



# Covid-nineTEEN's

## Hints and tips to help decision makers involve young people in commissioning and contract management.

Young people know exactly what services we want and need; how we think they should be delivered and improved. BUT when it comes to having the final say in service design, delivery and quality assurance, we aren't always involved. This podcast focuses on the benefits of involving young people from the start of commissioning cycles to continuous contract monitoring- them to help them get better and better.

### Not just a one off

There is no point having us there for just 1 session. With any commissioned service it develops and progresses with young people's needs at the centre (we hope!). Give young people the continuous support and training to help you keep up with emerging needs!

### Experts by experience

When making changes to any service specification it is going to be us, service users, that experience those changes. So, ask us the tough questions to keep your service at the top of its game. Listen to our feedback and act!

### What we want adults to know

- **Opportunities** - so many young people want to help make services better. Most of the time they don't know these exist. Work with us to make a recruitment plan!
- **Start to finish** - involve us, as appropriate, from start to finish of commissioning cycles.
- **Incentives** - food, nice space to meet and work in, new friends and making a difference. Promise and promote this!

### Use our #YouthVoice to inform

In this podcast we discussed: The Good, The Bad and The Dirty of our commissioning panel experiences. This involved all the barriers we have faced as well as what has worked well. Recognising the importance of #YouthVoice is step one. Using our voices to inform decision making is what makes the REAL difference.

### Importance of SMART targets

Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-Bound <- Use this to co-create a commissioning timeline, with us. This will guide keep everyone accountable for our promises!

### Feedback and incentives

Free food and friendly spaces to meet in helps us get involved at the start! What keeps us interested is knowing the difference we have made; data on the new skills we have developed and help to talk about them. Help us us apply all of this to our future life choices. Please!

### Key Takeaways!

Finally, if you want some more info to help you explore these topics further...

**Youth Proof Training** - <https://participationpeople.com/training/> | **Royal College of**

**Paediatrics and Child Health** - <https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/involving-children-young-people-specialised-commissioning>