

CWBR Youth

Community Well-Being & Resilience

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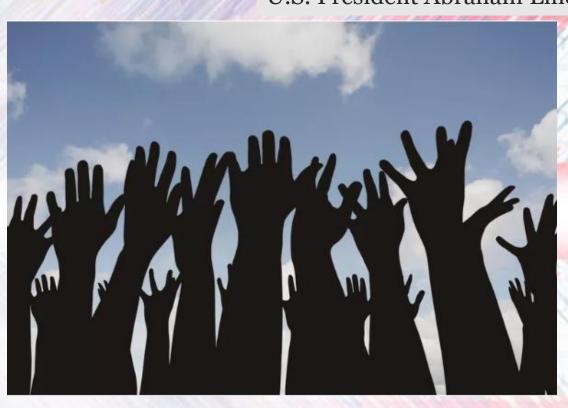
"...government of the people, by the people, for the people..."

U.S. President Abraham Lincoln

Democracy



Greek for "people" (dēmos) and "rule" (karatos)



Meaning "**rule by the people**," democracy is a system of government that not only allows but requires the participation of the people in the political process to function properly.

Its the Law!

- Children's Rights United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
 - Article 3 In all concerns and actions that concern children, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration
 - Article 12 Every child has the right to express their views on matters that affect them, and for those views to be taken into consideration
 - Article 13 Every child has the right to find out and distribute information and to express their ideas

"Investing in children's human rights has real benefits for organisations, including contributing to enabling more children and young people to be better involved in public services which leads to better decision making, **ensuring there's a real focus on the particular needs of Children** whose voices can be lost or silenced, creating an environment where public services are accountable to all of its service users" Sally Holland Children's Commissioner for Wales

Welsh Law – Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015





CWBR Youth

Connecting young people and Town / Community / City
Councils





Youth Representatives and Town / Community/ City Councils in Wales

The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 ss.118-121, gives community and town councils the power to appoint up to **2 youth representatives** (aged 16 to 25) to join the council to represent the interests of young people who live, work or receive education or training in the area

They are not able to vote

Targets as set out in funding bid

- •50 young people going through our training support programme
- At least half of these applying to join their local Town & Community Council
- •25 Town & Community Councils advertising for new Youth Representatives
- •At least half of these successfully recruiting new Youth Representatives
- Provision of tailored and bespoke support by the project for young people standing for election
- •3 Town & Community Councils (or a partnership of) establishing a Youth Council
- •200 beneficiaries engaged in reviewing project deliverables and impact of activities



Community Youth Representative Induction Handbook



CWBR Youth Toolkits



Youth Engagement Guide for Community Groups



Foreword and Introduction

Who are young people and where to find them?

The benefits of engaging with young people

What is participation & the Importance of Inclusion

Effective Feedback & creating young person friendly documents

Safeguarding & Community Leadership

Accrediting Participation and Setting Boundaries

Challenges, Barriers and Managing Expectations

Getting Organised

Social Media and Being Online

Policies, measures and standards





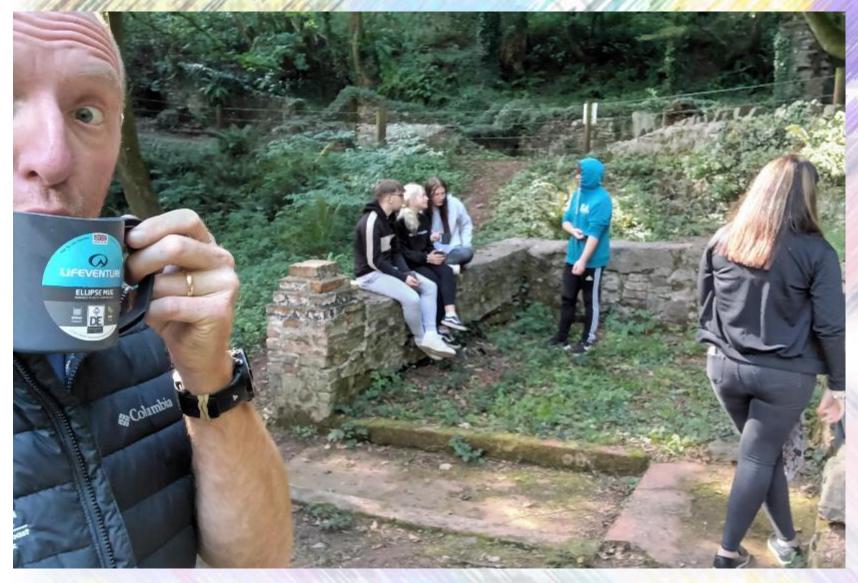




Youth Engagement Toolkit for Town and Community Councils



Phase 1... Initial Engagement

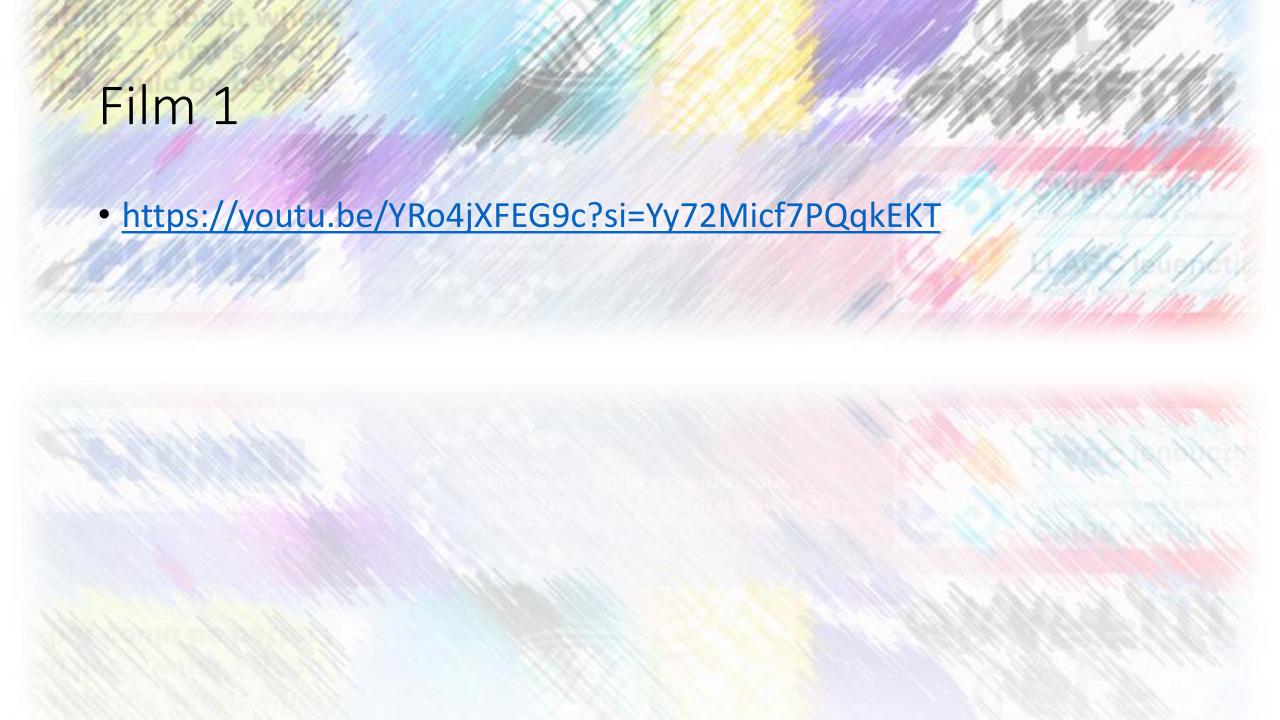


Walkabouts in Pembroke Dock and Milford Haven – seeing community through young people's eyes and hearing their views over a bushcraft cuppa



Difficulties in engaging with:

EVERYONE except young people





Support engagement between TCCs and local young people



Connect

Young people and councillors take part in a fun activity together to get to know each other.

Top tips

- Informality, creativity and FUN!
 - **Creating working relationships**
 - Unlocking narrative arising from people's 'Lived Experience'
 - Focus on the positives (Asset Based approaches)
 - Follow best practice e.g. Principles of Public **Engagement, Participation Standards**
 - ACTIVE Listening (..like here

Communicate

Councillors and young people discuss the issues that matter to them / what's important / what can be changed





Work together

Work on a small project together / make a change to benefit young people



USE FACIAL EXPRESSIONS TO CONFIRM TO THE SPEAKER THAT YOU'RE LISTENING. MAKE EYE CONTACT, NOD OCCASIONALLY, SMILE.





RESTATE THE SPEAKER'S IDEAS. RESTATE WHAT YOU THINK THE SPEAKER IS SAYING BY PARAPHRASING HIM.



MIRROR THE SPEAKER. BY MIRRORING HIS ACTIONS AND EXPRESSIONS, YOU EXPRESS UNDERSTANDING.

Sustain

Continue the relationship! Young people attend Council meetings, councillors seek ongoing input from young people





GET MORE INFORMATION. AS THE

SPEAKER TALKS, OCCASIONALLY ASK RELEVANT QUESTIONS OR MAKE STATEMENTS THAT WILL LEAD TO MORE INFORMATION.



PROVIDE THE SPEAKER WITH FEEDBACK.

AVOID NEGATIVE FEEDBACK, WHICH WILL ONLY ALIENATE YOU FROM THE PERSON WITH WHOM YOU'RE TALKING. INSTEAD, AFFIRM HIS IDEAS.



OFFER SUPPORT. IF YOU'VE BEEN LISTENING CLOSELY, BY THE TIME THE SPEAKER IS DONE SAYING HIS PIECE, AND YOU'RE RESTATED HIS WORDS, YOU SHOULD HAVE A GOOD IDEA IF YOU NEED TO TAKE ACTION.









































Clear themes...

- Youth activities
- Park equipment for older children
- Youth shelters
- Lighting
- Youth club hours...



Clear themes...

- Green space
- Bins
- Brightening up our communities...



















Clear themes...

- Shops
- Transport
- Affordable housing...















Clear themes...

- Youth voice
- Youth welcome
- Respect.





MATILERS WHAT MATTERS TO YOU? Consultation Report

2023



Top Issues

1 © Cost of Living	1308 VOTES
Mental Health, Emotional Health & Wellbeing	839 VOTES
3 Housing	354 VOTES
4 D Environment	327 VOTES
5 Substance Misuse	320 VOTES
6 Safety	236 VOTES
7 Education	235 VOTES
8 Transport	169
Promote Health Lifestyles	VOTES 136
10 SEC Diversity	120
Social Media	OTES 54 OTES



Phase 3...

Co-create effective and sustainable mechanisms for ongoing youth involvement



We learnt:

(and now its over to YOU)

Key Challenges:

Resourcing Issues: Capacity and resourcing of the youth sector, and more coproductive approaches to engagement **Awareness issues:** Low awareness across all sectors of Town / Community Councils, their work and relevance, Wellbeing of Future Generations act goals and ways of working, Coproduction and engagement theory and practice, youth opportunities / youth voice, working strategically.

Communication issues: Ineffective communication channels between young people, their advocates, and decision-makers - in particular Town and Community Councillors - and the need for better promotion of existing youth voice platforms and positive youth behaviours to reach a broader audience, changing the narrative

Active Listening and Engagement: Widespread lack of listening to youth voices and acting upon their feedback, Instances of tokenistic engagement where youth input is not genuinely considered or implemented, and Decision-makers need to commit to regular and meaningful engagement with young people.

Systemic and Cultural Barriers: Prejudices and biases against the opinions of young people by older generations who need to be more open-minded and accepting of youth perspectives. Existing organisations sometimes engage with youth in a tokenistic manner rather than proactively encouraging and nurturing their input.

Accessibility: Limited accessibility of platforms and opportunities for youth to voice their opinions, and widespread need for inclusive and safe spaces where young people can freely express themselves.

Capacity and Training: Need for training and capacity-building for both youth and adults to improve the quality of youth participation, and in particular decision-makers / others to work strategically and better listen to / engage with young people.

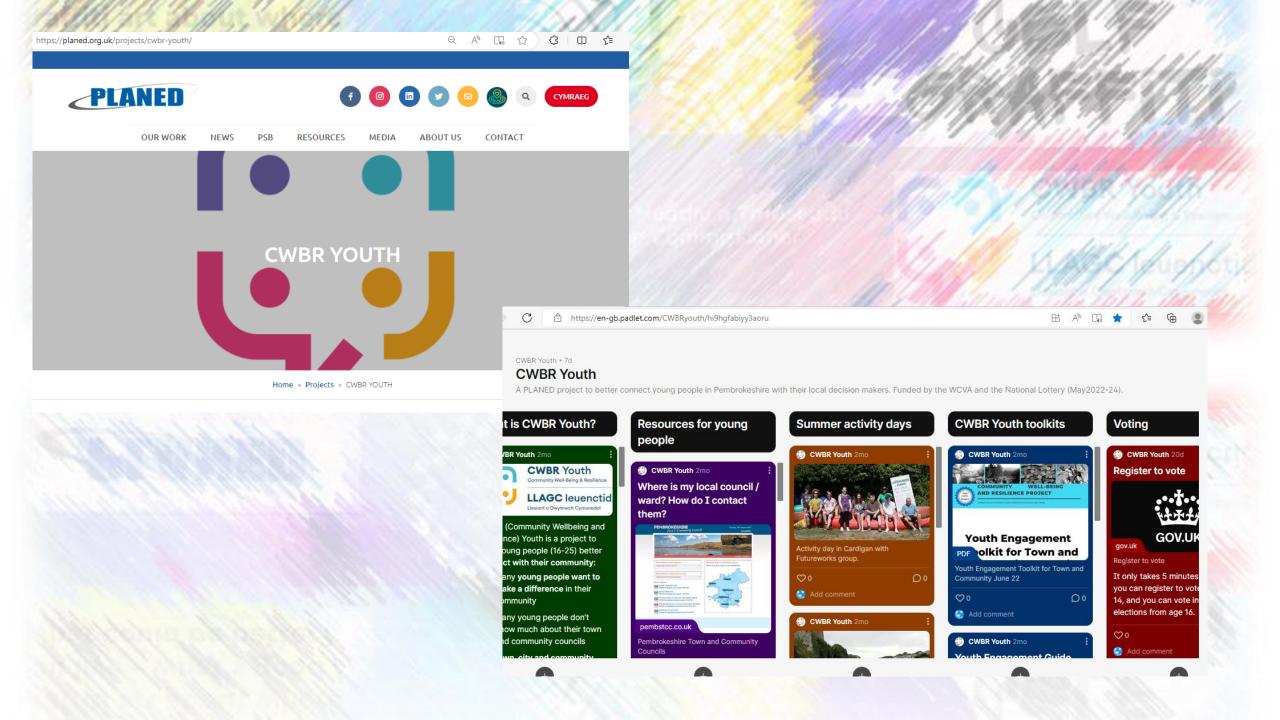
Representation and Diversity: Ensuring diverse and representative youth voices are heard, not just a select few. Engaging a broader demographic of young people- in particular older young people aged 16-25

CWBR Youth Recommendations to ALL Stakeholders							
1	Improve approach to Engagement, Involvement, Participation and Coproduction	2	Engage in ways that meet YP's needs	3	Improve availability of information	4	Make engagement EVERYONE's business
5	Make better use of existing Youth Voice Assets	6	School / College Community Engagement	7	Increased focus on 16-25 year olds	8	Improve your communication
9	Organisations collaborate on Youth Engagement	10	Life-long approach to continuous Democratic Engagement /participation	11	Cross-sector work to improve positive portrayal of YP / Youth Voice and participation in media	12	Establish / use YP's preferred methods of communication
13	Provide training to empower YP	14	Ensure youth-engagement is sufficiently resourced				

CWBR Youth Recommendations to Town and Community Councils and associated bodies e.g. One Voice Wales							
15	TCCs Embed Youth (and wider) Engagement in strategies / policies	16	Increase expectations of Council's engaging with (Young) people	17	Improve Councillor / Decision-maker Training	18	Increase Diversity of Representation
19	Increase visibility of Town / Community Councils to (Young) People	20	Reach out to diverse and representative local (Young) People	21	Empower TCC Staff to engage	22	Ensure meetings aren't toxic

#	Recommendations to Local / National Government (Town and Community Councils, Local Authorities, Welsh / UK Government / One Voice Wales / Auditor General etc)				
15	TCCs Embed Youth (and wider) Engagement in strategies / policies	 Develop and report against Youth Engagement policy / Action Plan (ideally as part of commitment to General Engagement) Make Councils / Councillors accountable – appoint sufficient Youth Link/s to cover local youth settings with expectation of proactivity/ impact Make engagement fun for Clirs too! 			
16	Increase expectations of Council's engaging with (Young) people from Councillors / Government /PSB / Audit Wales / OFGC / OVW etc, as well as the public	 develop greater awareness and understanding of engagement / involvement / Coproduction etc New guidance Engage Chairs and Mayors Advocate for change at all levels 			

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Diolch!