treatment)
- are well enough to engage with meetings - mainly online with some in-person opportunities which are not compulsory

**If you are under 18 you will need consent from a parent or guardian to take part in this group, and they will need to accompany you to any in-person events*

How many people will there be in the group?

YAG will have around 30 young people from across the UK, who bring a range of experiences, backgrounds and skills to the group. We work to make sure that this is a representative cross section of the diverse geographies, backgrounds, socio-economic factors, clinical factors and experiences of cancer. This will include a cohort of YAG members from the 25-26 group who are progressing into the Leadership Development Pathway as we move towards having a rolling recruitment model for YAG.

How long does the group run for?

Young people joining the new YAG will be part of the group for two years, until December 2028. It is possible to extend membership in some exceptional circumstances e.g. where a young person's health has impacted how they have been able to take part.

What support will I get?

YAG will be supported by the Youth Work and Programmes Team at Teenage Cancer Trust. The team will always work to make sure that being part of YAG is a positive and fulfilling experience for everyone. It should be clear to all members of YAG what the outcomes of their involvement will be, how their feedback will be considered and what changes might be made as a result.

Will I have to pay to come to any in-person meetings?

Teenage Cancer Trust will cover all travel, accommodation and reasonable expenses associated with the Youth Advisory Group. We are keen that there are no financial barriers to people participating in YAG so members should inform us if there is anything additional required e.g. access to technology.

Practical info

To ensure that meetings and the group environment are suitable and positive for YAG, there will be an induction and a code of conduct for both online meetings and for participating in YAG activities. The Youth Work and Programmes Team will be responsible for organising, arranging and setting up meetings, and for monitoring online engagement through the approved channels including email, MS teams and other approved platforms.

Safeguarding

There will always be appropriate safeguarding practices and stewardship in place when YAG are representing Teenage Cancer Trust, both online and in-person. If you have any concerns or you'd like any more information about our Safeguarding processes at Teenage Cancer Trust you can get in touch with the team on safeguarding@teenagecancertrust.org.

Can I still get involved with other projects for Teenage Cancer Trust if I'm on YAG?

Being part of YAG doesn't mean you can't be involved in other work for the charity. However, the charity's Youth Voice Champions Network will monitor how much any young person is taking on, to make sure they're not overloaded at any one time. Each meeting of the YAG should allow young people to offer ideas for ways the group can continue to represent young people with cancer within the organisation. Members will champion inclusion and diversity and hold the charity accountable for making sure that voices of young people are well represented.

Ways of working

- YAG will be supported by Lara Perkins, Kelly Scott and the wider Youth Work and Programmes Team who you can contact with any questions, concerns or ideas.
- The team will always work to make sure that being part of YAG is a positive and fulfilling experience for everyone.
- We'll always try to make clear to YAG members what the outcomes of their involvement will be, how their feedback will be considered and what changes might be made as a result.
- We'll be in contact with your clinical team as part of the application process.
- Feedback will be given to the group regularly about how their input has made a difference.
- The Youth Work and Programmes Team will also actively ask for feedback at regular intervals about how the group can be run more effectively and efficiently – it's important that this group runs in a way that's useful for those involved
- The YAG operates within the framework and policies of Teenage Cancer Trust and YAG
- Members are representatives of Teenage Cancer Trust.

If you have any questions about the form or the application process please email youngpeople@teenagecancertrust.org and we'll get back to you as soon as we can.