



Terms of Reference for Members

Who we are

The Children and Young People's Mental Health Coalition (CYPMHC) is a collaborative network of over 300 organisations, including mental organisations, professional bodies, youth support services, educational institutions, and concerned individuals. We are dedicated to advocating for and influencing policy change in relation to the mental health needs of babies, children, and young people. We are chaired by Amy Whitelock Gibbs. Coalition members share and sign up to our mission, vision and values:

Vision

Our vision is for all babies, children and young people to grow up in a society that prioritises and protects their mental health and wellbeing.

Mission

The Coalition is for all those working to improve babies', children's and young people's mental health. Through our collective voice, we influence and shape policy, systems and practice by listening to and learning from our members, supporters, children, young people and families.

Values

- **Respect** for the rights of all babies, children, young people and families.
- **Trust** in the voices and experiences of children, young people and families and all our members who work with and for them.
- **Fairness and equity** across policy, resources and services affecting babies', children's and young people's mental health and wellbeing.

Our strategic priorities

We work with members, children and young people, and families to advocate for change in relation to babies, children and young people's mental health. The [Coalition Strategy 2024-27](#) sets our priorities for the next three years, this includes:

- **A mentally healthy generation** with a focus on reducing risk factors for poor mental health and ensuring all babies, children and young people have strong protective factors; and creating positive and supportive environments where good mental health is promoted.
- **Early intervention for all** with a focus on ensuring there is always a choice of early intervention services in a range of different settings and that groups of babies, children and young people at risk of poor mental health are prioritised in accessing early help.
- **Strengthening specialist services** to deliver the very best mental health care for babies, children and young people. This should have a focus on funding and access, and making sure that if a child or young person has a mental health crisis they receive the very best care and support.

The Steering Group

The Steering Group is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the Coalition and oversees its operational plans. Collectively, they assist in prioritising and planning for the delivery of key Coalition activities such as campaigns or events. Members of the group will also share information regularly to prevent duplication and ensure the Coalition is representing the views of its members effectively.

The Steering Group is currently made up of sixteen member organisations who meet four times a year to discuss operational progress and workstreams. The Steering Group comprises:

- Ambitious about Autism
- The British Psychological Society
- Be Free Campaign
- Centre for Mental Health
- Charlie Waller Trust
- Leaders Unlocked
- Mental Health Foundation
- Mental Health Network at NHS Confederation
- National Children's Bureau
- No Limits
- Parent-Infant Foundation
- Race Equality Foundation
- Rollercoaster Family Support
- Student Minds
- YoungMinds
- Youth Access

Membership of the Coalition

The Coalition's aim is to bring together organisations and individuals to campaign jointly on the mental health and wellbeing of babies, children and young people in order to advocate for change. We respond jointly to government consultations, write briefings and reports, hold member events, and share our members work via our weekly updates.

What we offer our members:

- The opportunity to influence policy change through consultations and workshops
- Latest news from the sector, member resources and updates in our weekly newsletter
- Sharing and promoting our members campaigns and publications
- Access to our full events programme, learning opportunities and the chance to co-host or jointly run events
- Networking opportunities to connect our members
- We will follow/support your organisations social media.

What we ask from our members:

- Share information about your upcoming work with us
- Meet with us help us define priorities and suggest areas of work, communicate virtually in between times, and comment on proposed work plans.

- Take part in the work of relevant working groups when requested¹
- Contribute to policy work and consultation responses.
- Feed in views from the children, young people and families you work with
- Help disseminate the coalition's work via member networks
- Keep us to date with contact changes within the membership organisation
- To complete the CYPMHC annual membership survey
- Follow CYPMHC on Twitter @CYPMentalHealth

Membership is open to any organisation that is committed to the CYPMHC's remit and values and to pursuing the purpose of the Coalition in the manner indicated and who are able to sign-up to these Terms of Reference. Organisations must also demonstrate a commitment to anti-racism, diversity, equity and inclusion. For further information, please read our [anti-racism policy](#), adopted from our hosts Centre for Mental Health.

We do not promote or advocate on behalf of specific organisations, nor do we promote commercial/for-profit entities. Being a member of the Coalition should not be about advancing the interests of an organisation, but about contributing and strengthening the work of the Coalition.

The Coalition staff team reserves the right to remove organisations who are failing to uphold the stated values. Such a decision will be taken in partnership with our Steering Group.

Becoming a member

Organisations seeking to become members should complete the [application form](#) stating why you want to become a member. By submitting the form, you are **committing to the values of the Coalition** above.

We ask that one individual from each organisation be the principal contact, and you can have a further two in addition to receive communications, invitations, etc. Additional individuals from that organisation can sign themselves up to the [mailing list](#) via the website (to receive the [weekly newsletter](#)). The principal contact can delegate to other individuals within the organisation if they are unable to attend events/meetings or contribute to workstreams as they see fit.

If any of the named contacts leave the organisation, it's the responsibility of the organisation to update us with any new contacts so we can update the database. On an annual basis, we will also reach out to organisations with a member survey giving members the opportunity to update contact details and other information about the organisation.

For further information about membership, or to arrange a chat, please email info@cypmhc.org.uk.

¹ Working groups will take forward specific projects and tasks aligned to our three strategic priorities. These groups may be established as either a permanent group centred around our priorities or as cross-cutting 'task and finish' groups to take forward specific/short-term projects. These groups will primarily gather evidence and will work with all members to gather their views and formulate policy positions.