



Supporting Your Youth Participation





**We are lived experience
leaders that support
organisations with their
youth participation**



Meaningful Engagement with **Young People**

To get meaningful engagement with young people every organisation needs a vibrant approach, a thought-out strategy and a clearly communicated vision. Without this it can often feel like participation is tokenistic with frustrating false starts, demotivating drift and ultimately young people not engaging.

As an organisation providing services for young people, you deserve a trusted partner who understand their lived experiences and the leadership capacity required to provide meaningful youth engagement.

The Care Leaders don't just understand children's services, they have lived through them. We understand the personal and professional challenges with youth participation and we are here to help you create a vibrant service for young people.



How we help



Every organisation wants to consult with young people, have vibrant youth forums and to attend training facilitated by young people.

We see this as just one part of participation.



We know that organisations need **4 things** to have meaningful youth participation:

1. Youth Participation Strategy

A strategy would outline your vision for youth participation, who your young people are and your plan to engage with them. It would be linked to your corporate values and goals so that engagement would align with the wider organisation. It would have clear objectives, timelines, milestones, deliverables and key performance indicators. Strategies are most successful when co-designed by staff and young people and have a clear governance model, linking together youth engagement with strategic decision making. There should always be a professional and young person's version of the strategy.



2. Branded Participation Service

The 'Participation Service' is fundamental to ensuring youth participation is vibrant. You don't always need a team who are solely responsible for participation, but you certainly need a brand that is engaging and grabs the attention of young people. A brand consists of a logo, a colour pallet, a font, images, icons and materials that you will use to advertise opportunities to young people. The 'Participation Service' also needs a 'core text' document that explains exactly what the service does, their mission, values and vision and explains clearly how young people can access opportunities. It's going to be hard if you are trying to get young people to attend an 'exciting opportunity' if your branding doesn't show excitement. Branding is designed with young people and staff, it's important that it is designed by those who will connect with it the most.



3. Digital Offer

Let's say you have a great participation strategy, your youth participation service is vibrant and you have meaningful opportunities ready to offer young people, all you need now is a digital offer to communicate this to staff and young people. This could include a website, digital assets such as posters; blogs; articles; leaflets; videos; emails and more.

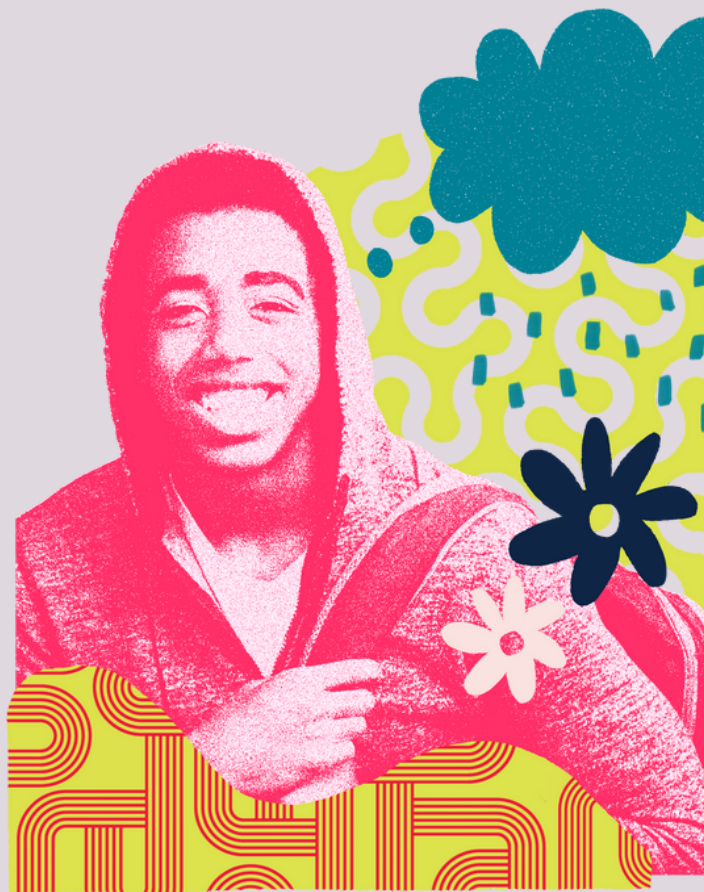
All of this is used to share the meaningful opportunities with young people and raise awareness of the new strategy and participation service across the organisation.



4. Training and Awareness Raising

With any new participation approach, it's essential that all areas of the organisation know about it, understand it and can refer to it. That's why we also provide you with inspirational and informative engagement opportunities to ensure that your new participation strategy is communicated and understood by all levels of the organisation.

Our leaders with lived experience provide training that enables staff to understand the lived experiences of young people and how to build better relationships with them.





**We know you
want to provide
meaningful
opportunities
for young
people**



How to **work** with **us**



We are passionate about helping organisations develop their participation so that they can engage with young people authentically and provide meaningful services for them.

1) We meet you or your team to hear your vision

We listen to your ideas, vision and needs.

2) We provide you with a custom offer

Based on your vision we produce a custom offer that includes outputs, expected outcomes, overall timescales + fees.

3) We co-create a brief with you

This includes the team, project phases, outputs for each phase, a detailed timeline, budget breakdown, impact measurements and reporting structure. This is then written into a contract.

How to work with us is simple

4) We produce an online project plan

We believe in transparency and accountability, that's why our project plans are built into an online platform that gives you instant access, real-time updates and enables you to download reports and send us comments. This includes; a project dashboard; an interactive Gantt chart; RACI matrix; RAG reports and more. We can also adapt our reporting structure to fit yours.



How we **work** with you

**Our 3 stages for
your project**

1. Contracting


We agree to the project foundations + project plan

2. Operational Phase

We facilitate the project alongside you

3. Handover

We hand the project over with additional support



1. Contracting

How we contract with you.

We first work with you to agree a brief, create a contract and agree roles and responsibilities. This is our 'contracting phase'.

Once the 'contracting phase' is complete we begin the 'operational phase' which is broken down into 5 key phases.

Our phases ensure your project is clear, delivers on it's outputs and shows you every step we take to support you to achieve your vision.



Contracting Phase

To write a contract we will need to agree:



A Project Board/Sponsor

This is a senior space that will oversee the project and who we report to. This would likely be assistant director/director level. **We would meet every two weeks.**

A Champions Group/Person

This is a group of individuals who commit 24 hours of their time over 6 months to support the project. They will be representatives from service areas or regions. This would likely be service lead/managers. **We would meet 4 times in 6 months.**





A Operational Board/Person

This is the individual or team who would work alongside us on the operation of the project. This would most likely be your participation team/worker. **We would meet weekly.**

Reporting Structure

We produce an online Gantt Chart, RAG report and RACI matrix which we **update every week**, you may want us to adapt this in line with your format.



Timescales + Outputs

Agree the exact deliverables and time scales that hold us accountable.

Fees

Our fee for the work.




2. Operational Phase



Our 'operational phase' lasts **6 months** and follows a **5 phase plan** with key outcomes, deliverables and timescales against each phase.

This gives you peace of mind when working with us as you know where we are, what to expect and what to hold us accountable to.

Phase 1 Pre-Research	Phase 2 Research	Phase 3 Design	Phase 4 Build	Phase 5 Launch
Senior Leadership Project Pitch 'Governance and Vision Workshop' with Senior Leaders and Champions. Project 'Kick Off Meeting' with Youth Participation Service and Young People	Research Current Participation Activity. Co-Design Workshops with Senior Leaders, Champions, Participation Service and Whole Staff Team. Agree Structure for Participation Strategy and Digital Offer	Draft Participation Strategy Youth Participation Branding Workshops Digital Offer Development Plan	Finalise Participation Strategy Produce Brand Guidelines Build Assets Outlined in Digital Offer	Launch Your New Participation Service! 



3. The Handover

The **handover** is easy as you will have been involved in the operation of the project throughout.

For peace of mind, we offer 4 **complimentary** 1-2-1 coaching sessions for your project lead to use up to 12 months after we have finished.




**We want to
support you to
provide
meaningful
opportunities for
young people**

4. Pricing

Operating without strong **youth participation** can be costly, with no clear strategy, governance or brand, we can be wasting resources and developing services **without the views of young people**.

Investing in youth participation gives your organisation the ability to ensure you are **providing services** that **enhance** the life chances of young people and they are **active participants** in them.





**We want to give
you
peace of mind
when
working
with us**

We are Passionate about Participation

We get it, you want to listen to young people, you want to be able to act on their views and ensure that your service can adapt and change based on them.

We have **10 years of experience** in making this happen and our leaders don't just understand children's services, they have lived through them.



We have been trusted partners working with:

- Department for Education Innovation Fund Innovation Unit
- The Care Leavers National Movement - The National House Project
- Mockingbird Family Model - The Fostering Network
- No Wrong Door – North Yorkshire County Council
- Middlesbrough Children Matter - Middlesbrough Council
- Knowledge Equity Fellowship – Saïd Business School, University of Oxford.

**We have facilitated over 1000
training sessions and work
alongside a team of lived
experience leaders who can
support almost any project.**

**We have supported projects in
the UK, Europe and USA and
have been awarded for our
work in the social enterprise
and children's social care
sectors.**





Look at our
previous work

[CLICK HERE](#)



Contact us today
Find out how we
can help with
your Youth
Participation





The **CareLeaders**

Contact us

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