

THE PARTICIPATION LADDER

Manipulation

- Young people do or say what adults suggest they do, but have no real understanding of the issues OR young people are asked what they think, adults use some of the ideas but do not tell them what influence they have on the final decision.

Tokenism

- Young people are asked to say what they think about an issue but have little power or no choice about the way they express those views or the scope of the ideas they can express.

Adult led

- Adults decide on the project and young people volunteer for it. The young people understand the project, they know who decided why they could be involved and why adults respect their views.

Consultation

- The project is designed and run by adults, however, young people are consulted. They have an understanding of the process and their opinions are taken seriously.

Shared decisions

- Adults have the initial idea but young people are involved in every step of the planning and implementation. Not only are their views considered but they are also involved in making the decisions.

Empowerment

- Young people have the initial idea, decide how the project is carried out and are key players in its planning and delivery. The adults do not direct but offer their expertise for young people to consider.