

# South West Sheffield Young People's Report 2009 Area Report on Young People's Participation

## What we asked...

### Young People...

took part in a focus group and were asked:

- Their understanding of participation
- What participation they do
- Barriers to their participation
- Solutions to overcome the barriers.

1 worker returned questionnaire & 1 focus group was carried out.

### Workers...

returned a questionnaire asking:

- Level of young people's participation in groups, organisations and communities
- Barriers to young people's participation
- Ideas/suggestions for training/toolkit.

## What we found out...

When asked about their current and previous experiences of participation...

Young people have been **unable to represent their peers** to decision makers within the community *but have* had the opportunity to **talk** with adults in their communities to discuss things that affect them.

Also, young people **have seen changes, improvements and the setting up of initiatives** due to their involvement, and **do feel listened to** by people in their community.

Workers suggested young people have **a lot** of involvement in what the **group/project** does and the decision making of the **organisation**.

*However*, young people only have **some** involvement in decision making that **affects their lives**.

### Barriers

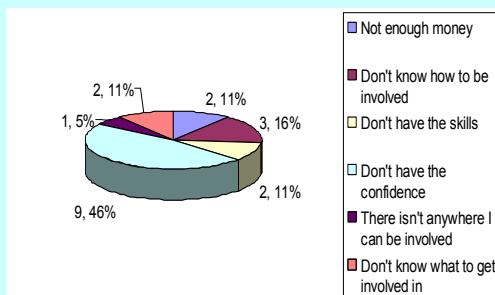
Workers suggested barriers to young people's (YP) participation to be...

Within their **communities/areas**, workers believed **structures and legislation around schools** prevented young people's involvement.

**Confidence** and **peer pressure** were suggested as barriers to involvement within the **group and organisation**.

### Barriers

46% of young people said they didn't have the confidence to get involved in decision making, the rest of the results were as below:



### Training

Workers were **unsure** if they **offered training** to young people to support their involvement and would **possibly** be interested in **attending training** to learn how to support young people's participation and involvement in decision making. The workers said they would be interested to learn **methods of participation**, and possibly to receive **tools and resources** to support young people further in their



This work has been carried out by the 13-19+ Participation strategy project (Chilypep) in partnership with Sheffield Futures and has been commissioned by Sheffield City Council on behalf of the Sheffield 0-19+ Partnership.



# City Wide Results

## Groups which invite Young People from across the city

### Young People...

Focus groups (PTO) were also carried out with young people from these groups.

When asked about their current and previous experiences of participation...

- 63% of young people had represented their peers to decision makers within their community
- 61% had the opportunity to discuss the things that affect them with adults in their community
- 47% had seen changes, the setting up of something or improvements in their area because of their involvement.

**Despite all of these positive results, only 18% of young people felt listened to by the people in the community.**

### Barriers

When young people were asked about barriers to their participation, the top three responses were:

1. Not enough money (20%)
2. Not having enough time (18%)
3. Adult's not listening (13%)

### Solutions

Solutions the young people suggested were...

- training and building skills,
- funding and raising money,
- communicating with adults.

306 groups in Sheffield  
45 City Wide  
261 in different Community  
Assemblies

### Workers...

Questionnaires were returned which asked the same questions as before (PTO).

Workers suggested that young people have a **lot** of involvement in what the **group/project** does, **some** influence upon the **organisation**, and **little** influence on decisions that **affect their lives**.

### Barriers

Workers suggested the following as barriers to young people's participation...

Group	confidence and self-esteem
	peer pressure
	motivation
Organisation	worker/staff issues (e.g. lack of time)
	accessibility
	understanding of organisation
Community/Area	opportunities for participation
	adult perception of young people
	confidence/attitudes of young people



During October 2009, seven events were held across Sheffield where decision makers and anyone who worked with young people were invited to come along and find out about youth participation in their area, and discuss ways of involving young people more. The main themes that came out of each of the discussions were:

- Not enough money
- People don't know what's going on
- Need to say and show good things about young people.

**Hopefully, these themes will be actioned soon!!**

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