



Young Safeguarders' Group Terms of Reference

1. APPOINTMENT

The Young Safeguarders Group (YSG) is appointed by the Plymouth Safeguarding Children Board (PSCB) and shall be made up of partner agencies of the Board.

2. BACKGROUND

The 1989 UN Convention of Human Rights, Article 12 states that 'Every child has the right to have a say in all matters affecting them, and to have their views taken seriously'.

Within youth work, participation relates to activities which seek to engage with young people to inform strategic and system-wide decision making, including commissioning, safeguarding, policy and service change. These activities can range from young people's engagement in local regional and national consultation as well as introduce young people to democratic processes and supporting them to develop as citizens.

The involvement of children and young people in system design is important because they bring real life experience of using services and can reflect on what works and what requires improvement. This will in turn improve research, service design and delivery to more effectively meet need and achieve positive outcomes.

This is emphasised in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015), which states that local authorities are required to have a "culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings both in individual decisions and the development of services".

3. PURPOSE

The Plymouth Safeguarding Children Board (PSCB) is the statutory vehicle for co-ordinating and evaluating effectiveness of safeguarding and promoting welfare of children within the City of Plymouth.

The purpose of the YSG is:-

- 2.1 act as an advisory body, 'youth proofing' information, policies and procedures to help the PSCB discharge its duties; and
- 2.2 keep the focus on children and young people and the issues that are relevant to today's society.

4. MEMBERSHIP

Young people aged 14-19 are recruited to the YSG via promotion in youth centres, key-work and participation across Plymouth. As one of the core youth work values is voluntary engagement, members do not have to attend every meeting.

The lead YSG member is the Local Authority Participation Practice Manager, a member of the PSCB acting as the link. Professionally qualified youth workers from the Youth Service Participation Team facilitate the young people's group on a weekly basis.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

The PSCB will identify key areas for the involvement of young people to be discussed and determined at Board. Work is commissioned in discussion with young people. A decision is then made as to whether further consultation through the youth network is required.

Whilst there maybe capacity for the YSG to be approached for consultation on areas outside of the work of the PSCB, work areas dictated by the PSCB will always take precedence.

6. DUTIES

The YSG shall:-

- 6.1 ensure at all times that the Young People's Group achieves its objectives within the agreed Annual Service/Business Plan;
- 6.2 contribute to relevant national and regional consultations where appropriate;
- 6.3 share best practice across partner agencies; to improve collaborative working so that policies and procedures for hearing young peoples' voice can be effective;
- 6.4 act as the voice of young people and to represent the wider voice of young people in the city of Plymouth through the membership of the Youth Network;
- 6.5 be the link between the PSCB and the Youth Network which includes a range of targeted groups based across the city. For an up to date list of membership, please contact the Participation Team.

7. ACCOUNTABILITY The YSG Group is accountable to the PSCB.

8. INVITED TO ATTEND

In addition to members of the YSG Group, it may be appropriate to invite subject matter experts to provide advice, support and information.

9. QUORUM

For YSG meetings to be quorate three members must be present.

10. LEADS AND FACILITATORS:

Lead: Juliette Morgan

Participation Practice Manager
Services for Children and Young People
Tel: 01752 306598
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Lead Facilitator: Sarah Harris

Professional Youth Worker
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Address: Frederick Street Youth Centre, Frederick Street West, Stonehouse, Plymouth, PL1 5JW

Facilitator: Jenny Way

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Address: Frederick Street Youth Centre, Frederick Street West, Stonehouse, Plymouth, PL1 5JW

11. MEETINGS

The YSG will meet on a weekly basis, 4.30pm-6.30pm on Tuesdays.

12. COMMUNICATION

The SCR Group and PSCB will formally communicate through the following mechanisms:-

- 14.1 at PSCB Board meetings through Chair's attendance;
- 14.2 by quarterly written report to the PSCB;
- 14.3 any other form agreed by YSG and PSCB.

An annual group report will be prepared in consultation with group members.

Minutes of the YSG are not taken. Group meetings are subject

to a session write up by youth work staff who then action any requirements from the session.

13. REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE

Every year YSG will conduct a review of its purpose and effectiveness including compliance with its Terms of Reference, and propose any adjustments which may be required. These will be reviewed by the PSCB.

The Terms of Reference shall be next reviewed:

By YSG : February 2019

By PSCB: March 2019

14. APPROVED BY:

YSG Lead on: 8 March 2017

Independent Chair of PSCB on: 8 March 2017