



Youth Proofing the Dartmoor National Park Authority Recreation Strategy

Context:

The development of strategies can typically be quite a dry process where the voices of traditionally under-represented groups are not heard. However, Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) has worked actively alongside Mosaic Young Champions to ensure that the experiences of 16 – 25 year olds are core to the development of the new DNPA Recreation Strategy and that the consultation process has been an inclusive one. The Mosaic Young Champions have called their involvement in this “youth proofing.”

What went well

- Mosaic Young Champions presenting to the Dartmoor National Park Authority and making the ‘youth proofing’ offer.
- Young people developing a consultative methodology alongside DNPA officers and advocating the process and the opportunity to their peers.
- DNPA ‘going to’ young people, meeting them in community settings where young people felt able to share informally their thoughts and beliefs at a time and in a way that was appropriate for them.
- DNPA using attractive consultative materials that included photographs taken by Mosaic Young Champions themselves and that were also available online.
- Targeting young people who were outside the usual consultative networks, e.g. not in education, employment or uniformed organisations.
- Youth workers incorporating the consultation into their ongoing programmes.
- Linking in with the YHA so that consultative sessions could include hands-on taster sessions.

Learning points for next time

- DNPA facilitators needed to be better prepared. The process was very different for them and required a new approach.
- Follow-up discussions with the same young people a year or two on, to see if their views have changed, would be beneficial.

Mosaic

Outcomes

- Mosaic Young Champions have developed new skills by participating in a strategic process, articulating their opinions imaginatively and powerfully.
- The new strategy, and other associated processes, will have young people at their very core.
- DNPA officers have developed new ways of engaging young people.
- The engagement of youth workers in the process will ensure an ongoing relationship between DNPA and a 'new generation' of 16 – 25 year olds.



“Time out”: Young Champion Steve having an informal chat with DNPA Chief Executive Kevin Bishop, after a full DNPA meeting

“The Mosaic Youth Project – it has helped us ‘youth proof’ our work and, more importantly, it has helped us to provide opportunities for more young people to enjoy the National Park’s special qualities.”

(Kevin Bishop, DNPA Chief Executive)

(For further details and resources please visit www.mosaicnationalparks.org or contact: The Mosaic Project, Campaign for National Parks, 6-7 Barnard Mews, London, SW11 1QU, Tel 020 7924 4077, Fax 020 7924 5761. © Mosaic 2011)