

## **What are the possibilities for Youth Voice?**

### **Panel event 7/10/2021**

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Some of the key themes which came out of today's panel:

- It takes time to build trust and to put good YV programmes together
- Need to create a sense of belonging and inclusion – create a space in which young people feel comfortable expressing their opinion
- Preparation is key! Prepare for every aspect, even the counter-intuitive
- Sometimes it's best to just implement activities and adjust as you go, rather than waiting for everything to be perfect
- Partnership working is key to extend your reach – also important for reaching young people you're not currently reaching
- This work can be quite hands-on and resource-heavy, so prepare for this
- Everyone's work is a work in progress, no-one is perfect in this space, we're all learning from each other
- It's important to prepare young people for leadership opportunities, to help them get the most out of it, and to help your organisation get the most out of it too
- A young person's journey will not be linear, but everything contributes to them growing their skills and experience
- Plant seeds for progression routes from the beginning

## Q&A

How do we go about recruiting young people who aren't the 'usual suspects'?

- Something all the panellists felt they were all still working on
  - Importance of partnership working with other organisations
  - Community led
  - Siblings of engaged YP?

How to manage safeguarding when allowing social media takeovers?

- There has to be an element of trust with young people
  - Allowing them to self-manage and encourage mutual respect for individuals in the ensemble who might not want to feature.
- Allow it to become the norm – in places where this has been done they have not come up against any safeguarding issues as of yet!

Preparation and getting the most out of young trustees.

- Build relationship – doesn't happen overnight!
- Good levels of communication
  - Opportunity to have one to one time with trustees to build knowledge and trust
  - Ability and confidence to ask if unsure about anything
  - Pre-meeting briefing to explain any terminology which might be confusing or specific to the sector (demystifying)

Evaluation of projects

- Continuous and ongoing process which should influence the direction of any ongoing work
  - Direct feedback from young people – don't try to articulate it for YP, ask them to write feedback in their own words
  - Surveys/evaluation forms to young people directly
  - Describe YP's own experiences – if context is needed within evaluation

Progression

- Long term plan required – Embedding youth voice is a longer-term journey not just a project
  - Requires suitable time, capacity, and money to support it
- Importance of developing the skill sets to allow YP to progress – various routes.