

Children and Childhood Research Network, University of Liverpool Young People's Advisory Group (Online) Updated Covid-19 Terms of Reference

The University of Liverpool **Young People's Advisory Group** (YPAG) was set up in June 2018 to provide children and young people with the opportunity to give feedback on different research carried out at the University.

There are over a hundred researchers working on projects relating to children and childhood at the University. The YPAG facilitates the involvement of children and young people in developing these projects.

The University is committed to producing the highest quality research that has a positive impact on children's lives and is, therefore, keen to receive advice from children and young people at all stages of the research process, from the early stages of design right through to publicising the findings.

Who is part of the YPAG?

The group is made up of over 20 children and young people from the North West. The young people have been appointed through a range of different children's organisations including Liverpool Schools Parliament, Generation R (Alder Hey), Children in Care Council, and various youth organisations across Liverpool. The members are all of secondary school age but have the potential to reach out to other young people of different ages (including primary school age). Our aim is to achieve an equal balance of female/male children and young people and sufficient representation in terms of disability, ethnicity, sexuality, socio-economic background etc.

How can the YPAG help researchers with their projects?

The group is primarily aimed at giving children and young people a voice on research that concerns them. Up to 10 young people attend each meeting. We do our best to recruit young people in light of the nature of the project (for instance, if a project relates to children's experiences of poverty, we recruit children from a diverse mix of socio-economic backgrounds).

Many researchers work on research/projects related to children and young people without actually involving them in the design of their project. This group aims to address this shortcoming and offer researchers the opportunity to collaborate with young people from the outset.

Specifically, the YPAG can help:

- Identify key research priorities and questions from children/young people's perspective/experiences;
- Advise on the design of methodological tools;
- Advise on applications for ethical approval;
- Advise researchers on how to recruit young people to participate in research;
- Advise on to work and conduct research with young people, as research partners and as participants;
- Provide feedback on approaches to analysing findings;

- Advise on how best to share the completed work with young people;
- Challenge established patterns of thinking and doing.

How can the YPAG help researchers gain ethical approval for their projects?

Any child-related projects discussed and created with the support of the YPAG will receive YPAG endorsement to support the importance, relevance and integrity of the research. This has been proven to increase the likelihood of gaining ethical approval from the University's ethics committee.

The YPAG will also assist with addressing any concerns or questions raised by the committee in relation to any given project.

How do the meetings work?

Prior to the outbreak of COVID-19, the YPAG met every 4-6 weeks at the University of Liverpool campus. However, due to current Covid-19 related restrictions, the YPAG are using the **video conferencing platform, Zoom**, to facilitate meetings. Each meeting will now be restricted to 2 researchers/presenters and will last approximately 90 minutes.

The meeting will begin with brief introductions and a 'register' to ensure that all attendees can be recorded, and the children and young people's attendance can be matched to their consent forms.

The first presenter will then have up to 10 minutes to introduce their planned research. They can do this verbally or utilise the screen sharing mechanism. The young people will then break off into their own online 'meeting room' to discuss the research for 15 minutes, before re-joining the group call to give their feedback. There will then be time for some group discussion to clarify any points raised and ask any follow up questions. This process will then be repeated for the second presenter.

To protect the identity of the participants, these sessions are NOT audio or video recorded. Written notes summarising any feedback should be taken by the presenting researchers.

When does the YPAG meet?

The YPAG meets every month on Wednesdays. Please email Katrina Miles (katrina.miles@liverpool.ac.uk) for a list of upcoming dates.

How can I get more information?

If you would like more information about the YPAG, please contact Helen Stalford (stalford@liverpool.ac.uk) or Katrina Miles (katrina.miles@liverpool.ac.uk).