Closing Date:
Fri 13 Nov

VOYPIC
VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

YOUNG REPS

Application Pack



voypic.org/YoungReps

Young Reps are the youth leaders of VOYPIC, and help decide what we do. They represent and advocate on behalf of all young people in and leaving care, and advise the VOYPIC Board of Directors and the VOYPIC Leadership Team on how to deliver the Strategic Plan.

Why do we need your help?

We want young people to be at the centre of the big decisions about what VOYPIC is, and what we do for young people in and leaving care. Young Reps represent their peers. They play an important part in helping decide what we do and telling others about our work. Above all, they help make sure that everything we do helps us build a society where every child in care feels safe, valued and loved, and every young person leaving care does so with dignity and respect, and thrives into adulthood.

The Young Reps Forum also elects three of the members to be members of the VOYPIC Board of Directors. This is called an 'ex-officio member', which is a legal term meaning they can be on the Board because they are members of the Young Reps Forum.

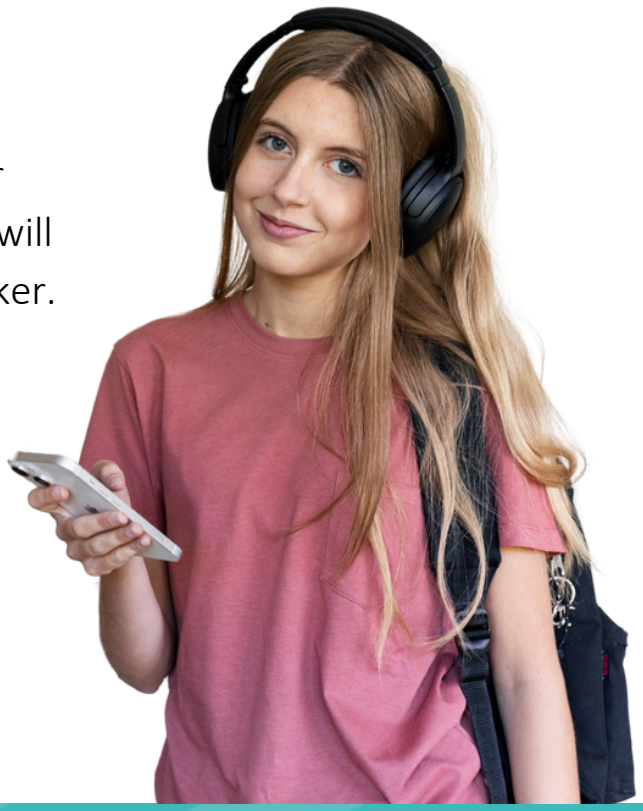


What do Young Reps do?

The Young Reps Forum will meet at least monthly, sometimes in person and sometimes online. Young Reps will:

- Meet with the Board of Directors at least twice a year
- Assist and advise the three ex-officio board members
- Help design services and other resources for children and young people in care
- Talk to other young people in and leaving care, and find out what's important to them
- Help raise awareness about young people in and leaving care, and tell others about the work of VOYPIC, including through public speaking and in the media
- Represent VOYPIC at local and national events, and promote what we do

All Young Reps get special training for their role, and additional support and guidance will be available through a named VOYPIC worker.



Who can apply to be a VOYPIC Young Rep?

You can apply to be a VOYPIC Young Rep if you are:

- aged between 16-30 years
- have a personal experience of being in care

When deciding who will get a place on the Young Reps Forum, we will look for people who:

- are able to represent and share the views and experiences of children and young people in and leaving care
- have a friendly manner and can work as part of a group
- are available at evenings and weekends
- have an interest in (or experience of) public speaking
- can travel independently across Northern Ireland
- are able to manage responsibilities of the role alongside other personal commitments e.g. college/ work

How much time do I need?

Young Reps will be appointed for two years. The Young Reps Forum will meet at least once a month. There will also be training days and residentials.

What training and support will I get?

Everyone who becomes a Young Rep will get Induction Training. We will also have special training sessions, such as media training, communication and presentation skills, groupwork skills, etc. Young Reps will get ongoing support from a named VOYPIC Worker.

Where will the meetings be?

The meetings of the Young Reps Forum will take place in one of the VOYPIC offices: Belfast, Ballymena, Lurgan and Derry-Londonderry. We may also have some meetings online.

You may also be asked to attend workshops, conferences or other events across NI and the UK and Ireland. All travel costs and out of pocket expenses will be paid by VOYPIC.



What do I get from being a VOYPIC Young Rep?

As a Young Rep, you will be a leader in VOYPIC. You will get the opportunity to:

- meet other young adults with a care experience
- attend special activities and residentials
- play a key role in the future development of VOYPIC
- take part in fun and inspiring events
- develop your communication and public speaking skills
- meet others and be a leader in the care community
- influence services and resources for young people

Above all, you will get the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping to change care for the better.



Of course, there will be food and snacks at all meetings of the Young Reps group, and any expenses (like travel expenses) will be covered.

And, being a VOYPIC Young Rep is a great thing to put on your CV!

How do I apply to become a Young Rep?

If you'd like to be a VOYPIC Young Rep, fill in the short application form, telling us about yourself and why you would make a good Young Rep. You can fill out the form at the back of this pack, or apply online at:

www.voypic.org/YoungReps

All applications must be received by 5pm on Friday 13 November 2026

We're also asking for two references- people we can talk to about your application to make sure this is the right opportunity for you. This might be a social worker or a teacher, or your VOYPIC worker.

How will you decide who gets to be a Young Rep?

We have 15 places on the Young Rep Forum. If more than 15 people apply, we will select a group of young people that:

- has representatives from different HSCT areas
- has people who live in both rural and urban areas
- has a range of ages from 16 to 30 years old
- has a range of different care experiences
- is culturally diverse

After the applications close, we will tell everyone who applies about our decisions.

What about the Board of Directors?

The Board of Directors is a group of people who are elected at VOYPIC's Annual General Meeting (AGM). They make sure that the organisation is well run. The Board meets once a month to ensure that:

- we are working towards VOYPIC's strategic aims
- we have and follow policies for keeping young people safe
- we have the right staff and volunteers to do our job
- we manage any risks
- our Health and Safety policy and procedure is followed
- VOYPIC's money is spent properly

What do I do if I'm on the Board?

Three Young Reps will sit on the VOYPIC Board (they must be 18+). As a member of the Board of Directors you would be expected to:

- attend meetings, sending apologies if you can't attend
- prepare for meetings by reading the agenda and reports before the meeting
- share your views and help make decisions
- carry out committee tasks you have agreed to take on
- take part in training if needed



As a member of the Board, you will:

- have your voice heard
- be given all the proper information in order to make informed decisions
- be treated as an equal member - young people's experience is key in shaping VOYPIC services and issues that impact children and young people in care

Need more information?

If you would like to have a chat to someone before applying to be a Young Rep, you can contact Nicola on 028 9024 4888 or 07854278936.



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Application Form

Please complete this form and return to info@voypic.org by 5pm on Friday 13 November 2026.

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1 About You

Name	
Date of Birth	
Address	
Telephone	
Email	

2 HSC Trust Area? (please tick)

- ○ Belfast
- ○ Northern
- ○ Southern
- ○ South Eastern
- ○ Western
- ○ Not Sure

3 **Have you been involved with VOYPIC before?**

○ Yes ○ No

If so, please tell us about it:

4 **Please tell us which children's social care services you have experience of. (Please tick all that apply)**

- ○ Residential Care (Children's Homes)
- ○ Foster Care
- ○ Kinship Care
- ○ Leaving and After Care (14/16+/18+)

5 In the space below, please tell us why you should be a VOYPIC Young Rep.

You might want to tell us about your personal skills and qualities, and how you meet the joining criteria. Please include why you want to be a VOYPIC Young Rep, what you will bring to the role, and how being part of the group will fit into your life.

6 References

Please give the names and contact details of two adults who aren't related to you that can give a reference in support of your application. This might be a social worker or a teacher, or your VOYPIC worker.

Reference 1

Name	
Occupation	
Address	
Telephone	
Email	
How do you know them?	

Reference 2

Name	
Occupation	
Address	
Telephone	
Email	
How do you know them?	

7 Please tell us any more information you think we need to know.

Send your completed application to
info@voypic.org
by 5pm on Friday 13 November 2026

Once the closing date has passed, we will look at all the applications and decide who will be offered a place on the Young Reps Forum. We will contact everyone who applies to let them know our decision.

If you want to check that we have received your application, you can call Nicola on 028 9024 4888.

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Your place, your voice



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