



**Young people's version of the
Youth Participation Strategy 2022-25**

Any questions?

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YOUTH

VOICE

BUCKS

Contents

Who we are & our vision	1
What does participation mean?	2
What is the Youth Participation Strategy?	3
Our mission	4 / 5
Our 3 Rules of Engagement	6 / 7
Our plan to develop youth participation in Buckinghamshire	8
• Re-brand our participation activity	9
• Develop a new website	9
• Re-launch the Youth Voice forum	10
• Change our culture	11
Governance	12
Measuring progress	12
The Youth Voice Bucks Team	13
Contact us	14



Who we are

This document has been written by people in Buckinghamshire Council's Children's Department.

Our vision

"We aim to build a better future for all children and young people in Buckinghamshire so that they realise their potential, whatever their starting point is."

What does youth participation mean?

Youth participation is all about listening to young people's voices and acting on them to make things better.

We want to listen to what young people have to say because we believe your experiences and ideas can help us make Buckinghamshire the best place to live.

We listen to young people in lots of different ways. These include events, fun days out, group conversations, youth councils, surveys, and more.

2.





What is the Youth Participation Strategy?

The Youth Participation Strategy is a written document. It talks about how professionals in Buckinghamshire plan to listen to young people, take action in response to what you tell us, and then tell you what difference you've made.

The Strategy promises to create opportunities for you to talk about the things that matter to you. Its ambition is that these opportunities are easy and fun, and that they ultimately help us to make our services better for young people.

The Strategy also makes a promise that if you share your ideas and experiences with us, we will try to take action in response to what you say, and we will let you know after we have tried whether we changed something or not.





Our mission

We have a mission - to listen, act and respond to the views of all young people in Buckinghamshire.

This includes listening to young people with special educational needs and disabilities, young people who are LGBT+, young people from under-represented or marginalised communities, and those with experiences such as care and trauma.

Our mission - broken down



Listen:

We will listen to the views of young people in Buckinghamshire in ways that are interesting, respectful and accessible.



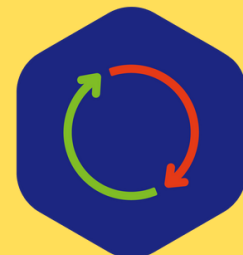
Act:

We will work with young people to create opportunities, improve our services, and build a better future which meets young people's needs



Respond:

We promise to get back to the young people we listen to, to let them know what difference they've helped to make after we've had time to act.



Repeat:

We promise to keep reviewing what we're doing and trying to improve.

Our 3 Rules of Engagement

The Youth Participation Strategy sets out 3 rules of engagement for professionals to follow.

The 3 rules ensure we engage with young people ethically and authentically.





Our 3 Rules of Engagement



Rule 1:

We don't ask young people to do something we would not do ourselves.



Rule 2:

When engaging young people in service development, we provide them with development opportunities to ensure they have the skills to do so.



Rule 3:

When we work with young people, we make sure we have a clear strategy about how we will listen, act and respond in a timely, transparent manner that maximises young people's ownership.



Our plan to develop youth participation in Buckinghamshire

These are the top actions that we will take to make sure that participation is the best it can be.



Re-brand our participation activity

'Youth Voice Bucks' is the name that we have given to all of our participation opportunities and activities. There is a vibrant new look that will help you to recognise Youth Voice Bucks, and we will always use clear language that is easy for everyone to understand.


Develop a new website

www.youthvoicebucks.co.uk will tell you about all the exciting events and opportunities that you can get involved in and how you can join in.




Re-launch the Youth Voice forum

Youth Voice is a space for young people aged 11-19, and up to 25 if they have a Special Educational Need or Disability, to speak about issues that are important for young people. The group is led by young people in the Youth Voice Executive Committee.



We are re-investing in the Youth Voice Forum to increase its membership and power. We are also focusing on increasing representation of young people from all over Buckinghamshire, including rural areas, and partnering with Buckinghamshire's Community Boards.

You can find out more about Youth Voice at www.youthvoicebucks.co.uk/opportunities/youth-voice



Change our culture

We are making sure that youth participation opportunities exist across the whole council and county by working with other people, running training, and launching a Youth Participation Champions programme.

Participation Champions are professionals who volunteer to create and run youth participation opportunities.



Governance

We have assembled a team of people who monitor progress against our targets and make sure we are following our rules of engagement. This team is called the Youth Participation Planning Group.

The Youth Participation Planning group will get updates from the Youth Participation Champions and the Youth Voice Executive Committee.

The Youth Participation Planning Group will provide updates to the Children's Partnership Board. The Children's Partnership Board is a group of very important people who are in charge of children's wellbeing in Buckinghamshire.





Measuring progress

We will monitor how well we are doing by measuring things like:

- How many youth participation opportunities are available
- How many young people attend participation opportunities
- The characteristics of the young people that attend youth participation opportunities.
 - (This will help us work out if our opportunities are welcoming for everybody.)

We will also create case studies and blogs that showcase where young people have helped to make a positive difference.

The Youth Voice Bucks team

Youth Voice Bucks has a core staff team that work for Buckinghamshire Council.

The team works with other professionals in Buckinghamshire Council and partner organisations to create, deliver, and join up opportunities for young people to share their voice.

Contact us

If you would like to speak to us about this strategy you can contact us by...

- Emailing youthvoicebucks@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
- Phoning 01296 382 583
- Texting or whatsapping Krissie,
the Youth Participation Coordinator, on 07825 928 053

