



TAKE ACTION WITH FREEDOM

Freedom Youth Group: Adult Lead

For teachers, youth workers and responsible adults.

Make space for young people to lead. Keep the adult responsibilities with adults.

KNOW

NOTICE

RESPOND

CHANGE

Companion guide for teachers, youth workers and responsible adults supporting 11–17-year-olds.

Online: freedomcharity.org.uk/contact-us/

Downloaded or printed: hello@freedomcharity.org.uk

Hold the safe structure

The adult lead is not there to script every young person. The role is to create safe conditions, keep the boundaries clear and take responsibility for the duties that should not be shifted onto children.

- Confirm the group sits within an appropriate school, sixth-form, youth or other recognised setting.
- Agree the scope, supervision and safeguarding route before activity begins.
- Make sure young people know who the responsible adults are and how to raise a concern.
- Check permission, venue, travel, online activity, photography, speakers and fundraising as required.
- Keep sensitive case information out of normal group notes and campaign material.
- Contact Freedom before public co-branding, media representation or events presented as Freedom activity.

Age differentiation

11-14

Prioritise learning, creativity, discussion, youth testing and supervised awareness. Keep public or complex campaigning tightly supported.

15-17

Allow more planning, presenting and campaigning where the task, maturity, consent and setting make it appropriate. Do not assume older means ready for every role.

Prepare before the first meeting

- 1 Confirm which safeguarding policy and reporting route governs the activity.
- 2 Decide who receives concerns and who covers if that person is unavailable.
- 3 Explain the disclosure boundary in plain language to the group.
- 4 Keep the help route visible without turning the group into a help service.
- 5 Agree how you will handle digital contact, photographs and external speakers.
- 6 Assess whether any role triggers DBS eligibility using current guidance.

Core response

Listen. Do not investigate. Do not promise secrecy. Do not contact family members or alleged perpetrators. Follow the agreed safeguarding route. If somebody is in immediate danger, call 999.

Do not turn lived experience into content

Never invite young people to disclose personal experiences simply to make an activity powerful. If lived experience is ever used in Freedom work, it needs a separate, specific consent and safety process.

A simple meeting rhythm

- 1 Check in - What are we trying to understand or change today?
- 2 Learn - Use current Freedom material; distinguish facts from assumptions.
- 3 Make - Create, plan, test or practise something.
- 4 Safety check - Could this activity expose, stereotype, identify or pressure anyone?
- 5 Decide - What is the one next action? Who owns it?
- 6 Reflect - What did young people learn? What should Freedom hear?

Fundraising

Fundraising is optional. Any activity involving children must be age-appropriate, supervised and consistent with the current Code of Fundraising Practice and the responsible setting's rules. Agree the money route before the activity begins.

Data and evaluation

Collect only what you need. Routine feedback should focus on participation and learning, not personal experiences of abuse. Use the correct safeguarding record for concerns rather than an activity spreadsheet.

Before an activity goes public

- The aim is clear.
- The information is current and sourced.
- The route to help is visible.
- No young person is pressured to disclose, perform or be photographed.
- The language does not stereotype communities, faiths or families.
- The event, speaker, fundraising and use of Freedom's name have the approvals they need.
- There is a plan for what happens if somebody discloses a concern.
- Young people know how their feedback will be used.

Set up a Youth Group

Use Freedom's Contact Us form to discuss approval, resources, induction and the current youth activity offer.

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DBS eligibility and safeguarding duties must be assessed for the actual role and setting; this guide is not legal advice.



Need help?

Taking action with Freedom does not make you a safeguarding professional. If somebody needs help, use the safeguarding or support route you have been given. Do not investigate, contact family members or try to manage a case yourself.

Immediate danger

If someone is in immediate danger, call 999.

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Downloaded or printed: hello@freedomcharity.org.uk

Help: freedomcharity.org.uk/helpline/

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