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# Why bother?

## Active Involvement and the Bigger Picture

Peterborough Youth Service offers services to young people which contribute to the Every Child Matter (ECM) Outcomes Framework for young people in this country. Therefore we engage young people in programmes of personal and social development which assist them to:

- Be Healthy
- Stay Safe
- Enjoy and Achieve
- Make a Positive Contribution
- Achieve Economic Well-Being

### Active Involvement and the Youth Service Curriculum

All our programmes work within an agreed Youth Service Curriculum Framework. Therefore all our programmes are planned upon the principles of Equality, Empowerment, Education and Participation.

These are not just grand words – they need to be evident in every piece of youth work we undertake. They are always evident in the work youth workers do around involving young people in the projects, programmes and decisions that affect them.

If young people are involved in the making of decisions that affect their lives, they are more likely to take responsibility for their actions and develop as important members of society.

The active involvement of young people in decision making runs throughout all the work we do as a service, it is a basic tenet of the work, which adds to the success of the voluntary relationships young people build with our staff.

### Active Involvement and the Youth Service aims:

Actively involving young people in planning and decision making enables the service to assist young people in their transition from dependence to independence by facilitating their personal and social development, and enabling them to have a voice, influence and place in society.

In fact that is the Youth Service overarching aim so, making sure active involvement features in everything we do, is something of a priority for us.

As a service we also aim to ensure that young people are offered choice and control, and the support, information, advice and guidance necessary to enable them to exercise it responsibly and effectively within their own lives and the projects they engage with.

More overleaf 



We also strive to ensure that all youth work provision is planned according to evidenced need, with clear outcomes and the involvement of young people in judging whether outcomes have been met.

Put this alongside a government set target that 85% of young people contacted report satisfaction with youth services offered, and you can begin to see just why the active involvement of young people in every youth work setting is so important for us all!

### **Active Involvement – the opportunity!**

We have an opportunity now to:

- Establish active involvement methodology in youth work settings throughout Peterborough.
- Strengthen bonds between specialist curriculum projects and community based youth work.
- Create accountable systems for recording of active involvement activity and its influence on service direction and development of projects.