

# FOUNDATIONS' EXPERTS BY EXPERIENCE PANEL

## About this opportunity

Please read these FAQs carefully before submitting your application.

### 1. What is this opportunity?

The Foundations Experts by Experience Panel is a national panel for young people, parents and carers with direct experience of family support services.

The project is a partnership between [Foundations](#) and [Leaders Unlocked](#).

Foundations is the national What Works Centre for Children & Families. We are funded by the government to find out what works to improve family support services for vulnerable children and families. We believe that people who have experience of services should have more say in how they are improved. We are setting up an Experts by Experience Panel to help us provide the answers and practical solutions to improve policy and practice on family support, so the right actions are taken at the right times, and every child has the foundations they need to reach their full potential.

Leaders Unlocked is a social enterprise supporting young people and under-represented groups to influence the decisions that affect them in society. They are partnering with Foundations to set up the panel and support its members to take part in panel activities.

The Experts by Experience Panel will work alongside Foundations to influence the work we do to create positive changes for children and families based on what has been shown to work.

Panel members will be able to:

- **Work alongside professionals from Foundations** to provide advice and ideas based on their lived experience
- **Make positive changes** to improve the support for children and families, by working with Foundations to look at what works
- **Co-produce communications and projects** in collaboration with Foundations to reflect the needs of children and families
- **Gain opportunities for personal development** – through skills training and valuable experience.



## 2. Who can join the Experts by Experience Panel?

We welcome applications from young people aged 16–25 years, as well as parents and carers from across England, who have direct experience of family support services. We would like to hear from you if you are a **young person aged 16–25** and have experience with support services, such as having a family support worker, a social worker, or if you have been in care.

We would also like to hear from you if you are a **parent or carer** – whether as a birth parent, kinship carer, foster carer, or adoptive parent – and have lived experience with children’s social care or other family-based services. This could include having had a family support worker, your child having had a social worker, or participating in parenting support programmes. It could also include experiences with services outside of children’s social care, such as support for your family related to domestic abuse.

We are especially keen to hear from Black, Asian and minoritised ethnic young people, parents and carers to ensure that these voices are heard.

We are looking to select up to 15 individuals to join the Experts by Experience Panel in 2024, representing a variety of local areas, backgrounds, and life experiences.

We are seeking team players who are eager to participate in all events and activities related to the Experts by Experience Panel (see below for more details).

We are committed to ensuring inclusivity and will do our best to accommodate any accessibility needs. If you have specific requirements to participate fully in the application process or Panel activities, please let us know, and we will work with you to meet them.

## 3. What will I get from being part of the Foundations Experts by Experience Panel?

Some of the benefits of getting involved with the Experts by Experience Panel are as follows:

- **Make a real difference:** You will have the chance to influence the work of an important national organisation. You will be involved in developing ideas and solutions that will benefit children and families in communities across the country.
- **Discuss issues with professionals:** You will work closely with professionals from Foundations, to help them to understand what young people, parents and carers think about support for families and what needs to change.
- **Develop your knowledge, skills and experience:** You will gain valuable skills and experience, including leadership, how organisations work and public speaking skills. We will support you with your personal goals, and you will be able to use this experience for your CV, and when applying for jobs or courses.
- **Meet new people:** You will work alongside other people living across the country who are also passionate about improving support for children and families. You will connect with a range of professionals with expertise in different areas and have a great opportunity to build your network.



## 4. If I join, what will I have to do?

Between October 2024 and September 2025 members of the Experts by Experience Panel will:

- **Take part in induction and training:** You will take part in induction and training to build the knowledge and skills you need. We will hold three induction sessions where you will get to know Foundations staff and other Panel members and develop your understanding of the project and your role. Two of these induction days will take place in London on Saturday 23 November 2024 and Saturday 8 February 2025, and one will take place online on an afternoon in the week of 20 January 2025.
- **Take part in online Panel meetings:** After the induction and training, we will hold Panel meetings every three months. These meetings will take place online and will typically last two hours. Panel meetings will give you the opportunity to get involved with the work being done by Foundations and to influence their projects and decision-making. The sessions will be interactive and give everyone a chance to share their views and ideas. We will offer support if you need help joining an online meeting.
- **Present back insights and ideas to Foundations:** As a Panel, will have the opportunity to develop a final presentation to share your achievements, learning, and recommendations for the future. You will have the opportunity to present this to key professionals at Foundations towards the end of the year. We'll bring together staff from across departments to hear from the Panel and your recommendations will influence the way Foundations works in the future.

## 5. Will my expenses be covered?

Panel members will be reimbursed for their time in line with the [Living Wage](#). We will work with each Panel member to make sure this is done appropriately, taking into consideration their individual circumstances.

We plan to hold induction days in London. For these events, we will **pre-book your train travel** to London in advance of each event. **Other travel expenses can be reimbursed** on the day of the event (please bring your receipts with you). We will provide all the food and refreshments for events and will do our best to accommodate any dietary requirements you might have.

## 6. How do I apply?

All applicants should complete the [application form](#) to provide your key information (e.g., Address, date of birth, contact details and diversity information).

As a part of this form, you will be asked to choose how you want to apply. There are three options, and you can choose what suits you best:

- **In writing:** To apply in writing, you can complete written answers using the application form [here](#)
- **Video:** You can also create a short video (no more than three minutes long) to respond to the questions in the application. Please email the file with your name in the title to [emily@leaders-unlocked.org](mailto:emily@leaders-unlocked.org) (you can use [We Transfer](#) to send the file)



- **Phone:** To apply by phone, you can select this option in the application form, and we will contact you to arrange a time to gather your answers by phone.

The deadline for applications is **Friday 25 October 2024**. Please fill in the application form and email any additional files to [emily@leaders-unlocked.org](mailto:emily@leaders-unlocked.org) by this date. If you have any questions or would like any support with the application form, please email Emily.

## **7. What happens next?**

Once we receive your application, we will carry out telephone interviews with a shortlist of applicants. All applicants will be informed by 1 November 2024 whether they have been selected for an interview.

**Remember: please email your completed application form and any supporting files to [emily@leaders-unlocked.org](mailto:emily@leaders-unlocked.org) by Friday 25 October 2024.**

Thank you and good luck with your application!