



## Youth Voice Bucks

Young people's version of the  
Participation Strategy for young people  
2022-25

**YOUTH**

**VOICE**

**BUCKS**

# Contents

Our Vision	1
The Participation Strategy for Young People 2021-2025	2
What does participation mean?	2
What is the Participation Strategy?	3
Our mission to engage with the young people in Buckinghamshire	4/5
What have we said we will do?	6
Develop a new website	7
Re-brand participation activity	7
Change our culture	8
Our 3 Rules of Engagement	9/10
Youth Voice Bucks – the team that listen to you!	11
What we do	12
Who we are	12
Contact	15



# 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.’



## The Participation Strategy for Young People 2022-2025

### What does participation mean?

Participation is about how we can involve you in different ways to hear your views and tell you about the action we will take as a result of what you have said. Participation activities include events, fun days out, forums, youth councils/boards, consultations, interview panels, mentoring councillors and more.



## What is the Participation Strategy?

Our participation strategy document sets out how we plan to make sure that this happens, the actions we will take and the different ways we will engage with you to make sure your voice makes a difference.

In Buckinghamshire we want to create opportunities for you to talk about the things that matter to you. We want to create simple ways for you to get involved in things that are fun, to help us understand how we can provide you with the best services and for you to know what we will do with what you say. We are committed to making sure that you are listened to and that your views and ideas change the way we provide services for you.

We want you to share with us your views, ideas and thoughts because we believe that your voices are what we need to hear to make Buckinghamshire the best place for young people to live.





Our mission to  
engage with the  
**young people** in  
Buckinghamshire



- Listen

listen to the views of young people in Buckinghamshire, ensuring we do so in ways that engage, respect the needs and ideas of the widest possible audience

- Act

work with young people to build opportunities, services and a better future which meets young people's needs and which they are part of building

- Respond

respond to the needs, interests and inspirations of young people in a timely and transparent manner, so that their ownership and engagement are maximised

- Repeat

participation will be a process: we listen, act and respond and then we continue to review and develop by listening, acting and responding





## What have we said we will do?

These are the top 3 actions that we will take to make sure that participation is the best it can be, that you have opportunities to share your views and that you can see the difference you have made.





## 1. Develop a new website

This website will tell you about all the exciting events and opportunities that you can get involved in, important information, who to contact and how you can join in. It will include fun activities, participation opportunities, training to help you develop your skills and forums that you can get involved with.

[www.youthvoicebucks.co.uk](http://www.youthvoicebucks.co.uk)

## 2. Re-brand participation activity

‘Youth Voice Bucks’ is the name that we have given to all of our participation opportunities and activities. We will use clear language so it’s easy for everyone to understand how to take part and there is a vibrant new look that will help you to recognise Youth Voice Bucks.



### 3. Change our culture

We want all our colleagues and council partners to understand that participation is everyone's responsibility. We have agreed some ways to change our culture in the Council to make sure that there are lots of opportunities to hear your views and involve you in making decisions and developing services. We will provide training to staff to make sure they have the skills to create opportunities to involve you, listen to you, act on what you say and tell you what they did as a result.

We will have a group of staff called 'Participation Champions' who will be leading on this activity for their own teams but come together as a group to ensure participation is joined up.





# Our 3 Rules of Engagement

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



## Rule 1:

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

## Rule 2:

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

## Rule 3:

We only engage with young people if we have a clear strategy about how we will listen, respond and act in a timely, transparent manner that maximises young people's ownership.





Youth Voice Bucks -  
the team that **listen**  
to you!



## What we do

Youth Voice Bucks aims to bring together all youth participation activity across the Council and its local partners. Our mission for young people is clear: we will listen to you, act on your views and then tell you what difference you have made.

## Who we are

Youth Voice Bucks has a core team of staff who run the following projects:

- Youth Voice Executive Committee (including Ambassadors from each Community Board area)
- We Do Care
- Shout Out For SEND



These are not the only opportunities we offer you. We are clear that youth participation is the responsibility of everyone who works with young people and we support our colleagues across the Council and partners to understand how to offer meaningful participation opportunities to the young people they work with.

We are also pleased to have an ambitious group of staff who are our ‘Participation Champions’ actively committed to offering you opportunities to get involved and have your voice heard.



## Contact Us:

If you would like to speak to us about this strategy you can contact us by emailing [youthvoicebucks@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:youthvoicebucks@buckinghamshire.gov.uk) or by calling 01296382583



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