

DRUGS & ALCOHOL: GETTING YOUNG PEOPLE HEARD

Mentor UK is seeking groups and services that work with young people to partner with us for an exciting participation project.

Our new project needs a group of 20 young people aged 12-15 from across London to get involved in decisions about how to prevent misuse of drugs and alcohol among young Londoners.

The young people will receive training to be Youth Advisers to then present their views to policymakers & commissioners on:

- Health and social issues relevant to drug misuse prevention work with young people
- The effectiveness and relevance of current drug misuse prevention work with young people, and how it can be improved
- How to get young people's views taken into account during the development of drug and alcohol services for young Londoners

WHAT'S IN IT FOR THEM?

Confidence-building & empowerment

Skills in presenting, leadership, citizenship & more

Work experience & volunteering for their CVs

Achievement Awards & accreditation

Creative work and fun activities

Vouchers

Interaction with diverse people & environments



what would we need from you?

We need your help in identifying at least 1 young people in your group who may be interested in being involved, or who you would like to get involved to benefit their development, and encourage their commitment.

Due to the ages of the young people we aim to recruit, and the possibility of doing a small element of work within school hours, we will need each young person to have a chaperone allocated by the agency, group or school they are attached to. A chaperone will:

- *assist with getting necessary consent forms signed by parents/guardians*
- *accompany the young person to consultation activities, training and possibly some meetings during their volunteering placements;*
- *ensure that the young person arrives to meetings and activities on time;*
- *act as another point of contact to support their commitment.*

We appreciate that you have your own job to do, so the work will be geared around everyone's needs to ensure ease of involvement and commitment.

Will there be any benefits to you and your organisation?

- Engagement activities for young people you work with that could greatly compliment their personal development and your services
- Increase or develop your, and your organisation's, involvement in activities that promote participation, citizenship, volunteering, leadership, work experience and more
- Excellent exposure for you and your work at a number of levels, including local and regional government and press
- While our budget is limited, we will cover pre-agreed cost of the young people and their support workers
- It will actually be very fun and interesting for the adults involved as well! The activities will certainly be different from a usual day at work.

If you have any further queries or you think you might want to get one or more of your young people involved, please contact Project Manager Roxy Holman

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