

POWER OF YOUTH CHALLENGE

#iwill

Engaging with Young People: Some Tips!

We're challenging organisations, decision makers and young people to get involved in the Power of Youth Challenge: a year-long set of activities that will enable you to champion youth voice, action and leadership across your networks and grow the #iwill movement across the UK.

As part of this Challenge we want organisations and decision makers to go and 'See' and 'Hear' the #PowerOfYouth. Here are some things to consider when engaging with, and learning from, young people.

Getting the most out of young people

Young people become more confident and enthusiastic when they see that their views are being taken seriously and acted upon. Their self-esteem improves, they gain skills, and they become more likely to actively participate in other areas of their lives (for example their local community, school, politics). Here is a set of tips to help support your engagement with young people and ensure that you are both getting the most out of your interaction and conversations.

Be clear

- Ensure everyone has enough information to get properly involved
- Try not to ask long rambling questions, we all get stuck on the point of these. Be clear and concise with your question to help young people understand what you want to know
- Avoid using jargon and acronyms

Be respectful and inclusive

- Listen to young people's ideas, views and experiences and take them seriously and fairly
- Avoid making assumptions about young people's experiences and backgrounds, presume nothing and learn everything
- Ensure everyone gets a chance to share their thoughts and don't dominate the conversation

Be supportive

- Encourage young people to speak up and share their thoughts, ask them directly - "would you like to share your views"
- Show young people that you value their contributions and that the thoughts they have provided are helpful to the discussion

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Practice active listening

- Show the young person you are talking to that you have heard what they are saying - good eye contact and body position are key
- Allow them time to speak, silences are okay
- Accept that not every young person will want to engage in conversation

Make the most of it!

- Make the most of what young people know - they'll certainly surprise you with their thoughts
- Take the opportunity to ask them what they think about issues they care about. Reflect back to them what you've learnt from them.

Safeguarding

The safety and security of young people must be top of mind and we want to ensure that everyone has a fantastic time at the visit or event. If you hear or see anything about a young person, or if they make a disclosure to you that concerns you please do let a designated safeguarding officer know or a more senior member of staff.

We hope this helps you feel more confident to engage with young people in your Power Of Youth Challenge and that they feel confident and supported in your 'See It' and 'Hear It' visit.

If you need support arranging your visit, or ideas of where to go please contact comms@stepuptoserve.org.uk.