Why Participation?

Children and young people’s involvement is a right as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 12:

“Children and young people have the right to express their views and have them taken into account in all matters affecting them “

User involvement in services is proven to:

- Improve service development
- Improve experience of service
- Improve access and use of services
- Improve service accountability

For more information about the Youth Justice System, go to http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/yjb/

Cambridgeshire Youth Offending Service

Cambridge Office (Head Office):
Babbage House
Box BH1201 Castle Park
Cambridge CB3 0AT
Tel: 01223 507220

Huntingdon: 20 St Benedicts Court
Huntingdon PE29 3PN

Wisbech: Awdry House
110 Ramnoth Road
Wisbech, PE13 2JD

Email: yos@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

If you would like a copy of the text of this leaflet in large print, Braille, audio tape, CD or in another language, please call 01223 507220 or email yos

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Recruitment

We will involve clients in the recruitment of posts that have direct contact with young people.

- We will identify young people from our service, provide interview training and support them through the recruitment process.
- We will train YOS staff to assist young people and to run the recruitment panels.
- We will listen to the voice of young people and will agree beforehand the weighting the young people’s view will carry alongside adult interview/written tests.
- Young people’s views on the successful candidate will inform the induction package.

Consultation

We commit to consulting regularly with our clients and their parents/carers about how we improve and develop the service.

- Agenda Days
- Focus groups
- Surveys/questionnaires, written and verbal
- Staff encouraged to hear the client’s voice on matters that affect them.
- Use of What do you think? forms to inform interventions for young people.

Opportunities

We will offer clients opportunities to be involved in other participation activities locally or nationally e.g Howard League for Penal Reform.

- Young Assessors
- Mystery shoppers
- Other recruitment panels
- Young Inspectors
- Assisting with research projects