

Headliners <http://www.headliners.org/>

Welcome to Headliners

Headliners UK is a charity which inspires and encourages the personal development of young people through journalism.

Young people are trained to research and produce stories on issues important to them for publication and broadcast in national and local newspapers, magazines, television, radio and online.

What we do

Details about the purpose of Headliners, and how we make it happen.

Our mission

To inspire children and young people to investigate and challenge the world around them, enhance their personal development and promote their right to be heard as equals.

Publication and broadcasting

Young people research issues and produce stories for publication and broadcast in the mainstream media. Recent work includes broadcasts for [Sky News](#) and [BBC Radio 4](#), and publication in [The Guardian](#), local newspapers and websites covering issues such as gang wars, HIV/AIDS and size zero women.

Participation

Young people are at the centre of Headliners and get involved in decision making at every level. We assist other organisations to develop participation strategy by training adults and young people in areas such as the recruitment of staff, business planning and influencing policy in their communities. Young people from Headliners can become [trustees](#) after the age of 18.

Partnership and outreach

Headliners works in partnership with voluntary and government organisations, raising the voice of young people in their own communities.

Our focus is on young people who are isolated or at risk of exclusion, those who are disabled or have experienced being in care and young people from minority groups.

We work on an outreach basis with many groups in their own communities, but also aim to bring young people together in our centres in [London](#), Newcastle, [Belfast](#) and [Foyle](#) to learn from each other and celebrate diversity.

Commissioning from us

Information for journalists interested in commissioning work from us.

How do I commission Headliners?

Like any news organisation, we try to respond to demands from many different sources. Clients have found that Headliners can often provide a unique insight, helping with most items from breaking news to in-depth features.

Members of Headliners meet regularly to select which stories they work on. If you would like them to consider a commission, please contact Oliver Benson on 020 7833 2577.

If you really want an ear to the ground, call to find out what kids are currently debating to see if there

might be something there for you.

We do not provide interviewees or 'talking heads' unless our journalists are being invited to discuss issues they have investigated themselves. You can familiarise yourself with our work in the [Headliners story library](#).

Conditions of publication

Headliners has pleasure in offering copy for publication or broadcast. But because Headliners has a stated duty to protect the way the work of its members is presented, copy is offered with a few simple conditions:

- Headliners undertakes to deliver copy written to a professional standard and charges normal going rates. It anticipates that articles may be sub-edited. However, major changes to style, content or to agreed length should be discussed with Headliners prior to publication.
- In articles with no 'stand first', the byline should be 'By reporters from Headliners'. The credit list included at the bottom of articles, containing the names of the contributors, must be included exactly as written.
eg: Headliners is a programme of learning through journalism for children aged 8-18. This article was produced by editors Stuart Fletcher, 16, and Abeyna Jones, 15, with reporters Isaac Fihosy, 11, Marvyn Benoit, 12 and Benjamina Avro, 11. www.headliners.org.
- After publication, articles are included in the Headliners [story library](#), clearly stating in what paper or magazine they appeared and when. Short quotations from published articles may be included in future Headliners publicity.

If any of the above presents any difficulties, a member of our editorial staff would be happy to discuss it with you. You can contact our main office on 020 7833 2577.

We adapt these guidelines for broadcast media. We like to discuss any departures at the point of commission to avoid editorial distortion and misunderstanding.

London

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E-mail: enquiries@headliners.org

Frequently asked questions

Here are some of the answers to some questions we get asked a lot.

Do you produce a newspaper?

No. If we had our own newspaper we wouldn't be able to reach such a wide range of people. As a news agency we can get our voices across in lots of different ways.

Why don't you write for young people?

Headliners produces news by children for everyone. By bringing young people's perspectives to broad-ranging issues, our articles are of intrinsic interest to other young people and refreshingly original for adult readers. We believe our members' work has most impact if their views sit alongside those of other adult 'authorities'.

How is Headliners different from other youth organisations?

Headliners has two distinct aims.

One is to get young voices in the mainstream press. This means real copy for real newspapers read by discerning adults. Our young people produce concrete outcomes to professional standards.

The second is to realise members' potential by encouraging them to think and act for themselves. The process of producing stories is key to their development. Young people don't just hang out at Headliners. They juggle the complexities faced by any working adult, and work hard in a supportive learning environment.

Which is more important - developing young people or publishing stories?

The two aims go hand in hand. One isn't possible without the other and staff act as facilitators in order to achieve both.

How do members take ownership of the programme?

Besides working on stories, members help run the organisation by:

- helping to realise new initiatives
- recruiting and training new members
- sitting on advisory committees with staff and trustees
- contributing to business planning
- suggesting how to improve and develop the programme
- promoting the programme
- helping with administration
- writing codes of conduct for members
- producing members' newsletters
- interviewing and shortlisting all staff
- We believe kids can do it!

Isn't this just a programme for the brightest young people?

Everyone is welcome at Headliners, regardless of ability or background. The only requirement of new recruits is curiosity and an enthusiasm for getting involved.

Members take part as much or as little as they like, so they ease into the programme at their own pace. Different stages of development - whether due to age, primary language, literacy or confidence - present no barrier to the opportunities we offer as interviews and roundtables are recorded on tape. Peers and staff help individuals who need support.

Other useful websites

Details of some other youth journalism projects, and other relevant websites.

Headliners doesn't exist in a vacuum. On this page you'll find links to other organisations that Headliners has worked with, or which serve similar purposes to us.

Headliners is not responsible for the content of external websites.

Youth journalism projects

[Open Your Mind](#)

Site for young people featuring current affairs, music reviews, film reviews, charity campaigns. Currently looking for young people to write reviews and articles.

[Y-Press](#)

A youth-driven organization that gives children a voice in the world through journalism. Formerly Children's Express Indianapolis bureau.

www.ypress.org

[8-18 Media](#)

A youth journalism and leadership program producing stories for the adult media. Formerly Children's Express Upper Peninsula bureau (Michigan). www.upcmkids.org/818media.htm

[Children's PressLine](#)

Giving kids a voice and the power to use it. Formerly Children's Express New York bureau. www.cplmedia.org

[WireTap](#)

Information source by and for socially conscious youth, run from California. Investigative news articles, personal

essays, opinions, artwork and activism. www.wiretapmag.org

Youth media projects

Youth Culture Television (YCTV)

Television for young people by young people, creating educational and employment opportunities for 11-18 year-olds in London. www.yctv.org

Television and Young People (TYVP)

Educational arm of the Media Guardian International Television Festival. Organises opportunity for young people across the UK to attend the festival; as well as other projects www.tvyp.co.uk

Children's Commissioners

11 Million

11 Million is the office of the Children's Commissioner in England; responsible for the 11 Million young people under the age of 18 in England. www.11million.org.uk

NICCY

NICCY is the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children & Young People. www.niccy.org

SCCYP

SCCYP is Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People. www.sccyp.org.uk

Children's Commissioner for Wales

The Children's Commissioner for Wales is responsible for all young people in Wales. www.childcom.org.uk

Youth empowerment projects

The National Youth Agency

Supporting the demanding world of youth work and informal education; promoting young people's personal and social development, and their voice, influence and place in society. www.nya.org.uk

UK Youth Parliament

A national body of democratically elected young people aged from 11 to 18. www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk

Funky Dragon

Youth democracy for young people in Wales www.funkydragon.org

Scottish Youth Parliament

A group of nearly 200 elected young people aged between 14 and 25 years, who aim to be the collective national youth voice for all young people in Scotland. www.scottishyouthparliament.org.uk

Journalism training resources

BBC School Report

Aimed at schools, but with lots of information on making news for television, radio and online.

www.bbc.co.uk/schoolreport

Sky's Virtual Newsroom

As part of the [Reach for the Sky](http://www.reachforthesky.co.uk) website, the Virtual Newsroom has lots of interactive information about making news. www.reachforthesky.co.uk

Breaking the News

Channel 4 education website based on [Channel 4 News](http://www.channel4.com/channel4news); with lots of interactive features including a video editing facility. www.channel4.com/breakingthenews

Gorkana

The media specialists at Gorkana offer a range of FREE products and services to provide day-to-day support for journalists: from the daily [Gorkana Alerts](http://www.gorkana.com/alerts), which journalists regularly use to update the PR industry with their contact details and highlight the latest media news and moves, to [Gorkana Journalist Jobs](http://www.gorkana.com/jobs), the leading source of editorial and production vacancies in the UK and overseas.

www.gorkana.com/uk

Support

The Site

Run by YouthNetUK, provides independent advice and help for young people on all kinds of issues. www.thesite.org

Need2Know

Government backed website for young people, with lots of advice and help. www.need2know.co.uk

It's not your fault

Practical info for children, young people and parents going through a family break-up. www.itsnotyourfault.org

Citizenship

The Citizenship Foundation

Aims to promote more effective citizenship, particularly among young people, through education about the law, democracy and society. Current competitions -with benefits and prizes - include The National Youth Parliament and National Political Journalism. www.citizenshipfoundation.org.uk

Children's rights

International Institute for the Rights of the Child

Offers training and information, and supports the the founding of a culture based on the spirit of children's rights. www.childsrights.org

The Children's Society

Tackling the root causes of the problems children and young people face in communities where prospects are bleak.

www.childrenssociety.org.uk

International Youth Foundation

One of the world's largest public foundations working to improve the conditions and prospects for young people where they live, learn, work, and play. www.iyfnet.org

Charity fundraising

Charities Aid Foundation

The place where you can maximise the value of your gift to any recognised UK charity. www.cafonline.org

Children's safety and education

The Learning Trust

The Learning Trust is the not-for-profit company which runs all the education services for the London Borough of Hackney. www.learningtrust.co.uk

Safe routes to school

The aim is to create a Safe Route to School for every child in the UK. www.saferoutestoschools.org.uk