Shier's Pathways to Participation

Young people are listened to.

Shier's Pathways to Participation³

Youth participation is a process rather than a specific event or project. Shier's Pathways to Participation model is useful in assessing organisational readiness and commitment to youth participation beyond individual projects.

The model offers a set of questions to help organisations work out where they currently stand and identify the areas they need to improve, to develop more effective youth participation practice.

3 Adapted from: Shier, H (2001) Pathways to Participation: Openings, Opportunities and Obligations, Young People and Society, Vol. 15, John Wiley and

LEVELS OF PARTICIPATION	OPENINGS	OPPORTUNITIES	OBLIGATIONS
Level 5 Young people share power and responsibility in decision-making.	Are you ready to share some of your adult power with young people?	Is there a procedure that enables young people and adults to share power and responsibility for decisions?	Is it a policy requirement that young people and adults shan power and responsibility for decisions?
Level 4 Young people are involved in decision-making processes.	Are you ready to let young people join in your decision-making processes?	Is there a procedure that enables young people to join in decision-making processes?	Is it a policy requirement that young people must be involve in decision-making processes

Shier states that level 3 of his model is the minimun practice needed to meet the requirements of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Level 3 Young people's views are taken into account.	→	Are you ready to take young people's views into account?	Does your decision-making process enable you to take young people's views into account?	Is it a policy requirement that young people's views must be given weight in decision-making?		
Level 2 Young people are supported in expressing their views.	→	Are you ready to support young people in expressing their views?	Do you have a range of ideas and activities to help young people express their views?	Is it a policy requirement that young people must be supported in expressing their views?		
Level 1		Are you ready to listen	Do you work in a way that	Is it a policy requirement		

enables you to listen to

vouna people?

that young people must be

to young people?

