

## Isle of Wight youth voice session – 12th July 2019

On Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July the young people's participation team from KIDS travelled to Newport on the Isle of Wight to meet with a group of young people. The team from KIDS included 1 young person who is from the Isle of Wight and also sits on FLARE – the DFE national advisory group.

The session started with 2 ice-breakers and writing a group agreement. The statements for the agreement were:

- Listen to each other
- Respect each other's disabilities
- Help each other
- Be patient
- Phones/ technology on silent and away
- Take turns
- Respect each other's opinions
- Be honest
- Include everyone
- Get involved
- Have fun

The team introduced the work that KIDS do on participation and that they were there as part of the making participation work project which sees them working with practitioners and young people to increase participation within local areas.

The aims were shared (and also put on the wall so people could refer back to them). The aims for the session were to find out what is important to young people on the Isle of Wight and to look at how the IOW can work with young people.

Young people then discussed what they think participation is to them. Answers given were:

- Taking part in a lot of activities
- Helping out
- Making a difference
- Making your voice be heard.

They then talked about their experiences of participation. One young person spoke about having an EHCP but that the local authority had "mucked it up". Another spoke about accessing short breaks and that they say what is good or not about pre-decided activities.

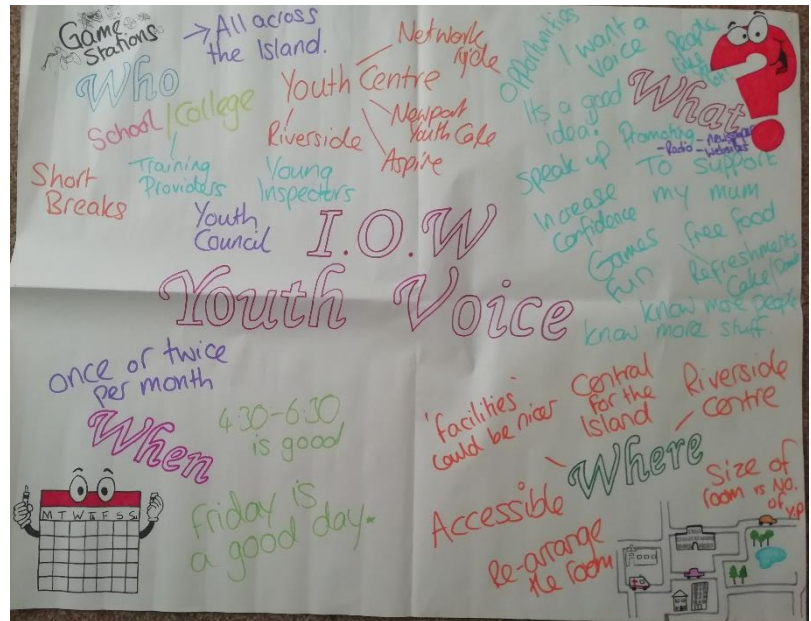
Young people then built towers with blocks that had benefits to participation written on them. Each young person gave their top 3 answers which were:

- Feel valued, meet the laws, share skills
- People that are healthy, services that are fun, make friends
- People that are healthy, services that are fun, increased confidence
- Make friends, increased confidence, services that are fun

Following on from this young people then looked at the 5 W's of youth voice on the Isle of Wight. They discussed that on the flip chart there were only 4 W's written and that the 5<sup>th</sup> is why which is the benefits which had just been covered.

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As can be seen in the image to the right young people suggested places to find young people and who should be invited to be part of the group. They also suggested what would encourage them to attend or continue attending a group. Young people suggested locations for where they could meet with Newport being popular as it is quite central to the island meaning travel times aren't too high for anyone. They also decided that it would be appropriate to meet once or twice per month on a Friday evening.



Young people then looked at ways in which they communicate. From this they placed stars next to the ways in which they preferred. As can be seen the most popular ways are face to face and by watching videos, followed by getting information from friends and also from professionals.

Young people also thought about what was the barriers to their participation. The answers they gave were people's attitudes, access, not knowing, lack of information, low self-esteem, lack of knowledge and also being judged.

Following on from this the young people thought about what is important to them in key areas. These were:

### Education

- Access education right for them
- Having choice/ more choice (as very limited options)
- What is on offer
- Able to look/ open days

### Health

- Getting the right support
- Information to make decisions
- Not good mental health service

### Independent living

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- Learn independent living skills
  - Making the bed
  - Washing/ drying
  - Cooking
  - Confidence

### Having fun

- Games
- Activities
- Places to go
  - Bowling
  - Pubs/ clubs
  - Go karting
- Most places are very accepting of disabilities

### Getting a job

- Work experience
- Options
- Decisions relevant to what you want to do
- Hard for people with disabilities

### Getting out and about

- Travel training (increase confidence)
- Expensive to get off the island
- Discounts
- Bus info/ trains

### Friends and relationships

- Having good relationships
- Hanging out
- Visiting each other
- Boyfriends/ girlfriends
- What's ok or not ok

The session finished with an evaluation. Young people were asked to move along a 'line' between a trash can indication bad or didn't like and a treasure chest which indicated good or liked. The young people were on the whole positive and enjoyed all of the activities that were on offer and liked that the young people's participation team had been to visit and share information. All young people said that they wanted to continue being part of a participation group on the Isle of Wight.