



Youth-led Steering Group

Context:

The youth-led Steering Group quickly became a crucial element of the Mosaic Young Champions Programme. It meets every other month, bringing together representatives from the youth sector, National Park Authorities, the YHA and young people themselves. It is chaired by a young person. An initial "visioning exercise" gave the group a clear aim and set the tone of the meetings; for example, they had to be fun and inclusive.

What went well

- Having a young person chair the meeting developed skills and confidences, and guided the project to success.
- Peer mentoring of a rotating young chairperson, by young people and project staff.
- Utilising innovative, inspiring venues with 'hearty' refreshments.
- Meetings being action focused with a clear agenda.
- Working in small groups whenever possible and having lots of 'Frizbee breaks'.
- Accessible meetings being held at appropriate times with travel costs being reimbursed for the young people.
- Interventions such as Ice breakers, name games, training and taster sessions bringing a sense of unity and camaraderie to the Steering Group.

Learning Points for next time

- Initial meetings were too long and staid. However, 'How was it for you' reviews at the end of meetings allowed the format to be greatly improved.
- Identify accredited chairmanship training.
- The Steering Group could have benefited from greater use of social media, for example by putting fun video summaries on You Tube.

Mosaic

Outcomes

- Youth leadership at the heart of the Mosaic Young Champion Project.
- Young people developing new skills such as chairing meetings and giving presentations.
- Tremendous professional pride and satisfaction for workers seeing young people develop and thrive.
- Partner organisations gaining increased confidence in letting young people lead at a strategic level and seeing that young people make things happen.



Materials developed at the Steering Group Visioning Workshop – though having all the meetings on the beach wasn't always possible!

"I had never chaired a group like this before. I was really nervous to start off with but then it got a lot easier. In fact I feel quite confident about it now and really enjoy it."

(Caz, Mosaic Young Champion, Steering Group Chair)

(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)