

Children and Young People's Council (CYPC)

Information Pack



What is the CYPC?

The Children and Young People's Council (CYPC) is a group of young people who work with CLAPA to guide the work we do with and for young people born with a cleft.

We:

- Speak up about issues that affect children born with a cleft
- Take part in workshops for specific projects. This might involve things like:
 - content for Cleft Awareness Week
 - improve CLAPA's webpages for children and young people
- Join zoom meetings online every other month, meet in person in London three times each year, and enjoy a weekend away

Who can be a member?

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

You don't need to have 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?

During your time on the CYPC you will:

- Be listened to and taken seriously. Your voice matters
- Influence the decisions made at CLAPA
- Raise issues you feel are important for other young people/parents using our services
- Meet new people and gain new experiences and opportunities
- Expand your knowledge and your CV
- Gain access to training and support.

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?

Zoom meetings happen on Sunday afternoons from 4 - 6pm
CLAPA Saturdays happen in London from 11-5pm

Does it cost anything?

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

What if I can't make an event?

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

What if my circumstances change?

Just keep in touch and let us know if things change. 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?**
- **Please tell us about something you're proud of that you have achieved.**

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.