

THE YOUTH ADVISORY GROUP



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WHAT IS IT?

The Youth Advisory Group (YAG) is a group for current DFN Project SEARCH interns across the UK. YAG members have the opportunity to influence and shape the work that DFN Project SEARCH does. This could include giving your opinion on a campaign, sharing your views and experiences with employers, and suggesting ideas of how DFN Project SEARCH can further improve and grow.



HOW OFTEN DO WE MEET?

We meet online monthly on Microsoft TEAMS. We will also have the opportunity to meet in person several times per year to get to know each other more and take part in activities.



AWAY DAYS

The away days are an exciting opportunity to meet with everyone and work together on some important projects. The full cost of your travel will be reimbursed. If you require support from a Job Coach or family member, their travel will also be funded.

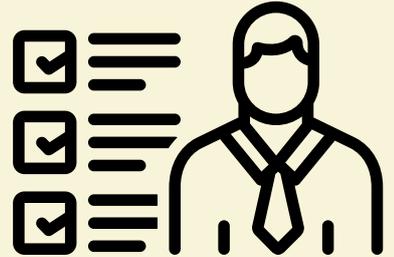


YAG ROLE DESCRIPTION

Overview:

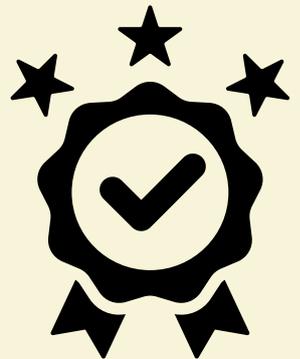
The Youth Advisory Group is designed for young people with a learning disability and/or autism who are currently involved in a DFN Project SEARCH Supported Internship. The role is ideal for individuals who are passionate about:

- Advocating for equality in the workplace
- Understand the importance of reasonable adjustments
- Are eager to share their experiences and ideas to help shape better outcomes for themselves and their fellow interns



Essential qualities for this position:

- Strong communication skills
- Current intern
- A willingness to collaborate
- Confidence to share ideas in a safe space
- A desire to influence positive change



Other information:

Job coach support will be provided, along with an information pack and opportunities for personal development. While this is an unpaid role until July 2026, it offers valuable experience in teamwork and advocacy within a supportive and inclusive environment. We particularly welcome applications from people with a learning disability and/or autism.



THE TEAM



LAUREN

Lauren is the head of Advocacy and Engagement at DFN PROJECT SEARCH. Lauren is passionate about co-production and leads on the development of our Youth Advisory Group and Alumni offer, as well as our engagement with families/support networks.



HARRY

Harry is the Youth Advisory and Co-Production Assistant at DFN Project SEARCH. He has experienced some of the barriers that are faced by young people with additional needs and is committed to changing the employment landscape for individuals with learning disabilities.



STEVE

Steve is an Embedded Job Coach at DFN Project SEARCH and provides support and guidance with the Youth Advisory Group.



SARA

Sara is an Embedded Job Coach at DFN Project SEARCH and provides support and guidance with the Graduate Network and the Youth Advisory Group.

“ WHAT OUR YAG GRADUATES SAY... ”



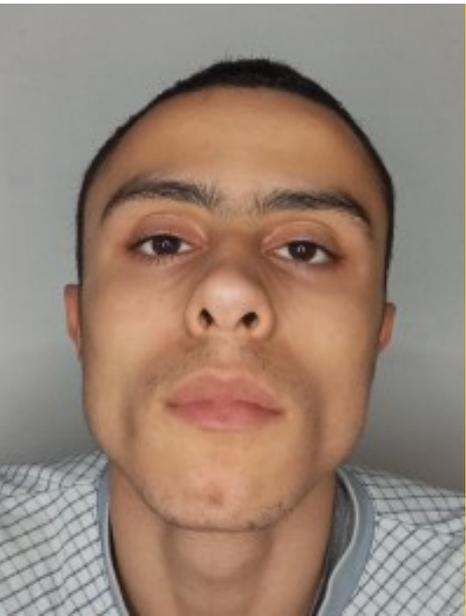
“Being on the YAG has helped me express my thoughts and opinions about what I feel needs to be changed. The away day was brilliant. I got to meet the other members, and it makes you realise that there’s so many sites outside of your own. You will be made to feel very welcome. No-one will judge you and everyone’s opinion matters.”

-Angel



“It was amazing working as part of a team. I really enjoyed talking with you guys and giving my examples. I liked coming to Manchester. I really enjoyed talking and listening to the presentation. I liked taking part in the interviews to recruit the PIC too.”

-Ayush



“I really enjoyed the away days, having some interaction with other people and having discussions on how to improve things for people with disabilities going into employment.”
“If it wasn't for this programme, I don't think I would have been the man who I am now and I got some great jobs coming up in my life. The future for myself is looking bright.”

-Matteo

“ WHAT OUR YAG GRADUATES SAY... ”



“I enjoyed meeting people.” “My favourite moments were Manchester and Liverpool. I will miss the YAG meetings. I liked meeting nice people like Steve, Harry and Lauren.”

-Lucy



“I’ve learnt a lot of new things, and met a lot of new people. I’ve enjoyed every minute of it. I enjoyed both the Away Days in Liverpool and Manchester, being able to talk about things and have a laugh.”

-Linden



“I really enjoyed going to the Houses of Parliament. The thing I enjoyed most was meeting other interns and feeling that we are capable of making change.”

-Taylor

“ WHAT OUR YAG GRADUATES SAY... ”



“I’ve enjoyed getting to know all of you. The experience has been amazing. I loved hearing everyone’s views on the topics. Normally you hear the same two arguments, it was good to hear different ones from people who are experiencing it themselves and have gone through it themselves.”

-Ryan



“I have come out of my shell, I’ve interviewed people, I’ve met YAG members in person which I never thought I’d do. I also took a train without my parents for the first time to attend the Liverpool Away Day. It all culminated in a full-time position. It’s been an amazing journey.”

-Tom

**For more information about
the Youth Advisory Group
and how to apply, email us at:
yaag@dfnprojectsearch.org**