

National Young Parent Network Our Manifesto

We dream

of a society that believes in young-parent families, where young parents and their babies are welcomed, valued, and respected, without stigma, shame or fear, and where they are helped by the services and community around them.

of a society that empowers young parents to build strong foundations for their babies to thrive and gives them the same life chances as other children.

that young parents and their babies will have their fundamental human rights upheld under the UNCRC.

**of a fair start for
young parent families**

We believe

the evidence that most young parents have experienced complex childhood adversity, with high rates of sexual abuse, school absence, care experience, and childhood conflict, and continue to experience high levels of domestic abuse, mental ill health and poverty.

the adversity faced by young parents means that their babies have higher risk of infant mortality, abuse and harm, violence, ill health, delayed development, and removal from their family.

young parents and their babies are not given the same chances as other children and families; they are unheard, under-served, and discriminated against. They are blamed for the adversity they experience, and expected to overcome complex challenges without choices or resources.

with the right support and opportunities, it is possible for all young parents and their babies to have the life they want and deserve.

**in young
parent families**

We promise

to listen to young parents and their babies, and champion, empower and celebrate their voices and experiences.

to make sure communities, services and society understand the realities of the inequalities faced by young parent families, and feel responsible for making change happen.

to share understanding and evidence of what works to create change, how to make it possible, and gain resources to make it happen.

to work with young parent families to create whole-system change, from policy to local practice, to get the support they need.

**to listen to
young parent families**

So that

every baby born to a young parent gets an equitable, fulfilling chance at life.

every young parent, with all their different experiences and needs, can be the parent they want to be.

adversity is not experienced through the generations of young parent families.

we all benefit from the talent, skills, and love they bring.

everyone believes in young parent families.

**young parent families
have a fair start**