



# Youth Participation Policy



updated June 2020

Young people need a chance to develop. They also need the opportunity to have their voices heard and to make decisions for themselves.

Kennington Youth Club is committed to listening to young peoples' opinions and concerns and involving them in the running and organisation of the club so that we can ensure that our services meet their needs and that our community can benefit from their contributions.

## Why have Youth Participation?

Involving young people in running the club and the activities we provide and in the decisions we make is important because:

- Decisions we make will impact on them.
- Participation of everyone is essential to a healthy, happy, enjoyable club programme and atmosphere.
- We are making sure we apply equality of opportunity and commitment to promoting diversity.
- Activities and projects will be more effective when young people are involved in the planning and management – they will be relevant as they are based on young people's reality as opposed to an adult's perceptions.
- It helps develop their skills and abilities - young people can gain a huge amount of confidence from seeing their opinions and experiences valued and directly contributing to positive change in their club.
- Principles and Practice

## We will:

- Engage young people actively in the life of the club including planning activities and contributing to new ideas.
- Involve young people in all aspects of our decision-making and planning and by doing so help them develop and grow in confidence.
- Promote the role of young people in the contribution they can make to the club and this community, giving them opportunities to take responsibility for themselves and other club members.
- Provide positive and purposeful activities that are safe and that young people enjoy and have had a hand in shaping.
- Act as an advocate for young people as a club so that young peoples' voices can be heard and so they are seen as positive active citizens in their community.
- Find ways to enable young people to represent their views informally and formally, such as through meetings, activities committees, presentations to the management committee and club consultation events.

## Signed on behalf of the Management Committee:

Name..... Youth Leader

Signature.....

Date.....

(This policy will be reviewed annually)