

Connecting and consulting with Youth Justice Voices

A number of organisations have made requests to consult with the members of our youth led participation group, and more widely with care and justice experienced young people. This is welcomed, with one aim of the project being to shape and influence legislation, policy and practice in relation to these areas.

It is not always possible to participate in every opportunity however, and we ask you to consider the following points when making a request to engage in consultation with one of the constituent groups. Having done so, please contact Ruth Kerracher via ruth@staf.scot to discuss how best to proceed.

What is the benefit for the members?

Can you identify positive reasons why the members would want to take part? Will they enjoy an activity? Will they receive financial recompense for their time?

What are the timescales?

Members choose how often they meet, and their itinerary includes a range of other activities. When do the views of the members need to be returned to your organisation? Are members able to submit later than the 'official' deadline?

What planning is required before taking part in the consultation?

In order for their views to be informed fully, it may be necessary to deliver introductory sessions which help members become familiar with the topic, and for them to provide specific responses to questions that you have. It is therefore important to consider what information the members require, how they will receive this, and what support they may need.

Who will deliver the session?

Before approaching Youth Justice Voices, please consider whether you will lead the session, or whether you will require the support of staff from Youth Justice Voices. Should this be the latter, lead-in and preparation time will need to be factored into timescales.

Practicalities

If the consultation is going to take place in person, where will this be? Have you checked any access requirements of the members? Will travel costs be covered? Will food and refreshments be provided? The timing of the session will require consideration, as some members attend college or work. Similarly, they may need sufficient travel time at the end of the session to return home at a reasonable time.

How will you ensure that the group receives feedback on their contributions?

It is easy for people to become disheartened if they regularly provide their views on a subject, but do not hear what impact their opinions has had. Even if the decision of your organisation is at odds with the views provided by the members of Youth Justice Voices, it is expected that you feedback to them what decision has been reached, and how their views contributed to this, if at all.