



## **Youth Participation** ***‘What Works’***

**‘Participation is a process where  
someone influences decisions  
about their lives and this leads  
to change’.**

*Treseder (1997)*



**Children's Rights Alliance  
for England**



**We Save the Children Will you?**

## Drivers For Youth Participation

- Statutory / Legal obligations
- Good business sense / Value for money
- Good for children and young people /  
Community

# Participation 'Tipping Point'



**‘How do we ensure a focus on listening to children and young people is retained locally and nationally?’**

# How



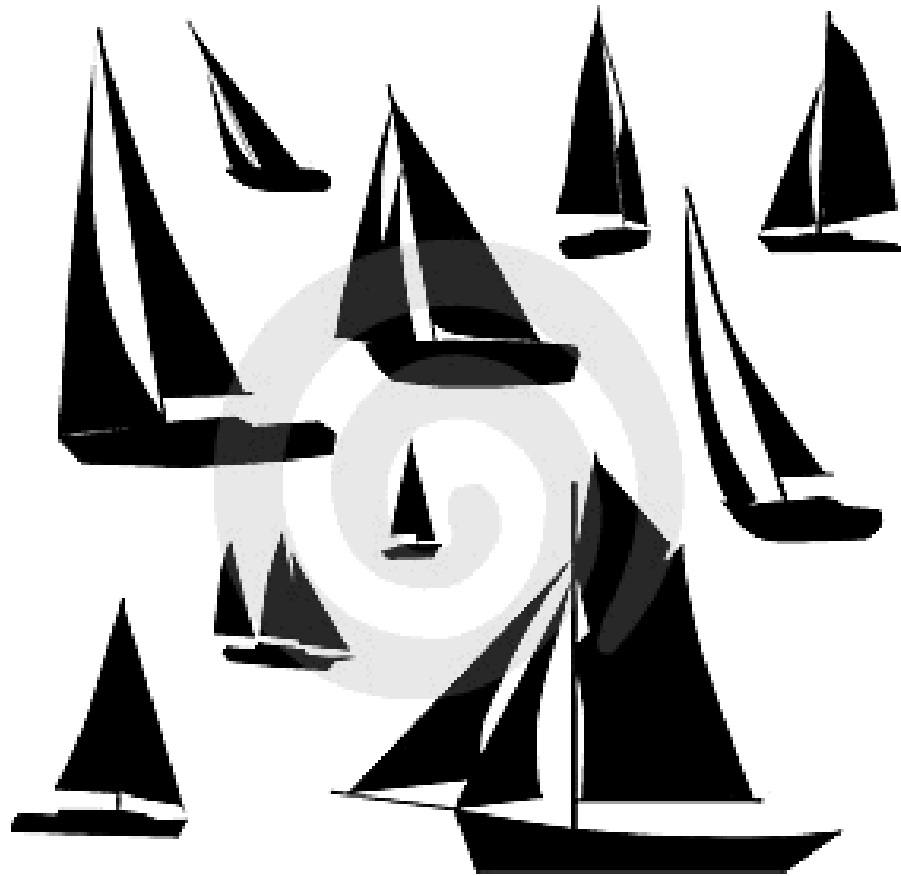
# Core Principles For Real and Meaningful Participation

- Listen to CYP uninhibited by their age or your age

E.g. 'Let's Listen' – Young Children's Voices Network/NCB

- Consider participation as a continuing part of core business, not an event
- Be clear about the achievements of participation
- Weave the involvement of CYP into the culture of your organisation and wider society

# Going the same way..



# Process for Developing Participation

## Stage 1

- Sign up to principles of participation at Senior Management Level
- Agree a shared understanding and transparent vision across organisation / strategic partnership

# Process for Developing Participation

## Stage 2

- Self Assessment – what’s happening now to inform action
- Identify Challenges (SWOT analysis)
- Set Standards- e.g: Hear by Right – Seven S model of organisational change, LILAC – Leading Improvements for Looked After Children

# Process for Developing Participation

## Stage 3

- Develop strategic action plan (informed by best practice), include methods for participation, monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment
- Pooling of resources- what do we already know ?
- Develop partnership/ joined up working

# Process for Developing Participation

## Stage 4

- Adoption of standards?
- Ongoing review, learning and feedback- Can we explain the impact of Participation ?

# Tensions ?...

- Policy/budget/service agenda vs. young peoples own real life agenda
- Getting a quick result vs. including everybody
- One-off projects vs. long term development
- Consultation vs. shared decision making
- ‘Invited spaces’ vs. ‘popular spaces’
- Extrinsic motivation vs. intrinsic motivation

# Youth4U – Young Inspectors programme



# Youth4U – Young Inspectors

## The purpose of the programme is to:

- Enable young people to become more socially responsible, by supporting them in coming together to improve services and enable change in their communities;
- Help marginalised young people to engage their peers in influencing local policies and services across a wide range of issues including locality, health, neighbourhood renewal, transport and community service in the benefit of their neighbourhoods.

# Some interesting statistics

Youth4U - Young Inspectors programme has achieved (current Jan '11):

- Areas: 33
- Young inspectors recruited: 1274
- Young inspectors trained: 979
- Young inspectors left: 295
- Young inspectors achieved accreditation: 93 with an additional 100+ entered for the moderation in March
- Inspections: 394

## Recommendations – E.g. For Libraries

*‘Use colourful furniture, in the teenage area - action: ‘they can put large cushions and big comfortable sofa’s to encourage us to stay in the library and read.’*

*‘Hold events for young people – action: ‘...lots of young people are into poetry, drama, music or performing arts and we think it’s a good idea to have a poetry night or music extravaganza.’*

## Recommendations – E.g. For Information, Advice and Guidance:

*‘Have more lights at the front of the centre to make it more appealing – particularly in winter when it is dark, and from a distance unclear if the centre is open. ‘*

*‘better local advertisements to say when open and how to find the centre....’*

## Mikala – Young Inspector

*‘When I was younger, I could have really benefited from the kind of services I now inspect, but I didn't know how to access them...I think Young Inspectors really makes a difference in ensuring everyone can get the most out of their community, as we pay attention in an unique and effective way to what young people need out of it....’*

# *Thank you!*

Look Listen Change

Youth4U – Young Inspectors

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[www.looklistenchange.org.uk](http://www.looklistenchange.org.uk)



**Where to go for help...?**

**[www.participationworks.org.uk](http://www.participationworks.org.uk)**



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