

# Engaging others

## Creating allies and supporters



### Why is this area important?

- Youth Voice should support and/or be used by everyone in our organisation.
- We need to advocate Youth Voice to our partners and share approaches, resources and findings with each other.



Staff from the bottom to top need to listen. There's no point if Youth Voice isn't valued by decision-makers as well as deliverers."

**Young Person,  
Co-production Group**

## Who needs to be involved?

Organisational structures will vary but, typically, Youth Voice needs to support and/or be supported by:

- **Decision-makers** – leaders, managers, trustees, governors.
- **Deliverers** – teachers, coaches, support staff, volunteers.
- **Partners** – other schools/clubs, external agencies, funders.
- **Families** – parents, carers, guardians, siblings, support staff.

### Decision-makers

- Seek their endorsement of Youth Voice so it is valued and embedded across the organisation.
- Present – or support young people to present – Youth Voice findings to them.
- Request and share reports on what is changing/ has changed in response to Youth Voice.
- Advocate for Youth Voice to be within their decision-making structures and processes.

### Deliverers

- Ask Youth Voice to be included in all aspects of their work that relates to young people.
- Provide guidance, training and tools to develop and keep improving their facilitation skills.
- Share – and enable them to swap – examples of effective Youth Voice in practice.
- Disseminate their Youth Voice findings and celebrate their successes.

### Partners

- Share Youth Voice findings with partners to help to shape their provision and delivery.
- Provide opportunities for partners to work with and listen to your young people.
- Seek input, examples and ideas from partners who use Youth Voice in their work.

### Families

- Inform and, where required, seek consent for Youth Voice work with u18s (u25 if vulnerable).
- Provide guidance if they will be supporting young people with additional needs.
- Share the benefits for and impact on their children of being involved in Youth Voice.

## Examples

Drawing on previous sessions with an experienced coach, participants demonstrate fun, simple and active feedback activities to volunteers to help them to use Youth Voice in their future delivery.

Members of the project group prepare and present a case to school governors for an alternative PE kit. They also share this during a parents' evening to get everyone's backing.

The school hosts an annual sports fair where local partners are invited to promote their provision. It is a two-way process, with young people providing ideas and feedback to the partners.

## Depth of Youth Voice

### Practical steps

Our co-production group suggests:

- Advocate the importance and value of Youth Voice – to the organisation and young people.
- Match the benefits to people's priorities, for example:
  - **Decision-maker** – meets inspection/quality assurance requirements
  - **Deliverer** – increases levels of engagement
  - **Partner** – improves young people's transition
  - **Family** – gives children confidence and skills.
- Involve young people as advocates – they may have greater impact than you!
- Show that Youth Voice brings solutions, not just demands.
- Emphasise that Youth Voice is a tool to help you to improve.
- Celebrate impact and successes.



## Young People's Top Tips

1. Start small to build confidence and trust in the process.
2. Use a drip-feed approach – keep throwing in pebbles instead of banking on one big splash!
3. Use us as your allies!



## Tools

*(these help to support and/or engage the support of others)*

»» **Youth Voice Video (Youth Sport Trust)** [Youth Voice Resources](#) – Youth Sport Trust Video co-produced with young people to highlight the value of Youth Voice.

👁️ **Youth Voice Case Studies (Youth Sport Trust)** [Youth Voice Resources](#) – Youth Sport Trust Case studies to share examples of Youth Voice in action within the school sport network.

»» **Youth Voice Training (Youth Sport Trust)** [Youth Voice Resources](#) – Youth Sport Trust Training to support the school sport network to implement Youth Voice.

»» **The importance of giving children a voice (Play Their Way)** [Play Their Way – The Importance of Giving Children a Voice | The Lundy Model](#) Article, video and resources by Professor Laura Lundy.

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