

Participation



It's simple: all young people have a right to express their views and have a right to have a say in decisions affecting them.

Why is participation important?



- **Young people are all entitled to input their opinions and ideas into decisions that affect them.**
- **The only way a service will improve is to involve both adults and young people's opinions.**
- **It allows young people to make a positive contribution and see their opinions being put in practice.**

**Adults opinion + young people's opinion =
a more representative opinion that is likely to have a
greater impact and be more effective.**

Liam's experience of participation



- **I am a member of the Leeds Youth Council, a democratically elected group of young people.**
- **Recently I became a Peer Support Worker for the Leeds Youth Council, this is an employed role.**
- **I support the youth councillors.**
- **My ideas are often different from the adults perspective. This is participation in action!**

**“Representing tomorrow
The Leeds Youth Council”**





- **We are often consulted for our youth opinion by adult decision makers, in the past we have been involved with:**
- **Ofsted – to talk to them about inspecting schools.**
- **Consulted by Education Leeds and Chris Edwards (Chief Executive of Education Leeds) for our perspective and opinion on the education system**
- **Consulted by executive members of the Leeds City Council to talk about what could be done to improve the city for young people.**
- **The Leeds Youth Council elects MYPs (members of youth parliament) and...**
- **Gordon Brown strongly favours this!**



Becky's experience of participation



- **I am a member of Youth on Health, a citywide youth forum made up of 6 wedges, 5 local and one central.**
- **We meet once every half term to discuss health topics that affect our schools and Leeds as a whole.**
- **I am also a member of ROAR, representing young people's opinions from all over Leeds when meeting adult decision makers.**
- **I recently finished FACILITATE, a programme designed to train young people to become facilitators. The young people are awarded accreditation units from the open network college. The reason why this is successful and young people want to volunteer and give up their time is to receive this INFORMAL EDUCATION!**



Participation is successful

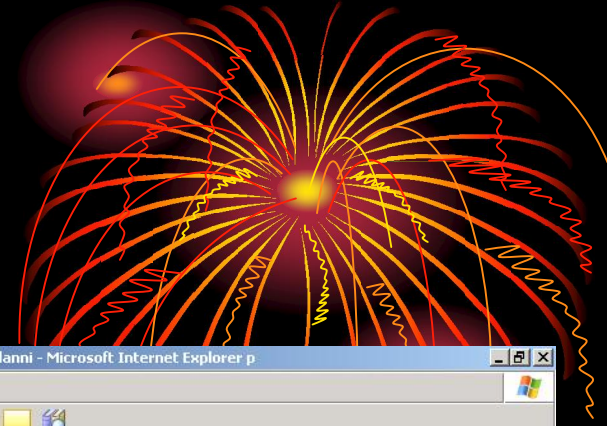


- **Transport scrutiny panel, I was chair of the transport scrutiny panel.**
- **We achieved a flat fare for every young person in the city and developed a publication.**
- **Young people have been involved in every decision, and this example of participation has been very successful therefore showing how participation works.**



A good example of participation.

The Leeds Youth Council have always had strong participation links with West Yorkshire Planning Aid, in considering the future development of Leeds.




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Young People's views on Leeds City Centre

At the October meeting of Leeds Youth Council 32 young people between the ages of 13 and 18 participated in an hour-long workshop to consider the future development of Leeds City Centre. Working with representatives from Leeds Development Department, the Youth Service, and Yorkshire Planning Aid, the young people gave their opinions on some of the good and bad points about Leeds City Centre, and gave suggestions about improvements. Their comments will now be considered by planners from Leeds Council as part of the consultation process on the Leeds City Centre Area Action Plan.



Six of the young people at the event have volunteered to meet again

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The Youth Opportunities/Capital Fund

- In Leeds, the panel group who distribute the money are known as the LS£ash Panel.
- The group assesses application forms from young people applying for funding for something benefiting young people; this could be a residential event or for a centre to be built.
- This scheme shows young people helping other young people.
- They get satisfaction from helping other young people and for having this adult associated responsibility.
- The Local Network Fund is also a group that young people are involved in allocating money to small organisations, it has the same reward to everyone involved as the Youth Opportunities Fund.

Hear By Rights!



- **Many young people got involved in the Hear by Rights agreement deciding how active the involvement of children and young people should be in Leeds.**



Overall



- **Participation is the way forward!**
- **Not only do young people have the right to have a say in decisions affecting them, this has proven to be successful and involving both adults and young people in making decisions is the right choice, in improving services for young people in Leeds.**
- **After having discussed participation with other young people at the Hear by Rights event, we all felt that participation in Leeds was strong. However we want to see more involvement of young people at a bigger scale, for example introducing young advisors.**
- **We welcome the new Children Leeds participation strategy for children and young people.**