

Strengths and Gaps in Youth Voice and Participation Practice

**Findings from the Centre for Youth Voice
Project Discovery Consultation Summary**

January 2024



What youth voice capacity building resources are already being used in the sector?



Practitioners

Practitioners use some resources from other organisations

Some have own internal resources

In general, there are a lack of resources

There is a lack of training and support, particularly free to access support

What are the gaps in capacity building resources?



Practitioners

Resources to support evaluation of youth voice

Resources to support funding applications

Standard resources e.g. definitions, youth voice checklists

Guides on equity and engagement of underserved communities

Engagement tools and guides

Guidance on how to embed and resource youth voice organisationally



Young people

Guidance on how to go about intergenerational governance

Resources to support funding applications

Guidance on how organisations can work with young people in an authentic way

How can we make capacity building resources more accessible?



Practitioners

Shared language

Ready-made resources and templates

Commonly used definitions



Young people

Shared language

Commonly used definitions

Diversity of platforms and modes of presentation

Capacity Building



Research and Evidence

What research, evidence, and resources already exist and are being used in the sector?



Practitioners

Know of some commonly used models

Use resources from other organisations

Do not access academic research

Do not access evaluations



Young people

Do not know how to find research and evaluations

Know of some commonly used models

Use resources from some organisations

What are the gaps in youth voice research and evidence?



Practitioners

Demonstrating the impact of youth voice and participation work

Lack of youth-led research

Short term and longitudinal data



Young people

Evidence of the impact of youth voice and participation work at the individual level

Data and evidence that helps demonstrate the impact of youth voice

How can we make youth voice research and evidence more accessible?



Practitioners

Lack of free to access academic research

Centralised resources

Accessible resources with simple language and executive summaries

Further clarity on who has participated in research within papers



Young people

More simple bite-sized content in different formats



Communications and Storytelling

What stories should we be telling?



Practitioners

- Stories of best practice
- Stories of impact but also stories of failure
- Resources to be able to do this work ethically and safely
- Stories from people with diverse backgrounds
- Youth-led storytelling



Young people

- Amplifying individual stories
- Stories of development and growth
- Co-created stories with young people
- Stories from people with diverse backgrounds
- Resources to be able to do this work ethically



How would you like to see us tell these stories?



Practitioners

- Need to reach a wider, diverse audience
- Need to share across wider social media platforms
- Need to use different formats such as short-form video content



Young people

- Need to reach a wider, diverse audience
- Have young people tell these stories as they are good creators of content in different formats
- Need to share across wider social media platforms
- Need to use different formats such as short-form video content

Networking

How do you currently network?



Practitioners

LinkedIn as a tool for individual networking

Word of mouth to hear about existing networks

Use a few professional networks



Young people

Instagram, TikTok and X used as spaces for networking

Occasional use of LinkedIn

Word of mouth to hear about existing networks

Do you have any unmet networking needs?



Practitioners

Current networks are too specific or too general – it's hard to get the balance right

May need different networks to address different issues

Lack of a central network or place to find out about other networks

May need different networks for different audiences



Young people

Conferences/events where there is a mix of young people and adults

More workshops or conferences where young people can meet people in the field face-to-face

Opportunity hub to find all youth voice opportunities

Advertise opportunities to different places, such as to schools

