

Evaluation

Ensuring we are making a difference to and through Youth Voice

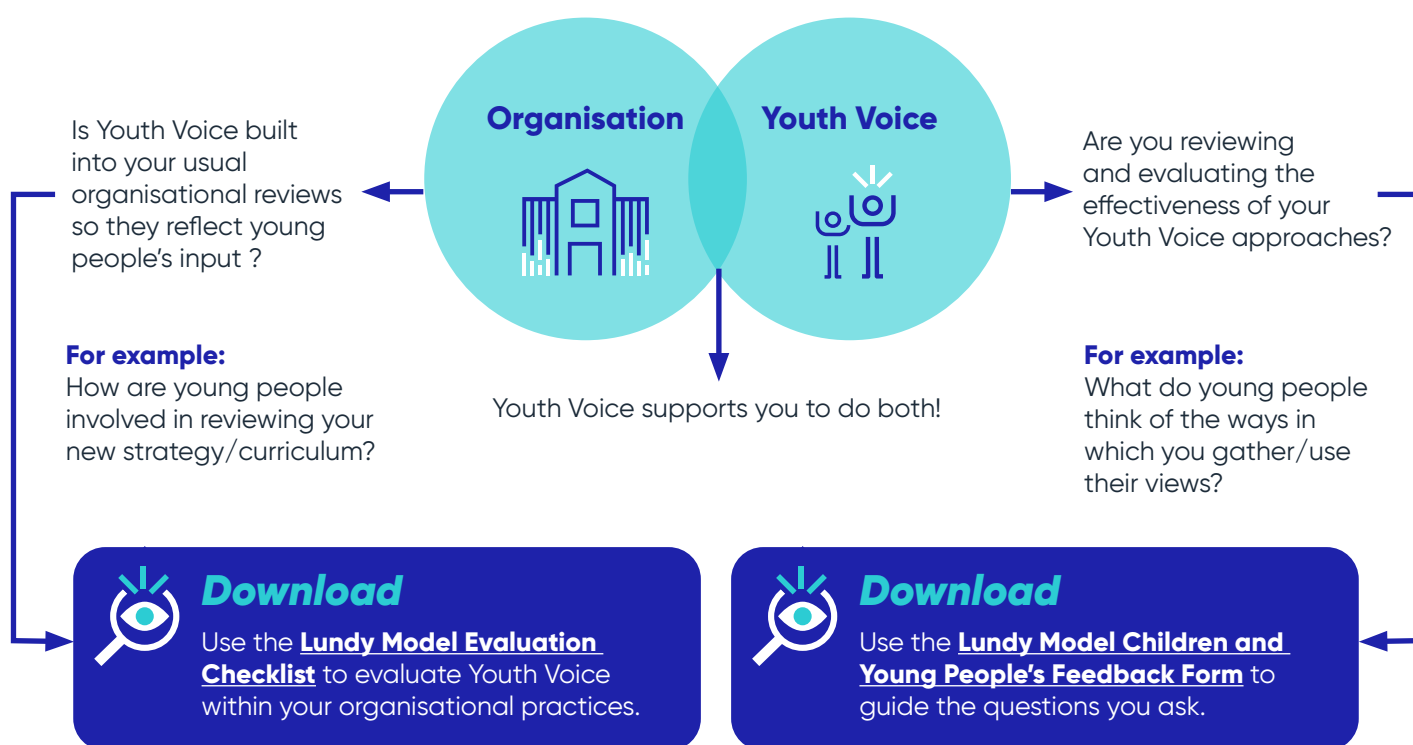


Why is this area important?

- The school/ organisation's usual evaluation processes should include Youth Voice.
- We need to evaluate the effectiveness of our Youth Voice approaches and use the findings to help us to evolve.

What do we evaluate?

The evaluation process should consider two elements:



Evaluation methods

The checklists support more formal evaluations of Youth Voice. You can also use any of the informal methods and practical tools shared in **Collaboration** and summarised in the **Depth Gauge**. For example:

- **Survey** – to gather all pupils' or participants' feedback.
- **Creative review tools** – (e.g., wishing tree) to gain feedback from different groups in different ways.
- **Focus groups** – to hear views from targeted young people.
- **Panel** – to involve young people in regular evaluations on an ongoing basis.

The insights you gather from young people throughout the year will feed into your summative evaluations.

Examples

The department puts a suggestion box outside the changing rooms alongside a question about Youth Voice (e.g. How can we listen to you better?). Pupils drop in their ideas on sticky notes.

As part of a school-wide approach, diverse young people are invited to focus groups run by different staff. Groups discuss what works well and what could be better about Youth Voice processes.

Members of the school sports council attend PE department meetings once a month and sit on occasional groups and panels, such as PE staff recruitment panels and the curriculum planning group.

Depth of Youth Voice

Practical steps

Our co-production group suggests:

- Build Youth Voice into the planning stage of organisational policies and practices so it is embedded from the start.
- Review and revise organisational policies and practices in the light of Youth Voice.
- Include additional, specific questions in all evaluations aimed at young people to find out:
 - to what extent young people felt they had a voice and that it was impactful
 - what worked well about Youth Voice
 - how Youth Voice could be improved.
- Use creative methods to gather feedback during or after Youth Voice work to see how well it is being/was received.
- See evaluation as just another element of Youth Voice – use all of the other area tips to help you to gather young people's feedback.



Young People's Top Tips

1. Let us know what you are doing/ have done as a result of Youth Voice.
2. Check whose voices you have gathered – do they represent the young people you need on board?
3. Seek the views of young people who chose not to share their voices – what stopped them?



Tools

(support the evaluation of Youth Voice. Use the **Collaboration** tools too)



What does a good Youth Voice experience look like? (Youth Sport Trust) *What does good look like* Description by young people on the co-production group of a positive YV experience.



Child-first coaching self-reflection sheet (Play Their Way) [95284-Self-Reflection-Voice.pdf \(playtheirway.org\)](#) Six simple questions to aid deliverers' reflection on child-first delivery.



Participation Framework Checklists and Evaluation Forms (Hub na nÓg) [Participation Framework Checklists and Evaluation Forms | Hub na nÓg \(hubnanog.ie\)](#) Lundy Model evaluation checklists and young people's feedback forms.



Collect – a toolkit for monitoring and evaluation (Street Games) *Collect – StreetGames* Tips, tools and resources for gathering data as part of monitoring and evaluation.



The Right Way – supports accessible, inclusive and meaningful youth participation (SYP) *AIM The Right Way – full checklist (squarespace.com)* Checklists to support planning and evaluation of youth participation in decision-making.