

Columba 1400 Young Person Consultant - Volunteer Role Outline

This is a voluntary, unpaid role (it is not an employed position). Columba 1400 is committed to inclusion and will cover all reasonable expenses (such as travel) to ensure costs are not a barrier to getting involved.

About Columba 1400

Columba 1400 enables young people, especially those from tough realities, and the key adults in their lives to lead lives of meaning, purpose and contribution. In the last 25 years Columba 1400 has provided a turning point for more than 25,000 young people and key adults across Scotland, including our sister organisation, Columba Leadership in South Africa.

Our vision is that every young person and the key adults in their life share a common experience and understanding of values-based leadership which enables them to make real lasting change in their own lives and in their communities.

We base our approach on the words of Scottish novelist, historian and statesman John Buchan: *"The task of leadership is not to put the greatness back into humanity, but to elicit it as the greatness is already there."*

Our founding principles of warmth of welcome, warmth of hospitality, and the warmth of being on a shared journey guide everything we do. We believe in creating a welcoming and supportive environment where every individual feels embraced and encouraged to discover their full potential.

Our six Columba 1400 values of Awareness, Focus, Creativity, Integrity, Perseverance and Service are core to our approach. Our values are at the heart of everything we do from our interactions with participants to the design of our academies, providing a framework for participants to explore, understand and develop their own core values.

Purpose of the Role

The Young Person Consultant volunteer role exists to bring youth voice into our governance, contributing to decisions that shape Columba 1400's future. As a Young Person Consultant, you will help ensure our work stays relevant, grounded, and connected to the lived experiences of young people across Scotland.

You will help us understand what young people need today and what future possibilities we should explore so we can reach more young people.

This role is not about tasks or technical responsibilities; it's about your voice, your ideas, and your perspective. You will contribute to important discussions, help shape Columba 1400 to grow in ways that reflect the world young people are living in now.

You will be part of a shared journey, alongside our Trustees, staff and partners to listen well, and keep young people at the centre of the decisions we make.

Columban Youth Team (CYT)

The CYT is a subcommittee of Columba 1400's board of trustees. It is chaired by two volunteer young person consultants appointed to the board. The aim of the group is to champion young people's voices and to help ensure Columba 1400 remains a young person-oriented organisation.

Who Is This Role For

This opportunity is typically suited to young people aged 16 - 30, as the role is specifically designed to ensure that youth voice meaningfully informs the direction of our work.

You would be a great fit if you:

- Have had experience of or have a deep understanding of Columba 1400
- Want to make a positive difference
- Care about improving opportunities for other young people
- Bring lived experience, ideas, honesty and curiosity
- Can take part in respectful, values-based conversations
- Are willing to grow your confidence in formal spaces (like Board conversations)

If you would like to use your voice to shape the future of Columba 1400's transformational impact on young people and the key adults in their lives, this role could be for you.

What This Role Involves

You will:

- Bring youth voice and lived experience into important Columba 1400 Board discussions.
- Share insights that help guide our strategic focus.
- Co-lead monthly online CYT sessions
- Contribute to youth-focused projects (digital ideas, events, alumni activity and more)
- Offer honest feedback on what helps young people - and what does not
- Help us reach more young people across Scotland
- Join a values-based, supportive team who genuinely want to listen.

Confidentiality

You will sometimes hear sensitive or internal information. We will explain what this means, and you will be asked to keep these details private, with full support, so you feel confident about what that involves.

Support You Will Receive

We will support you to:

- Prepare for any Board-related conversation
- Understand papers, topics and discussions
- Grow your confidence and influence
- Develop practical leadership skills
- Connect with Trustees, staff and other young people
- Gain recognition through Saltire Awards.

You will never step into a meeting unprepared or unsupported.

Your Core Areas of Involvement:

- Participation in monthly online CYT sessions
- Opportunity to attend up to four Board meetings per year (we ask that you aim to attend at least two, where possible)
- Optional in-person or online meet-ups, where helpful
- Preparation for meetings/sessions as needed (with support from Columba 1400).

What You Will Gain

- Real-life practical leadership experience
- Develop your skills and confidence at a governance level
- A strengthened CV and future opportunities (this experience may also support your next steps, whatever they are)
- Mentoring and support from Trustees and the Executive Team
- Saltire Awards and formal recognition
- The opportunity to take part flexibly within a warm, values-based, family-friendly team
- The chance to make a transformational difference for young people and the key adults in their lives
- Experiences that connect you to inspiring people and places - including the magic of the Isle of Skye and beautiful venues across Scotland
- The sense of being part of a wider movement helping Scotland become the best place in the world for young people to grow up

What a Positive Experience Looks Like

- ✓ You feel confident that your voice makes a difference
- ✓ Trustees and staff understand young people's needs more deeply
- ✓ Your insight helps shape how Columba 1400 extends range and reach
- ✓ You discover skills, confidence, relationships and opportunities that last

Additional Information

This role is a regulated role, and successful volunteers will be required to undertake a Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) check.

Columba 1400 reserves the right to vary the activities and areas of involvement within this volunteer role at any time, according to the needs of the organisation.