## Practitioner barriers to young people's participation

Barrier type - Accessibility

These barriers were identified at the Making Participation Work Practitioner Conference in October 2022. Methods of overcoming came from fellow practitioners and young people who are part of The Collective

Include expectations for accessibility of information in the request process for services wanting YP voice



Use supporting images (but be careful not to over do it with them) to help add meaning to the words. These could be from easy read or a symbols package, but could be from an online search

Keep it simple with short sentences, free from jargon



Barrier -Accessibility of information (and responsibility for this)

If something is made accessible for YP - it's also accessible to others so is very valuable

Get support from the wider community to produce materials e.g., community groups helping produce BSL and other alternative language versions, media students helping to produce videos



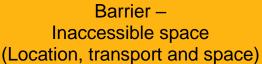
Offer virtual and remote options







Think about public transport options near to the venue, including timetables for when you'll be running



Consider parking options (particularly for those who need to use disabled spaces)



Work in partnership with schools and community venues to meet in accessible spaces





Remember to leave plenty of clear space between tables and chairs

Turn over for more barriers and tips to help get over them



## Practitioner barriers to young people's participation

Barrier type - Accessibility



Knowing the needs of the group and building in additional time to ensure needs are met

Talk to staff who already work with the YP for any hints





graphic recording + facilitation

Produce consultations in a range of formats including using symbols or easy read, online surveys, and others relevant to the YP you work with



Use multi-sensory approaches including sensory art

## Barrier -

Lack of staff trained/ confident to work with YP with different needs, ensuring those with more complex needs are represented







Offer information in different formats e.g., written, videos, audio



Look for community training to access, or groups e.g. students who may wish to support your work

Offer virtual and remote sessions



Barrier -

Communication

If a YP has specific needs, could a carer come to support those needs so the YP can still have a voice?

Is there something that could be borrowed? ——
Perhaps from school or even an old laptop from in your department

Barrier – Lack of digital access

Look at grants and funding that may be available to support with cost

Ask for support from community or students



Consider providing internet dongles for online access if young people wish to participate but would be unable to otherwise



