

Young Advisers – Role Description

Paid opportunity for young people aged 18-25 to shape funding decisions in the South East

Location:	Berkshire, Hampshire, Kent, Sussex or Wiltshire
Hours:	2-10 hours per month (will vary month to month)
Salary:	£20 per hour
Duration:	12 months
Closing:	1 June 2022
Interview	10 June 2022

About Blagrove

Blagrove is an independent charitable trust. We exist to bring lasting change to the lives of young people, investing in them as powerful voices for change in society. In the South East of England we make grants of around £1m each year to exceptional youth charities serving young people in the poorest areas. Most of our funding is long term (three or more years) and used for the core costs of an organisation.

As a youth-led funder, the Blagrove recognises that young people have a right to input into decisions that affect them. We have young people at all levels of our organisation inputting into our decision-making, this includes on our board and within the staff team, as well as paying young people with relevant lived experience, skills and vision to help advise us.

Restart Youth

The aim of our Restart Youth fund is to ensure youth organisations are reaching young people who are experiencing the greatest social injustice in the region.

Last year, this programme gave out £220,000 to youth charities in the South East, with young people taking the grant making decisions. We employed a group of six advisers with experience of services to guide us. Now we want to take this work further and employ six more who will have significant influence on our strategy in the region over the coming year.

About the role

Your role is to ensure we are centering the thoughts of young people in our funding using your lived experience and firsthand knowledge as a young person.

Your work will involve designing a strategy and recommending decisions for a discreet pot of funding, making monitoring visits to existing charity partners, and speaking to young people to learn about the impact of funded work. There may be other roles: we want our funding to invest in the work that young people prioritise and we are open to your ideas on what is needed, and your challenge on traditional grant-making strategies, processes and recipients.

To enable you to do this in a meaningful way that is non-tokenistic you will be supported by an external facilitator and the Blaggrave team.

You will also be supported by our existing approach and policies including our [safeguarding policy](#)

The split of responsibilities are shown below:

- The Advisory Panel (you + Blaggrave) will decide on the funding strategy with support from the external facilitator
- The Advisory Panel will decide how they want to generate applications
- The Blaggrave Trust will collect the applications to check their finances, governance, safeguarding and all the other fun legal bits!
- The Advisory Panel will make decisions on grant awards out of all the eligible applicants
- The Blaggrave Trust will manage the relationships with charities who are funded – including the possibility of creating opportunities for the Advisory Panel to meet and learn with them
- The Advisory Panel will report on learning from speaking to young people.

For the period June – December 2022 there will be regular evening meetings online, to be set in conjunction with the advisers and facilitator. These are likely to be on zoom. We are also planning at least two physical meetings in a central location during the period.

In person meetings and day workshops will be at the weekends or at the convenience of the group.

In 2023, you will have a chance to shape your work with regular meetings to plan for a period of around 6 weeks some time between January and June, with at least one in person meeting per project.

There will be an end of project celebration event in person in the summer 2023.

Who we want...

We are looking to recruit six advisers based in or from Berkshire, Hampshire, Kent, Sussex or Wiltshire, with a broad range of experiences, backgrounds, and opinions to create diversity of thought and ideas among the group.

We are particularly keen to hear from young people who have personal experience of receiving support from youth organisations themselves and have views on what support youth services should be providing.

We want to hear from you if you are:

- Dynamic and passionate about the support young people need and have a right to access
- Able to communicate your own views and actively listen to those of others, where necessary discussing to come to a consensus
- Able to ask challenging questions, with an open mind
- Empathetic and able to understand different people's backgrounds, personal values, and objectives, even where you do not share them
- Reliable and committed to attending and contributing to regular meetings

We are open to candidates from all backgrounds, but we will prioritize young people who will help us to continue to diversify the voices heard in our work. We particularly welcome young people whose own lived experience resonates with our mission. We are committed to creating an equitable environment where all can thrive

How do you apply?

Once you're ready to apply, we need to know why you're the right person for this role. To help us with this please answer the questions in our application form.

If you have accessibility requirements, we are happy to consider the option for you to submit a spoken application. Please contact Tessa Hibbert to discuss this (tessa.hibbert@blagravetrust.org).



The deadline for applications is 1 June 2022

Please note our interview date is scheduled for Friday 10 June.

If you have any questions about being an adviser or the application process please do not hesitate to get in touch with Tessa Hibbert via email on tessa.hibbert@blagravetrust.org or phone on 07940 545505. We are happy to answer any queries.

We look forward to receiving your application!