

Children and Young People's Council (CYPC)

Information Pack



What is the CYPC?

The Children and Young People's Council (CYPC) work with CLAPA staff, helping to guide our work for young people. They do things like:

- Attend monthly CYPC meetings online, and twice a year meet in person in London and also go away for a weekend
- Take part in workshops for certain projects. This might involve things like:
 - helping to plan workshops and events for other young people born with a cleft
 - helping make changes to CLAPA's website pages for children and young people

Who can be a member?

Any young person born with a cleft aged between 12 and 17.

You don't need to have any certain skills or experiences, just be keen to help other young people born with a cleft, meet new people, make new friends and learn some new skills!



Why become a member?

Throughout your time with us, you'll develop plenty of new skills and take on experiences that will help you in your future career, including:

- Developing skills in team work, speaking in front of others, working with professionals and getting your voice heard
- Meeting new people (both professionals and young people)
- Sharing your story and helping to raise awareness and understanding about cleft

You'll have our full support – there are always CLAPA staff and volunteers in the meetings and you can chat to them at any time if you have questions or are worried about anything.



I have thoroughly enjoyed every moment [of my time with CLAPA]. One of the main reasons I wanted to join was to actually meet other young people born with a cleft as I myself had never met anybody like "me", and I got this but also so much more - new experiences, adventures, lifelong friendships, helping with research, etc. If you are thinking about joining the CYPC, to me it's a no brainer!

- Will
(previous member)



When are the meetings?

Meetings take place on a Sunday evening from 4 - 6pm once each month. In 2022 we plan to get back to meeting face-to-face at the CLAPA office in London and also plan a residential weekend!

Does it cost anything?

No it won't cost you anything to be part of the CYPC. As you'll be a young volunteer for CLAPA, we will make sure to cover any costs.

What if I can't make a meeting?

You can't help being unwell or having other plans, so please don't worry, just let us know ahead of the meeting.

What if my circumstances change?

If your circumstances change and you can no longer commit to being part of the CYPC, just keep in touch and let us know. We would like everyone who joins the CYPC to be committed and dedicate the time to being part of the group, but we understand that things change and it might not always be possible for everyone to stay involved.



I don't know if I'm ready to apply yet, what should I do?

Get in touch with us by emailing youngpeople@clapa.com. We can chat about what being a member involves and could make a plan to buddy you up with someone who is already a member.

If you decide you are not ready just yet, there will be more opportunities to apply in the future.



I'm ready! How do I apply?

Great! You can apply to the CYPC by completing the application form, either by writing your answers, uploading a video or audio note, or by letting us know another way that might be more accessible for you.

You will be asked to answer these questions:

- Why are you interested in the CYPC?
- Do you have any experience, skills, knowledge, training or achievements which you will bring to the role?

We will ask for the contact details of your parent or carer and will need to check with them that they are happy for you to take part in the CYPC.