

# Active Citizenship Empowerm

**'Hear by Right' offers a tried and tested standards framework for organisations to assess and improve policy and practice on the active involvement of children and young people. It was developed by the National Youth Agency and Local Government Association in conjunction with local authorities and partner organisations, and it is widely used by councils, other public bodies and the voluntary and community sector.**

Local partners should ensure a culture of openness across their Children's Trust arrangements, so that listening and responding to children and young people becomes an integral part of everyday practice. They should see to it that children and young people are involved in decision making about their lives and in designing and developing services.

A "One size fits all" approach will not work. Partners should develop innovative and creative methods of involving children and young people drawing on national and local tool kits.

Source: Statutory Guidance on Interagency Co-operation to Improve Wellbeing of Children: Children Trusts (SG), 22 December 2004, pg11, Para 32.

In this context, VAL's Active Citizenship Encouragement (ACE) Project has been busy training a group of peer educators in many areas such as drugs awareness, sex and relationships, environmental awareness and we are now proud to announce that the ACE Educators are delivering Hear by Right workshops for young people aged 7 to 13 years old.



Young people aged between 14 and 25 years have been trained to deliver a fun and active session for groups of children and young people to enable them to have a greater understanding of:

- What participation is
- The principles of 'Hear By Right'
- Prioritising and identifying an area that they would like to become more involved in

The sessions are active and fun, involving lots of activities, none of which involve children and young people listening or sitting for more than 5 minutes. They involve the use of tools such as large graphic posters that help to make 'Hear by Right' easy to understand.

## HAVE YOUR SAY!

# ent (ACE) Does Hear By Right

By Anastasia James, Participation Officer

The young people are really excited about delivering this work and have already had a number of bookings from schools and community groups.

“The session is really fun and active and a great way to help young people understand ‘Hear by Right’ and ‘Participation’, it’s been great to take part in and I am looking forward to delivering it to young people”,

-Abbie, aged 14yrs

It is great that young people have the opportunity to help to ensure that professionals are involving them in fun and effective ways. What’s really special about this is that it is actually young people taking control and delivering a really important subject to other young people.

The whole project has been great to work on and the young people are a credit to the project and themselves – they really are ACE educators!



To find out more about the project, please contact: Anastasia James, Participation Officer on:

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For further information, examples and support in using ‘Hear by Right’ to promote the active involvement of children and young people check out:  
<http://www.nya.org.uk/hearbyright>