

## Volunteer Youth Advisory Group Member Role Description

Reports to: **CYP Coordinator**

### Purpose

At Back Up we understand that spinal cord injury can be devastating but we believe it needn't prevent anyone from getting the most out of life. Back Up believes in youth participation. Children and young people are best placed to advise us on the services which affect them. The Youth Advisory Group is a user led group that works to provide feedback on the services they use at Back Up and offer ideas/improvements. We want to have under 18's more involved in how Back Up's services for children and young people are run.

### Our values

Volunteering with Back Up, as with everything we do, takes place in the context of our values:

- We embrace challenge
- We have fun
- We build inclusive communities
- We are ambitious for each other

### Key tasks

- Feedback to Back Up at youth group meetings about what they think of our services, what's good, what's bad, what's missing.
- To let other children and young people affected by spinal cord injury know about what we do, and asking what they think of it
- Help plan and go to events in spinal centres and schools to raise awareness of spinal cord injuries
- Undertake leadership skills and decision making training on the Youth Advisory Group weekend
- Promoting children and young people's services to young people
- Proactive communication through social media
- Recruit new members to the youth advisory group
- Build up resources for young people e.g., information on accessible universities
- Listen to and learn from others
- Engage and contribute to the groups aims
- Encourage other young people in the Youth Advisory Group to collectively thrive and ensure all children and young people affected with spinal cord injury are represented
- Have fun and help others to do the same

- Be a role model and ambassador for Back Up

## The Person

- Age: 12-24 years old with a spinal cord injury (can represent the group until age 25)
- We are looking for someone who has these qualities **or** someone who want to develop these skills
  - Be patient with people and think about their needs
  - Be able to listen to people and make them feel relaxed
  - Friendly and fun
  - Respectful and able to understand issues of confidentiality
  - A responsible team player
  - Able to speak confidently with new people or someone who wants to build their confidence
  - Aware of their own limitations and not afraid to ask for support
  - Proactive and passionate about Back Up
  - To be enthusiastic and driven to help achieve the group aims
- Willing to meet up with group 1-3 times per year
- Informally to be in regular contact monthly by phone, more often possibly by email with CYP Team

## Experience and Knowledge

- Previous Back Up course experience as a participant or volunteer experience in a different role is desirable
- Knowledge of Back Up services, vision, mission and values

## Benefits for you

- Have your views heard and have a real opportunity to make changes
- Build confidence and leadership skills
- Learn more about the charity sector and policy
- Looks great on your CV

## Time Commitment

- Attend an initial training weekend
- Attend between 1 and 3 group meetings (in person or online) per year

## Support and opportunities provided

- Training will be given by attending a weekend training workshop to support you as a Volunteer Youth Advisory Group Member and to develop your skills to fulfil the role

- Agreed expenses paid by Back Up
- Support and guidance from Back Up CYP Team and other Back Up staff as applicable
- The chance to work as part of a dynamic team and to have a real impact on children and young people at an early stage, and to link them in with a lifelong network of support.