



INFORMATION ABOUT:

**Department for Children,
Schools and Families (DCSF)
Children and Youth Board
2009-2011**



department for
children, schools and families

The Children and Youth Board - What is it?

Facts about the Children and Youth Board (CYB)

It advises the Ministers and policy officials from the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) on the development of national policy and practice that affects children and young people in England.

It is made up of 25 young people aged 8-18 from England, and will meet on a regular basis between June '09 and May '11

The Board will discuss and consult other young people on various important issues concerning the welfare of children and young people. The DCSF is responsible for identifying the work plan for the year ahead.

The Board members will be trained and supported to seek the views of other children and young people using a variety of methods.

The Board is run by the National Children's Bureau (NCB), which is a charity that works to promote the voices, interests and well being of all children and young people. It advocates the participation of all children and young people in all matters that affect them.

The Board will meet at six weekend residentials between June '09 and May '11. They will also periodically meet Ministers.

The Board will be tasked with finding out the views of young people living in the areas they represent. You will have the support of the NCB staff team, the Regional Government Office and local youth projects to ensure that this work is a success

Board members will have to find the time to do the project but it will be fun and a chance to travel and meet many other young people from all over England.

What would I be expected to do?

We really want to have a good mix of children and young people to be part of the Board. You do not need to have been involved in an advisory group before.

You will be given lots of support, information and training so you feel happy and ready to take part in the work. Here is some information on the Children and Youth Board and what the role will involve.

Key tasks

- Advise the Government on the issues that affect children and young people.
- Gather the views of other children and young people throughout England.
- Feed back to the Minister for Children, Young People and Families and other DCSF staff on a wide range of themes of work concerning children and young people.

Minimum Time commitment

Between June '09 and May '11:

- Attend six weekend residentials in England.
- Take part in two meetings in London to meet the Minister for Children, Young People and Families.
- Take part in consulting young people in your local area.
- Give regularly feedback to us – online, by phone and email.

Personal requirements

- Be aged between 8 and 18 years old.
- If you are under 16 you will need to travel accompanied by an adult to residentials and meetings.
- Have an interest in improving the lives of children and young people.
- Be prepared to listen to others and respect their views.
- Be willing to work with others.
- Be willing to contribute to the Board to the best of your ability.

How can I join the board?

Step 1: Read the information about the Board

Step 2: Decide whether it is something you'd like to do

Step 3: Fill out an application form and send it to the National Children's Bureau (NCB)

Step 4: If your application is successful you will be invited to an Selection Day in London in July

If you are invited to the Selection Day, you will be told more about the Children and Youth Board by NCB Staff and members of the Children and Youth Board 2007-2009.

You will take part in informal group discussions with other children and young people applying to be on the Board and be given the opportunity to ask more questions.

Step 5: If you are selected to be on the Board you will be notified by the end of July

The Board's first major activities

MONTH/DATE

Monday 29 June

Application Deadline

Friday 17 July and Saturday 18 July

Selection Days in London

**Saturday 15 – Sunday 16 August
Two day residential**

**Induction residential - 2 days.
Getting to know each other and introduction to the Children and Youth Board, starting to plan your work for the year ahead.**