

Hear by Right

Youth Participation Framework

How to meaningfully involve
children and young people to
improve services



NYA
HEAR BY RIGHT



What is Hear by Right?

Hear by Right is an organisational development framework which aims to improve youth participation, thereby improving the quality of your services to benefit the young people you work with.

The tool supports, maps and explores current participation and identifies where improvements can be made.

As you progress along your Hear by Right journey you will make changes to embed youth participation in your processes and will measure the impact this has on your organisation.

This free self-assessment process can be used by any organisation working with young people, including youth work organisations, schools and charities.

There are two levels of Hear by Right:

Active – organisations demonstrate good youth participation practices and provide opportunities for young people to express their views and opinions.

Flagship – organisations embed excellent youth participation practices with their operations including appointing a group of young people to lead on your Hear by Right self-assessment.

Hear by Right typically takes between a year and 18 months to complete. We recommend you take the assessment every three years to ensure you are continuing to embed best practice.



What is youth participation?

According to the UN Convention on the rights of the child:

“Every young person has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them and to have their views considered and taken seriously.”

Youth participation should be meaningful and inclusive of all young people.

There are many ways that young people can be involved in your organisation, what's important is that the organisational structure and values enable young people to voluntarily participate.

Different aspects of youth participation:

Youth voice and influence – young people are provided with a safe space to share their experiences and influence strategy, policies and operational delivery.

Youth advocacy – young people are enabled to have a voice and to influence the issues which are important to them, be that social change or decisions about their own lives.

Youth governance – young people are empowered to make decisions and take action and are given opportunities to develop their leadership skills.



How can NYA help you?

We have designed Hear by Right as an easy-to-use self-assessment tool, just visit the NYA website to download the resources and guidelines to get started.

Our team of youth participation experts are on hand if you have any questions, just email us at: participation@nya.org.uk if you have any questions.

Please share your journey with us! Using the downloadable template, email us your assessment case study at the end of your Hear by Right self-assessment to champion youth participation at hearbyright@nya.org.uk.

Your case study will also help us evidence how Hear by Right is helping to raise the standards of practice around youth participation across the country.



Download our case study template here

Free youth participation practice training is available via our [CPD catalogue](#) to support you to upskill staff.

For those organisations looking for more tailored support to develop your skills or help develop your service offer, please contact us via consultancy@nya.org.uk



We hope you are excited to join us in promoting, developing and celebrating young people's participation.

Scan the QR code to access the Hear by Right resources.

For more information contact hearbyright@nya.org.uk



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