

2

How do I make it happen?

Setting up an Active Involvement (AI) Team for your project?

Why is this important?

Not all young people who attend your project will want to commit to the level of active involvement necessary to plan the programme and develop new ideas for the rest of the group.

Those who are interested and willing will gain an enormous amount from actively making the programme relevant and exciting for young people. But they will also learn heaps about negotiating with each other, negotiating with you and representing the views of their friends and peers who are not members of the team.

How to go about it?

Asking young people to nominate peers or using the opportunity to get young people to elect their peers as members of the Active Involvement Team is a really good start – (there are lots of staff in the service who have run AI teams and Youth Action teams and are more than willing to share their experience/practice with you)

Make sure you have explained what the AI Team is for and what influence and responsibilities the AI team members will hold.

When setting up a meeting of the Team – make sure you have a separate corner/quiet space to meet with them in. You don't want them to get distracted by other project members.

Negotiating how it will work with the AI Team?

- Setting out clear expectations.
- Agree a regular meeting and limited time for this to happen
- Utilise the ideas and resource sheets available to prompt some discussion/ideas
- Agree who will record what happens at the meeting and how things will be recorded

Resources you might use:



More overleaf 

Displaying the agreed programme

Make sure that the agreed programme is displayed prominently in the project and that the AI Team members are proud of it.

Reviewing the programme

There are excellent resource sheets you can use for review and evaluation in **Act By Right**. But just spending some time each meeting seeing how the previous months programme went and considering solutions to problems is a simple but effective way of ensuring AI Team members feel totally involved in the whole process.

Resources you might use:

Hot Tips!

- If you are not feeling confident – talk to other staff. They may be really keen to take a lead in this.
- Negotiate a visit from the Active Involvement Specialist Youth Workers to get the ideas flowing.
- Ask a colleague how they did it.
- Keep it simple – doesn't need to be complicated!
- Focus on the difference the AI Team can make in their immediate surroundings (i.e. your project!).

Possible Pitfalls!

- There are very few pitfalls – involving young people in setting and running the programme is always positive!
- AI Team members stop coming to meetings – are they too long, too boring?
- AI Team members get overloaded – keep responsibilities and help to specified activities – they need some chill out time too!

