



Covid-nineTEEN's

Hints and tips to help decision makers Youth Proof to Future Proof their services for young people.

Our podcast this week is about Youth Proofing Services, making your service more accessible to young people. We know that services aren't always designed with young people in mind. But luckily for you, we're here to help! So, here are our top tips and takeaways to help you youth proof your services.

Open and inclusive spaces

Asking decision makers to make changes is challenging! What is even more challenging is making sure they hear what you have to say, without bias. Build in an evaluation process so you can make every experience a good one, full of learning!

Celebrity fear

When supporting young people to make recommendations, help them remember that they are talking to other human beings. They maybe the BIG BOSSES but that doesn't mean they have super powers!

What we want adults to know

- **Language** - try writing an email this week with no more than 12 words in each sentence and no more than 3 words of 3 syllables in that sentence. Dare ya!
- **Integrity** - let us hold you to account, with love and respect.
- **Open spaces** - the foundation for youth proofing your organisation is to start with open, inclusive and accessible spaces.

Jargon proof

As a group of young people working closely with decision makers, we have come across a lot of jargon in our time! This isolates young people as we don't know what you're saying right in front of us. It's very intimidating. We also miss key information which can cause delays and difficulties later on. This isn't fair for anyone involved! Think first, speak after.

Feedback and empathy

If you make a promise, write it down, add a deadline. Keep young people who you made that promises to in the loop, so they can hold you to account. Without integrity, nothing works.

Relationships and praise

GREAT relationships with services and young people using those services is key! Ensure EVERYONE knows what is going well, what isn't and where the gaps are. Do more of the good stuff and less of the bad stuff. Don't forget to use praise and compliments as part of your evaluation!

Key Takeaways!

Finally, if you are some numbers to help you explore these topics further...

Youth Proof Charter - <https://bit.ly/PPYouthProofCharter>

National Youth Agency ,Safe Spaces - <https://nya.org.uk/guidance/>

Youth Proof Training - <https://participationpeople.com/training/>