INFORMING FUTURES
1625 Independent People

CONSULTATION & PARTICIPATION LADDER ACTIVITY EXAMPLES

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This resource is part of the Informing Futures toolkit. It was co-created with young people, and reflects what they felt practitioners most needed to understand in order to work successfully with care and custody experienced young people.

For more information or queries on any of the topics covered in this toolkit, or to find out about training and consultancy we can offer please contact enquiries@1625ip.co.uk.

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CONSULTATION & PARTICIPATION LADDER ACTIVITY EXAMPLES

This resource has been designed to illustrate some of the ways in which young people may participate in services and projects available to them. It also references challenges and barriers. Please note consultation and participation are highly individual processes, and engagement is affected by many factors such as developmental level, day to day experience, trauma and privilege - as well as by what resources an organisation has to draw on to do this work.

Examples of projects which characterise each stage are given below – read on to the following page for more detail on each.

Stage	Example
8. Initiated & Led by Young People (YP)	Young People Led Social Action via Public Protest
7. Initiated by YP & Shared with Adults	Peer Led Facebook Group for Care Leavers
6. Adult Initiated & Shared with YP	Regular Cooking Session for Young People
5. YP consulted and informed	Service User Surveys
4. Young people assigned & informed	Service User Volunteering Role in Reception
3. Tokenism	Radio Station Interview
2. Decoration	Project Implementation Group
1. Manipulation	Housing Pathway
0. No involvement or participation	
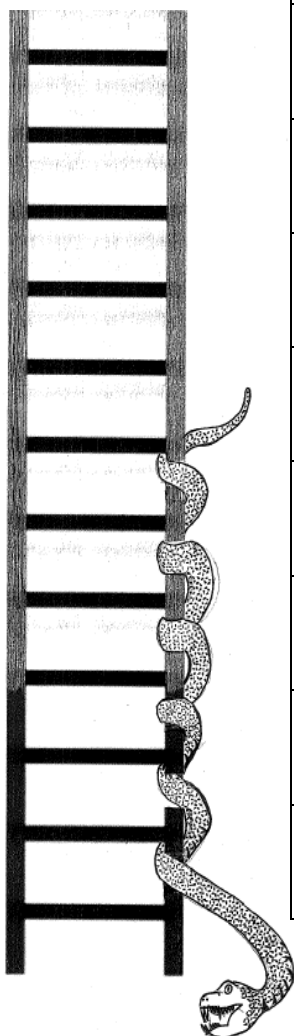
8. Young People Led Social Action via Public Protest
Young people organise and arrange a protest march, inviting other young people to attend. Some choose to share photos from the day with their support workers afterwards.

7. Peer Led Facebook Group for Care Leavers
Youth Board suggest the idea of a Facebook Group for service users, as a place to share participation events. Youth Board members want the group to be peer led, and offer to run the group. Youth board lobby management to give the go ahead for the page to be set up.

6. Regular Cooking Session for Young People
Support worker recognises a skills gap around young people's confidence in cooking healthy meals on a budget. Worker identifies there are no existing opportunities for young people to learn these skills in a way they feel comfortable with. Worker arranges and runs a regular cooking drop in session. Young people are asked in advance what they would like to cook, and encouraged to find recipes and ideas for the group.

5. Service User Surveys
A team conducts a series of surveys, and uses phone calls, emails and face to face approaches to reach a range of young people. A change is implemented based on feedback, and the link between the feedback and the change is clearly communicated to young people and within the organisation.

4. Service User Volunteering Role in Reception
Volunteer role created for a young person to work on the organisation's reception desk. No young people apply for the role. When asked, young people have their own unique ideas about volunteer roles they would like to do.

3. Radio Station Interview
Organisation is invited by local radio to speak 'on air' about the good work they are doing, at very short notice. Marketing Manager quickly calls round 3 young people they know would be keen, 1 turns up and is only briefed just before they go on air.

2. Project Implementation Group
Selected young people are invited to a multi-agency professional meeting about a new project. When young people raise what they feel is an oversight within the project's scope, their opinion is ignored and not minuted. The project highlights the involvement of young people in marketing materials.

1.Housing Pathway
When visiting a house they have been offered, young person is not given time and space to get the information they need to make an informed decision. Young person does not or cannot fully comprehend the situation, and what it means to accept or reject the house. Options to say no or 'opt out' either don't exist within the process, or are not explained adequately.

WHY DO YOUNG PEOPLE DISENGAGE, AND SLIDE DOWN THE LADDER?

- Influence of peers, and their view of organisation
- Other more pressing priorities, crises or distractions come up
- They don't feel heard/no longer feel heard
- They aren't being invited/asked to be involved
- Change of worker, and potentially information re: their involvement not passed on
- They're just not interested, and that's ok!
- They feel uncomfortable in the group/issues around group dynamics

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- How are young people invited to participate within your organisation? Are there more ways this could happen?
- Does your organisation respect the right of young people to disengage from participation projects? How do you communicate options to 'opt out'?
- Does your organisation make positive efforts to gain feedback? Do you remember to communicate any actions or changes which arise from this?
- Are volunteering opportunities within your services in line with what young people want to do?
- Do marketing colleagues pass on the pressure they experience when they need to 'involve' a young person at short notice? How could your organisation work to mitigate this?
- Do senior managers invite young people to meetings, only to be selective in what they are prepared to hear from them? How could this be avoided?
- Do services manipulate feelings of need or relief when housing or other services to young people? How could processes be changed to support young people making more informed decisions?