



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.'



Social Work



Our Voice

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

Communications

- 'I don't feel heard by my social worker'
- 'They ask too many negative questions'
- 'Not happy with a lot of the things they say and portray'

Approach

- 'We would like to have a positive relationship with our Social Worker'
- 'They should try and make you feel more relaxed'
- 'I feel rushed and pushed away, sometimes they don't seem interested'
- 'There feels like a power imbalance when I meet my Social Worker'

Consistency

- 'I would like to have the same Social Worker over time'
- 'There's a constant changing of Social Workers - I would like them to be there when I need them'
- 'We need more contact from our Social Workers'

Education

- 'We think young people should meet with student social workers when they are in college and tell them how we would like to be treated'



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: