



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?

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.



Our Voice

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.'

The Issues

Communication & Listening

Approach

Policy

The Solution

Our voice needs to be heard and show that we can participate. Consult with us!

Teachers need to consider students wishes and needs and be open to making changes

Policy makers need to give teachers and schools more resources to include all students

Education



Our Voice

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

Communications

- 'It's epic to be heard!'
- 'They listened when we wanted sports'
- 'It's normal not to be listened to or heard'
- 'I only feel listened to by my guidance counsellor'

Approach

- 'There's a power imbalance in my school'
- 'We need a stronger student council and for teachers to listen to it'
- 'Sometimes it feels like teachers don't really care'
- 'We should have teachers that are more tolerant, understanding and patient'

Policy

- 'We need more resources in our school for students'
- 'Consult with students about curriculum and maybe have more life skills'
- 'Integrate youth work with school work would make things better too'
- 'Smaller numbers in class would allow more students to contribute and feel valued and listened to in their class'

The Issues	The Solution
Communication & Listening	Our voice needs to be heard and show that we can participate. Consult with us.
Approach	Teachers need to consider students wishes and needs and be open to making changes
Policy	Policy makers need give teachers and schools more resources to include all students

Do You?

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

Regularly listenen 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: