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Meet the BBC Children in Need Young Leaders and learn about their journey's, achievements, and messages to young people.



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HABEEBAH

MY LEADERSHIP JOURNEY



My name is **Ethan**, I'm 17, and I'm a member of the BBC CIN Youth Leadership Programme.



About me and my journey:

"I love people, I'm a very big people person, and I enjoy interacting"

"I stand for joy. I believe that whatever you do in life, you have to do with a joyful spirit"



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Video timings

- 0.00 - Intro
- 0.38 - What you do, why you do it and what impact have you made?
- 3.24 - How has your journey as a leader developed over time?
- 9.13 - How important is planning / organising in leadership?
- 11.17 - What other skills have you gained in your leadership journey?
- 13.38 - How did you get into the BBC CIN / Hudl leadership cohort?
- 17.32 - What skills have you gained from the BBC CIN / Hudl leadership cohort?
- 19.25 - What is your proudest accomplishment?
- 23.08 - What message do you have for other young people?
- 24.39 - How so you aim to continue developing yourself and inspire others?

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Don't over think things try and be calm and collected . Plan out your route and do things in little chunks.

MY LEADERSHIP JOURNEY



My name is **Samuella**, I'm 18, and I'm a member of the BBC CIN Youth Leadership Programme.

Achievements:

Making eye contact with people, being able to talk to others less nervously.

My journey:

I've grown more confident in speaking in front of others. Although I still have a long way to go to get over my anxiety, I think I've made a big step forward.

Inspiration:

Seeing other young people, especially those younger than me, being so confident and making so much change makes me want to do the same.

Equality and equal opportunity for others no matter age, gender, sexual orientation or other things people cant help.

MY LEADERSHIP JOURNEY



My name is **Olaoluwa**, I'm 18, and I'm a member of the BBC CIN Youth Leadership Programme

Achievements:



“One of my biggest achievements is assisting in bridging the opportunity gap in my community.

...

Being part of the Social Mobility Foundation has also allowed to me to openly voice my concern about social mobility in my community.

...

This shows that no matter where we come from, with the right support, we can excel.”

My journey:



“My leadership journey began when I realized that many young people in school were not necessarily getting the skills they need that would help them to cope in university or get into their desired apprenticeship, job or internship.

As a peer leader for DataKirk, I have been able to share with young people, paths like work experiences, boot camps e.t.c. that will help them to gain skills to get into their desired apprenticeship or university.”

For organisations:

Don't just wait for talent to find you.
Go to where the talent is.

Reach into underserved communities and provide clear information on your pathways. Help us close the gap!

Inspiration:

I am inspired by my friends and peers - the ones who have talent but have never been told about the apprenticeships, internships or networks that could change their lives. Their untapped talent is my motivation to push for a system where everyone has a genuine chance to excel.



Your starting point does not define your finish line. Your talent is amazing and needed. Be curious, take on every single opportunity, ask questions and support each other in finding information and opportunities that can help build your future. Let us build our own ladders!

MY LEADERSHIP JOURNEY



My name is **Jedidiah**, I'm 15, and I'm a member of the BBC CIN Youth Leadership Programme

Achievements:

I was a part of the young black history tellers programme where I told my story about racism and was able to share with others.

My Journey:

I started volunteering in my youth club last summer in July 2024 and it has opened up various opportunities for me, I was a part of the youth empowerment leadership programme in my youth group and was able to help young people with a programme called education enhancement and now I have a more prominent role in my youth group as I am a young leader.

Inspiration

I'm inspired by knowing that one day all my hard work will make people proud, it is my continuous drive to keep going and never give up.

**If you believe in yourself
anything is possible**

MY LEADERSHIP JOURNEY



My name is **Emmanuel**, I'm 18, and I'm a member of the BBC CIN Youth Leadership Programme.

My journey:

It started with me taking responsibility, and doing things other people didn't want to do, and this set me apart and set me on my journey. Adults recognised this and put me in a leadership position, where I can now grow as a leader and develop myself.



About me and my journey:

CLICK TO WATCH



Achievements:

Winner for 5 awards in a robotics competition:

- Inspire Award 2x
- Motivate Award
- Finalist alliance award
- Connect Award

Inspiration:

My inspiration is success, when I see success, I also would want to achieve that, so that's what keeps me going.

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- 24.39 - How so you aim to continue developing yourself and inspire others?

Take a step out of your comfort zone, do something no-one wants to do so you can stand out.

MY LEADERSHIP JOURNEY

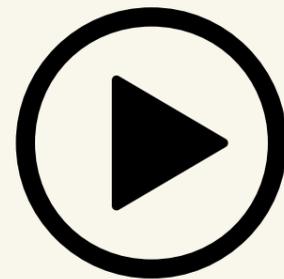


My name is **Joel Laryea**, I'm 18, and I'm a member of the BBC CIN Youth Leadership Programme.

Inspiration:

I am inspired by those who refuse silence, who speak justice into rooms that tried to mute them and who work to be the change they want to see.

My journey:



Achievements:

Making it into university to study law, being a Youth Leader at HYCA, being Chair of Prom Committee at sixth form and organising Year 13 Leavers Day.

My message for societal organisations that claim they have our best interests at heart - make space for youth voice.



For young people, I implore you to speak, stand, question and create, because justice only moves when you do.

MY LEADERSHIP JOURNEY



My name is **Ismaeel**, I'm 14, and a member of the BBC CIN Youth Leadership Programme.

Achievements:

Presented my social enterprise to Prince William. Part of Citizens First LCR, selected out of 200+ applicants for funding.

Inspiration:

I am inspired by my vision to give young people an opportunity to run their own businesses and develop valuable skills.

About me:

I started my social enterprise EnviroCleanLCR in March of 2024. I set out to help young people to run their own businesses and to make a positive impact in the community. I noticed that many young people have the entrepreneurial drive to create a businesses, however due to a lack of opportunities for young people, the support just wasn't available. So, after identifying a gap in the market, I alongside some of my peers decided to fill this gap.

Young people should start their own businesses and upskill themselves and others!

MY LEADERSHIP JOURNEY



My name is **Habeebah**, I'm 17, and a member of the BBC CIN Youth Leadership Programme.

Achievements:

I've been taking opportunities that allow me to apply my leadership skills.

I've done many presentations in public about different topics within my organisation. I've also organised many events that were very successful and I was in charge of making a video to be sent to an award show that showcases the things we do within our organisation and we won.

I met up with the lord mayor of Manchester and had discussions about important issues in today's society.

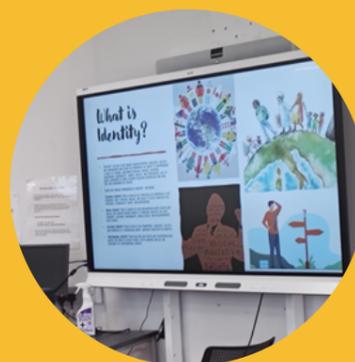
My journey:

I've been able to apply the skills I've learned in this leadership program in my daily life. Whenever I take on a leading role I now lead with much more assertion than I did before enrolling into this programme and a more organised and open mind. I carry myself with confidence with everything I do, even if it's my first time trying as this programme has pushed me to explore outside the box even more because it is how we grow and learn as leaders.

As a leader I now know how to establish boundaries and I can now tell someone that they've done something that was disliked by me or the team in an appropriate way (which is something I could rarely do before I took on this programme)

Inspiration

Being around confident, creative people that have different views and insights which allows me to reflect and build on myself.



Don't wait for the "perfect" moment to create change. Real change starts when you speak, even if your voice shakes.

MY LEADERSHIP JOURNEY



My name is **Freya**, I'm 15, and a member of the BBC CIN Youth Leadership Programme.

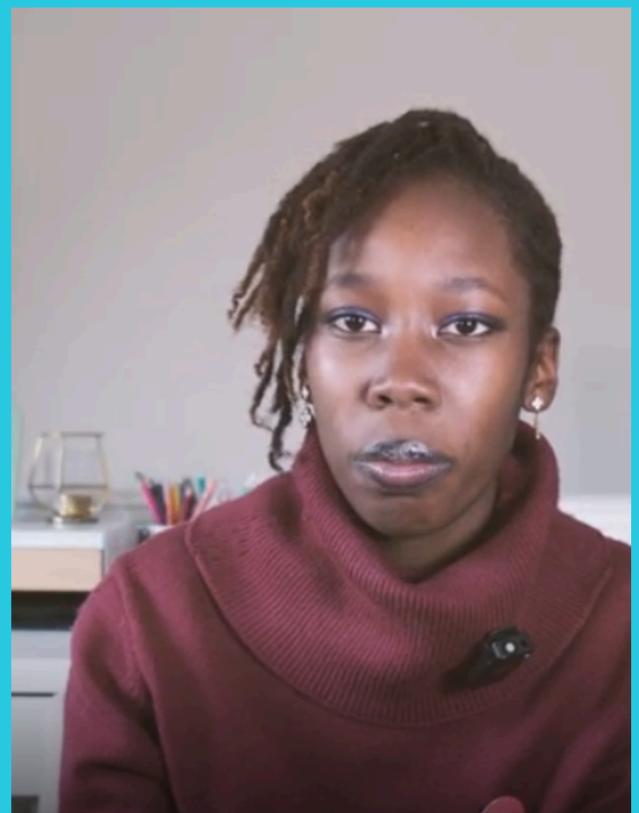
My journey:

I began my leadership journey in Year 8 as part of the Blossom Scholars programme, where working alongside other girls sparked my passion for addressing period stigma and poverty.

This inspired me to create my own campaign, Nalagirl, which aims to empower girls both digitally and within my community.

Balancing school life and extracurricular activities has been challenging, especially as I mainly manage the campaign myself, but through the programme, I've overcome periods of stagnancy and developed new ideas to reach young girls more effectively. I've also learned how to build and lead a team to help sustain Nalagirl and its mission.

Click to watch



Click to watch



Inspiration:

The black females around me who have their own campaigns and initiatives and have struggled with gynaecological conditions/issues such as fibroids.

Achievements:

Winning GoHenry Dream Big Competition 2024

Graduating from Blossom Scholars

Taking part in The Bridge (Grounded Sounds) Music Programme

Starting at the BRIT School as Visual Art and Design Student

Becoming a BBC Young Leader

Starting my own campaign - Nalagirl



You may not understand my pain, but compassion is a language we should all speak

MY LEADERSHIP JOURNEY



My name is **Ireoluwa**, I'm 18, and a member of the BBC CIN Youth Leadership Programme.

Achievements:

Become a member of youth health board. Being selected as one of the top five health advocates in Wales in a magazine. Become a BBC Young Leader. Being invited to share my experience on many different boards. Being part of a well children day conference talking about health and sickle cell and our lovely organisation. Being able to meet so many wonderful people along the way. Getting closer to God and who He's called me to be as leader. Speaking at a emotional health conference, which was held by Barbara from daring to dream. I think my biggest achievement is though becoming the role model I never had even though I'm not perfect and it's still so much work I want to do for the people around me, I just wished as a child I had someone like me to look up to. Being proud of who I am today and being able to share my personal experience and my families because I know this many that want to do that but I'm not able to because of the repercussions so I'm truly blessed. Doing a screening based on the emotional and mental health side of sickle cell which is really unlooked and we hope to do another one this year.

My journey:



Inspiration

My drive for change, my friends and family, my community, the stigma in the world I want to break and my faith in God

What would you have to show to the next generation of young people or shine your light for the world to see for a city on top of a hill cannot be hidden

MY LEADERSHIP JOURNEY



My name is **Amariss**, I'm 17, and I'm a member of the BBC CIN Youth Leadership Programme.

Achievements:

I'm proud of the things I've done to help my community. I open a community hub for people of all ages every Saturday, offering a warm and welcoming space with a food bank to support those in need. I run computing classes for older people to help them stay confident using technology, and I helped renovate a local park to make it a nicer space for everyone. During COVID, I helped the NHS by distributing COVID jab leaflets, making sure people had the right information and support. These experiences have shown me how small actions can make a big difference in our community.

My journey:

My leadership journey began when I realised the impact small actions can have in bringing people together. As a young youth leader, I've learned to lead with empathy, teamwork, and consistency.

Managing community activities and initiatives has taught me how to create welcoming spaces where people feel supported and valued. Every Saturday, I open and manage a warm hub that welcomes people of all ages. Over time, I've grown from simply volunteering to confidently leading initiatives, managing teams, and supporting others in developing their own leadership skills.

Each project has helped me become more adaptable, patient, and community-focused.

Inspiration:

I'm inspired by the power of young people to create change by their energy, creativity, and compassion. Seeing others come together to support their communities and make a difference reminds me why I volunteer. I'm inspired by moments of kindness, by teamwork, and by the belief that even small actions can spark hope and joy in others. It's this spirit of positivity and purpose that keeps me motivated to keep giving back.



As a youth volunteer, my message to others is to lead with joy and purpose. Every small act of kindness, every moment of support, and every voice raised for good can create real change. I encourage young people and organisations to come together to listen, uplift, and empower one another. When we choose joy and work with compassion, we build stronger communities and inspire hope for the future.

MY LEADERSHIP JOURNEY



My name is **Nadia**, I'm 17, and I'm a member of the BBC CIN Youth Leadership Programme

Achievements:

Alongside my team I've raised over £2000 for charity, raised awareness of violence against women in my community and organised events to foster connection within the community.

My journey:

I've built confidence in myself and my ability to do hard things, it's shaped my ability to get people to collaborate for a common goal.

Inspiration:

My mum is my inspiration, she's been working in the charity sector for a long time and seeing the amount of people she's been able to help inspired me to try and do the same.

Take every opportunity you can to connect with people and if there aren't any, create them

MY LEADERSHIP JOURNEY



My name is **Daniel**, I'm 15, and I'm a member of the BBC CIN Youth Leadership Programme

Achievements:

Some of my proudest achievements so far have been receiving two Jack Petchey Awards, completing the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Silver Awards, and leading on the Industrial Miscues Programme, where our team won a Gold Award. I've also had the chance to speak on youth panels, including the YTC Young Mental Health Panel and others, sharing my experiences and learning from others.

Inspiration:

One thing that inspires me as a young leader is watching someone realise, for the first time, that their voice actually matters. It's that exact moment the tiny spark in their eyes when they realise, "Wait... people are listening to me?" That moment inspires me because I know exactly what it feels like. I spent years slipping in and out of confidence, especially when I got busy and moved into secondary school. I know what it's like to sit quietly with ideas but no courage to say them out loud.

So when I see someone step out of their shell even just a little it reminds me why I lead. It's proof that confidence can be grown, shared, and passed on. And every time I see that spark in someone else, it reignites mine.

My journey:

My leadership journey started in a place many people might not expect I was really shy. Even as a child, though, I was fascinated by politics; I remember watching Prime Minister's Questions from the age of four and being completely captivated by the idea that people's voices could shape the world. As I grew older, I realised I cared deeply about youth advocacy, empowerment, and engagement. I noticed that young people weren't always being heard, and that inspired me to do something about it. What started as an interest in politics gradually evolved into active work in giving young people a real say, making sure their voices mattered in decisions that affected them. Since then, I've had the opportunity to sit on a variety of youth boards and committees, work with MPs and government bodies, and lead initiatives that focus on youth advocacy and activism. Along the way, I've learned that leadership isn't just about having a platform - it's about creating space for others, listening, and turning ideas into action.

For organisations:

The truth is, organisations don't just benefit from us being there, they actually rely on us. We're the ones bringing new ideas, new energy, and a different way of seeing things. We're the innovators, the problem-solvers, the dreamers, and the leaders of today, not just the leaders of tomorrow.

When we show up in the mornings fresh, hopeful, and ready to grow, something amazing happens. New perspectives rise, creativity starts flowing, and suddenly, there are possibilities everywhere.

