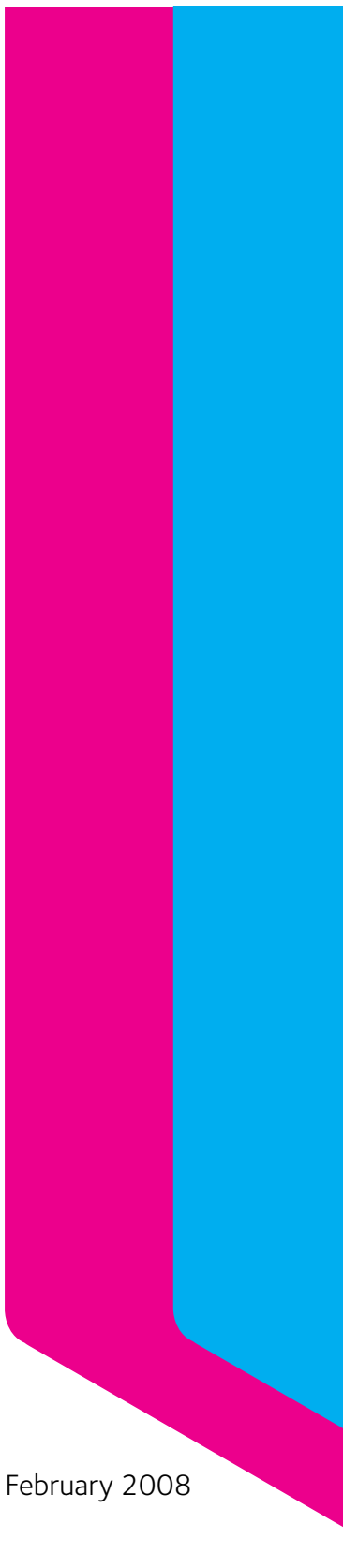


# Involving young people

## What do we mean?



BIG  
LOTTERY  
FUND



The Young People's Fund 2 (YPF 2) is a Big Lottery Fund grants programme that puts young people at the heart of planning and running projects that will benefit them. This short guide explains what we mean by young people's involvement and how it affects the way we assess projects.

### **What is involvement?**

By involvement we mean that young people will plan, manage and evaluate projects as well as benefit from them. The type of involvement will vary depending on what the project aims to do, but we expect the involvement to be youth led.

### **What do we mean by youth led projects?**

Youth led projects are where young people are able to influence decisions, policies and services to bring about the best possible outcomes for themselves and other young people. It also means that young people have the power to lead on the changes that the organisation will have to make to run a successful project.

### **What we are looking for in a successful project**

We expect to fund a small number of projects under YPF 2. We expect all of these projects to demonstrate excellence in involving young people.

An excellent project is one where young people:

- have the ideas, and plan the work that defines the need for the project
- set up and manage the project, going to adults for advice and support when they need to
- are involved in developing the organisation's policies and services, and
- lead on evaluating the project and publicising lessons learnt.



As the organisation running the project, you need to:

- make sure that young people are involved and represented in your organisation's decision-making
- show how young people influence your organisation's policies and practices
- make sure that young people can rely on adults to offer their expertise and support them in their work.

### **How will BIG assess a project?**

We will use the information in your application to assess your project. We will look at how the project will work and what outcomes it will achieve. Also, we look at your organisation's capacity to deliver and manage the project. Youth involvement is a key part of our assessment, and so we will look for evidence of how young people are involved in all parts of the project. With regard to youth involvement, we will pay particular attention to how:

#### **▶ Young people will research and identify why the project is needed**

We want to see young people leading the initial research and consultation, which shows that the project is needed. The methods used should be flexible, so a range of different young people will be able to give their views.

#### **▶ Young people will understand what the project aims to do and lead the project planning**

We want to see evidence that the organisation is committed to involving young people in planning and developing the project and we need to be convinced that they have taken young people's needs into account.

#### **▶ Young people will set the project's outcomes and milestones**

Young people will have influenced the outcomes. The outcomes should relate to the needs that were identified during the consultation.

#### **▶ Young people develop their experience and skills to run the project**

We want young people to be supported by the organisations in developing their skills and giving them the training they need. We want to see young people taking a lead, where possible, in budget setting, recruitment, monitoring, and decision-making.

#### **▶ Young people are involved in managing projects**

We want to fund projects that involve young people in all aspects of managing the project. Your organisation's structure and the way it plans projects should allow young people to become involved. They should also be kept informed of any relevant information and use what they have learnt to inform the project.

#### **▶ Young people lead on learning from the project**

Young people should be involved in gathering project information so that everyone can learn from the project. The way you gather information should reflect the relative skills and expertise of young people, which you should make use of and develop. Young people should be encouraged to take part in any evaluation and set future objectives allowing them to be involved in issues that matter to them. Young people will also be involved in monitoring and evaluating the project for BIG.

#### **▶ Young people have a role in running your organisation**

Your organisation should be committed to involving young people in its work, decisions and planning. Staff and resources should be in place to support this involvement.

### **Need more support?**

We have appointed the Participation Works Consortium to advise projects on how to involve young people more in all aspects of managing a project. Voluntary and community sector organisations can access their service free of charge. See [www.participationworks.org.uk](http://www.participationworks.org.uk) or call 0845 603 6725 for more details.