



#iwill Evidence and Insights Collective

Terms of Reference

September 2022

What are we doing?

The Evidence and Insights Collective brings together young people and organisations¹ that represent the spectrum of youth social action under the banner of the [#iwill movement](#). The group will draw together learning from within and across the #iwill movement. This is a space to co-create actionable insights to support young people to engage in youth social action and feel empowered to make change.

Why are we doing this?

Learning is an important theme within the #iwill movement. Young people leading the generation, testing and sharing of this learning can empower them to have a voice, and support the development of more powerful insights around best practice in youth social action within the #iwill movement and beyond.

What are the objectives of this group?

There are three overarching objectives that will guide the work of the Collective:

- **Youth voice** – to centre the voices and stories of #iwill Ambassadors and Champions² in knowledge generation and learning about youth social action practice.
- **Connection** – to build connections between group members that encourages genuine sharing and reflection around youth social action practice.
- **Support** – to provide support to organisations under the #iwill movement to develop their youth social action practice through the sharing of learning and insight in practical and timely ways.

¹ Including funders, infrastructure organisations, local youth groups, schools and colleges.

² #iwill Ambassadors and Champions are the young people leading the #iwill movement. There are 200+ Ambassadors, directly supported by the #iwill Coordination Hub, and 400+ Champions who have access to digital resources to help them drive change in their communities.

How will the Collective be governed?

The Collective will have a Chair and a Deputy Chair. The Chair will be an #iwill Ambassador or Champion. The Deputy Chair will be an adult with experience and knowledge of youth social action, and skills in supporting young people to take the lead. The Chair will also be supported by a core support group of up to five #iwill Ambassadors and Champions. [The Centre for Youth Impact](#) will act as the Secretariat for the Collective.

Who would we like to be involved?

The Collective will be a space for both adults and young people to connect and share their views and experiences on particular aspects of youth social action, with the membership made up of 50% adults and 50% young people. We are inviting youth social action organisations and representatives of research and policy institutions to be part of the Collective. Members should be actively involved in the group's activities and prioritise their presence in group meetings, and commit to being part of the group for a 12 month period.

#iwill Ambassadors and Champions – core support group

This group will be led by young people, and be a safe space for them to share their views and experiences. We anticipate a core group of up to five #iwill Ambassadors and Champions, who can support the Chair and be involved in the creation of learning outputs. Ideally these young people will also have a connection to another #iwill working group³, to support connections between the Evidence and Insights Collective and other working groups within #iwill.

Organisations and young people under the #iwill Movement and beyond

This group will reflect the diversity of organisations represented in the #iwill Movement, and types of youth social action opportunities offered across the UK. Therefore, we are looking for organisations (of varying size and focus) to be part of the group. Each organisation will need to invite a young person to be part of the group too (where possible), to ensure there is equal representation of young people and adults in the Collective.

We anticipate that the majority of these organisations will be signed up to the #iwill Power of Youth Charter. However, we encourage those that are not, or have only recently started their youth social action journey to apply to be part of the Collective too. This will support greater representation of views and experiences within the group.

Researchers, policy and Thinktanks, and infrastructure organisations

Whilst the Collective is primarily to serve the #iwill community we recognise that there is an opportunity to create and share learning much more widely. Therefore, we are looking for up to five representatives from research and policy institutions to be part of the group, to the support the application of learning beyond the #iwill movement.

We welcome new members at any point during the year. If you are interested in being part of the membership of the Collective, please get in touch with jo.hickmandunne@youthimpact.uk, outlining your interests in the group and your current engagement with youth social action.

³ The #iwill movement's collective efforts are guided by a series of sector and devolved nation groups, who are name up of committed leaders form their respective sectors or countries.

Collective activities and focus

The Collective will meet three times a year (September, January & June) for workshop style sessions, facilitated by the Chair and with possible speakers or co-facilitators from within the group and/or externally. The primary purpose of the Collective is to explore current learning being generated through the #iwill Movement and how this applies to youth social action in practice. Given this, each meeting will be themed: alongside considering current learning generated in the Movement, members will be able to suggest priority focus areas. The theme for meetings will be finalised by the Chair, with support from the Deputy Chair and core support group, based on the suggestions of the Collective. Examples of possible themes include:

- Exploring equitable access to youth social action opportunities
- Collaboration between schools and youth organisations to maximise access to youth social action
- Measuring community benefit.

Functioning of the group

- The Centre for Youth Impact (now part of YMCA George Williams College) will act as the group's Secretariat, supporting the development of meeting agendas and circulating agendas, papers and minutes to the group.
- The group membership will be 50% adults, 50% young people.
- Prior to each meeting, the Chair, Deputy Chair and core support group will convene to set the agenda, based on suggestions from the group regarding themes to cover.
- The meeting agenda and papers will be circulated at least seven days ahead of scheduled meetings.
- Each meeting will last up to two hours, online. The agenda for each session will be broken into sections and practical activities and interactive tools will be used to ensure engagement and conversation.
- Non-members may be invited to the meeting as appropriate to present or input into a particular priority of the group.
- Decisions will be made by consensus. If not possible the governing members will make the final decision, by vote.
- Members may connect between meetings virtually, e.g., on a platform such as Basecamp or Discord.
- A working group model⁴ may be adopted to support the delivery of particular activities.
- Each session will result in an output, such as a briefing paper, to share the learning and insight generated in the session with the wider #iwill movement. The development of this output will be led by the Secretariat, with support from the core support group and Chair.

Indicative ways of working

Whilst this Terms of Reference should not be prescriptive about how meetings should be run or the specific content of meetings, possible group activities may include: shared data collection to support understanding or the development of data collection tools; policy reviews; or inviting guest speakers to support discussion.

⁴ This is where a sub-group of members are appointed to work on a particular activity. They may come together outside of scheduled EIC group meetings.

Roles and responsibilities

The Chair will:

- Lead the development of the agenda
- Attend and lead all group meetings
- Ensure the meeting is well run, including:
 - Providing direction without being overbearing
 - Being accountable for what is achieved in the meeting
 - Creating an inclusive space where all views are valued
- Support the transformation of young people's stories into useful learning for organisations through inputting into meeting outputs
- Work with the secretariat to manage the logistics of the meetings
- Be aware of any developments or activities across #iwill that may affect the focus or purpose of the Collective
- Communicate and champion the work of the Collective across the #iwill Movement.

The Deputy Chair will:

- Support the Chair to develop the meeting agenda
- Support the Chair to facilitate meetings
- Act as a 'critical friend' to the Chair, encouraging them think in different ways about how to get the most out of the group
- Support the transformation of young people's stories into useful learning for organisations through inputting into meeting outputs.

The core support group of #iwill Ambassadors and Champions will:

- Support the Chair to develop the meeting agenda
- Support the Chair to deliver group meetings
- Support the dissemination of meeting learning to other #iwill sector groups
- Support the transformation of young people's stories into useful learning for organisations through inputting into meeting outputs
- Communicate and champion the work of the Collective across the #iwill Movement.

The membership of the group will commit to:

- Attending scheduled group meetings
- Communicating and championing the work of the group across the wider #iwill movement
- Taking part in open and honest discussions about their youth social action practice and experience
- Support the governing members and Secretariat to consider how and where outputs can be shared for maximum impact and utility.

The Secretariat will:

- Coordinate the logistics of pre-EIC meetings and EIC meetings
- Support the Chair, Deputy Chair and core support group to set the agenda
- Circulate meeting agendas and any relevant papers in advance of meetings
- Take and circulate meeting minutes
- Lead the development of meeting outputs
- Be aware of any developments or activities across #iwill that may affect the focus or purpose of the Collective.

Group review process

The Terms of Reference will be reviewed in July 2023, following the first annual cycle of the group. They will be reviewed by the governing members and the Secretariat, with invited input from the membership.