



EXPERTS by
EXPERIENCE

Information Pack



Who are Children's Hearings Scotland?

Children's Hearings Scotland (CHS) are one of the organisations who work within the children's hearings system in Scotland. We recruit, train and support around 2,500 Panel Members across Scotland to make sure our hearings make decisions that are the best for you.

Why do we need you?

We have worked with young people with experience of the hearing system to pick out the things that are most important. You can see this in the four icons below. These are the four principles, chosen by young people with lived experience of the hearings system, which CHS must follow - **Respect, Inclusion, Empowerment and Accountability**. You can read more about this in our Children's Participation and Rights Strategy.



What is the Experts by Experience Group?

Experts by Experience is a CHS national participation group, for children and young people with lived experience of the hearings system. It is an opportunity to have your voice heard and make a difference. It is a great way to influence the work of CHS and improve outcomes for children and young people. You will meet new friends and develop your confidence. There will also be lots of training opportunities to learn new skills.

Who can apply?

Any young person aged **14-25**, from anywhere in Scotland who has current or recent experience of the children's hearings system can apply to join the group. Who better to shape the work of CHS and make lasting change than those who have experienced hearings first hand?

You don't need to have any specific skills or knowledge to apply, your passion and experience is enough. The group is fully supported by staff members of the Participation Team at CHS.

What does it involve?

The group will meet **four times a year** (roughly every three months). These will be informal development meetings where you can help to shape our work by sharing your views and ideas, make decisions on what topics matter to you and learn new skills. There will also be lots of extra opportunities for you to be involved in the work of CHS as well as optional group social activities you can take part in.

We can meet **in-person, online or a mix of both**, depending on your choice. If you need a device or internet access, we can help with that. Sometimes there may be opportunities to go on residential and overnight stays, depending on your ideas for the group. All expenses will be covered by CHS.

How much will members receive?

Members will receive either a **half-day rate (£120)** or a **full-day rate (£180)**, depending on the opportunity. There will also be other opportunities you can get involved in throughout the year. Some of these opportunities may need extra time and you might have to read or prepare things in advance. For these types of opportunities, you can receive additional payment.

How do I apply?

To register your interest please visit bit.ly/experts-by-experience or scan this QR code:



The closing date for applications is **Thursday 31st October** at **5pm**.

After we hear from you, someone from the **Participation Team** will be in touch to talk to you about your ideas for the group, give you an opportunity to ask questions, and find out if the group is right for you at this time. After this we will send you an application form to complete and invite you to attend an informal interview.

If you have any questions or would like an informal chat, please contact the **Participation Team**:

Email: chsparticipation@chs.gov.scot

Text/WhatsApp: **07785 913520**