

Roger Hart's Ladder of young people's participation

1) Manipulation

Adults use young people to strengthen a cause and pretend that the cause is young person led.

2) Decoration

Young people are used to strengthen a cause, although adults do not pretend that the cause is young person led.

3) Tokenism

Young people appear to be given a voice, but in fact have little or no choice about what they do or how they participate.

4) Assigned, but informed

Young people are given a specific role and informed about how and why they are being involved.

5) Consulted and informed

Young people are consulted on adult initiated projects. The young people are informed about how their input will be used and the outcomes of the decisions made by adults.

6) Adult led, decisions are shared with young people

Adults initiate projects but the decision-making is shared with young people.

7) Young person led and directed

Young people initiate and direct a project. Adult role is supportive as motivator/mentor.

8) Young person led, shared decisions with adults

Young people initiate projects and decision-making is shared between young people and adults. These projects empower young people while at the same time enable them to access and learn from the life experience and expertise of adults.

