



Our Voice

The Investing in Children Membership Award creates spaces for children and young people to come together and have a voice in the services they receive. An Investing in Children Membership Award gives organisations and the staff who work in them, recognition for the inclusion of young people in meaningful dialogue that leads to positive change. Does your organisation, group or club deserve an award for investing in young people?

This booklet was compiled by Young People attending the YAP Ireland Youth Forum series in 2016. It examined their experiences of the communities in which they live, as part of the exploration of Youth Voice.

'It explores how we see our communities and how we would like to see our communities improved.'

Investing in Children

For more information on how to become an Investing in Children Member, visit our website www.yapireland.ie and complete an expression of interest form, call us on (01) 8689180 or email us at info@yapireland.ie

About the YAP Youth Forum

YAP Ireland's Youth Forum is part of YAP's participation strategy in amplifying the voices of the young people we work with. Young people have a voice and should be heard.

The Issues

Ageism

Being viewed as a burden

A lack of funding for positive programmes

A lack of consideration for disabled young people

The Solution

We need to recognise that we have a voice and the right to be listened to

We need the support of the adults in our lives and communities

We need the support of our politicians and decision-makers

Community

Our Voice

From consultation with the young people, they identified the following areas as being of particular concern in their community;

Stereotyping



'We feel stereotyped because of what we wear.'

'We do not feel like equals in the community.'

We feel there are negative perceptions from adults because we are young.'

Services



'We want to be respected as equals in services in our communities.'

'We want more youth friendly clubs with well supported youth workers.'

'We would like more youth programmes that target girls.'

'We feel like having more police visible on our streets would make us feel safer.'

Mental Health



'There is a lot of ignorance around youth mental health.'

'We feel that it would be positive if young people were more involved in consultation around mental health services for young people.'

Disability Access



'We feel that for young people with disabilities, there are many barriers to accessing our community. These issues include public transport, infrastructure and access to public services.'

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Do You?



Engage positively with young people in your community? Y: N:

Regularly listen to and consult with young people? Y: N:

Value the input of young people in your organisation? Y: N:

Require support to incorporate young people's voices in your organisation? Y: N:

Currently hold an Investing in Children Membership Award? Y: N: