**Are you aged 16 – 25 and have experience of care?**

**Are you interested in learning how charities are run and governed?**

**Passionate about the help and support available for children in care and care leavers?**

**Want to have input ‘behind the scenes’ of a national charity?**

**Then apply to be a member of Become’s Ideas and Input Council**

**About Become**

Become is here to make a difference to individual lives right now, and the care system as a whole for future generations. Since 1992 we’ve been working to improve the everyday lives and future life chances of young people who are unable to live with their birth families.

Our work is on a national scale, and wide reaching and varied. We offer [coaching](http://www.becomecharity.org.uk/help-and-advice/the-become-coaching-programme/), [advice](http://www.becomecharity.org.uk/help-and-advice/care-advice-line/) and [information](http://www.becomecharity.org.uk/help-and-advice/care-factsheets/), provide [services and support](http://propel.org.uk/UK/), run campaigns and [influence policy and practice](http://www.becomecharity.org.uk/our-work/improving-the-care-system/), we are the secretariat for the [All Party Parliamentary Group For Looked After Children and Care Leavers](http://www.becomecharity.org.uk/our-work/improving-the-care-system/appg/), and we deliver [outreach programmes](http://www.becomecharity.org.uk/for-professionals/passport-to-parliament/) across the country, and of course we have to [fundraise](http://www.becomecharity.org.uk/support-our-work/) to be able to deliver all of this work.

You can see more about the organisation, our trustee board, our values and our current strategic aims on our website – [www.becomecharity.org.uk/our-work/](http://www.becomecharity.org.uk/our-work/).

**About the role**

Become is committed to making sure young people with experience of care are at the heart of our decision making, and are driving the decisions we make about the work we do and how it is delivered. This role is the definitive way to do that.

This role is very similar to that of a ‘trustee’ (you can see a definition of that [here](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/charity-trustee-whats-involved)). The difference is that it is a paid opportunity (trustees can’t be paid) and you can’t be held personally liable for anything (as trustees can be).

We are looking to recruit eight care-experienced young people aged 16 to 25 (at time of application) to form our brand new Ideas and Input Council.

Members will work with our staff and alongside our trustees to inform the direction of our work, and ensure the work is delivered to the highest standard and in a way that is grounded in experience.

As well as contributing to the work of a respected national charity, group members will gain access to skills and knowledge development. You will also meet and work alongside other people with experience of care, as well as professionals from Become and other organisations.

The group will meet 6 times a year, every other month, on Wednesday evenings. In meetings, members will provide input into feed into current work and help shape work under development. The group may also be offered other opportunities.

Become is looking for eight members who are committed, passionate and able to be a part of the council for two years.

**Role description**

Members of the Ideas and Input Council will:

* attend and contribute to bi-monthly Wednesday evening meetings at our offices in Central London.
* use their experience and knowledge to give ideas about working with and for children in care and care leavers;
* represent the needs and views of all children and young people in care and care leavers;
* consider the bigger picture when making recommendations or sharing ideas;
* make sure that our work makes a difference by checking how we evaluate what we do;
* ensure our trustees are aware of the needs and experiences of children in care and care leavers and hear directly from them.

**Person specification**

# As well as answering YES to the top four questions on this paper, members of the Ideas and Input Council must be able to do the following:

* think critically about the care system and what needs to be done to make it better;
* explain their ideas clearly, both in writing and when speaking;
* be good listeners and respect the views of others;
* be professional, you will be working alongside our trustee board;
* be respectful and considerate;
* be reliable and committed.

**What’s in it for council members?**

**Transferable skills**

Members of the Ideas and Input Council will gain experiences and transferable skills which are highly valued by employers and educational institutions. These may include:

* ability to take part and contribute effectively in professional meetings;
* gaining an understanding of ‘behind the scenes’ workings of a national charity;
* experience as a representative and advocate for those unable to speak for themselves;
* experience of working with peers and professionals within a respected national charity.

Become will supply references for Ideas and Input Council members, as appropriate.

**Payment**

Members of the Ideas and Input Council will be paid £10 an hour. Each bi-monthly meeting will last 2 hours, from 6 - 8pm. Reasonable travel expenses will be reimbursed (up to a zone 1-6 travel card). You must be able to attend these meetings so we do expect you’ll be based in Greater London or the south east. We can also pay childcare costs, if required.

**How do I apply?**

Please send us your CV and a short statement (no more than one side of A4) about why you would like to be a member of the Ideas and Input Council, how you and your skills match the requirements of the person specification above.

Please provide the contact details of someone who has agreed to be your referee. This must be your carer or a member of staff at your local authority or someone in a professional capacity – your employer or academic tutor, for example. Please let us know if this is difficult for you and we can talk about alternative options.

If shortlisted, we will arrange for you to have a short interview, we have set aside the 3rd and 4th October to interview, please keep these days free if possible. We will also contact your referee and ask them to complete a reference. Successful members will be invited to join the council for a minimum term of two years, and meet on the dates listed below.

Please send your CV, short statement, and your referee’s contact details to **grace.pinner@becomecharity.org.uk** no later than **10am on Wednesday 27th September.**

Please be in touch if the terms and conditions or application process excludes you from application or involvement and we will do our best to support you.

**Key dates**

* 10am on Wednesday 27th September– deadline for applications

All the following dates will take place at our offices in Angel, Islington, Central London:

* Interviews - TBC
* Dates for meetings: October 2017, December 2017, Feb 2018, April 2018, June 2018, August 2018