

Taking Part

How to have your say about what is important to young people



A guide for young disabled people aged 12 to 25

It tells you about how you can get what you want from the youth service where you live

Easy read



national transition support team
working together to improve transition
for disabled young people

Aiming High for Young People

The government has made a plan called **Aiming High for Young People**.



This plan tells all local councils about how they should make sure all young people can feel included and have leisure activities that **all** young people can join in with.

Your council must **ask** young disabled people what **you** think about leisure.

They must find out



- what you like to do in your leisure time
- what makes it hard for you to join in with things
- what changes they need to make so it is easier for you to join in
- what information you and your family want
- the best ways to give you this information

Youth Opportunity Fund

Councils also have money to give young people for new things to do.

This is called the **Youth Opportunity Fund**.

Young people can ask for money from the Fund.

Young people help to decide who gets money from the Fund.





Speaking up about what is important to you

Councils and youth services need to know what is important to young people with disabilities.

They need to know what **you think** would make your area a better and safer place for young people.

If you do not tell them what is important to you, they will not know how to make leisure activities better and safer for everyone.



How Terry is making things better for all young people where he lives

Terry is a young man with a learning disability.

He joined his local youth parliament.

A youth parliament is a big group for young people to meet and talk about what needs to change in their area.



Terry and the other young people tell councillors what they think about things in their area.



Terry has worked with other young people to design a new youth centre that is accessible to all young people.



How to find out more and have your say

Contact your local youth service and ask to speak to the **Youth Participation Officer**.



You can find the telephone number on your local council website. Look up youth service or Youth Participation Officer.



Ask your Youth Participation Officer about

- The Youth Offer (what there is to do where you live)
- The Youth Opportunity Fund
- Your local youth council or parliament.

This guide was written by the National Transition Support Team, Mencap and the Council for Disabled Children. Published January 2010



Mencap Learning Disability Helpline: 0808 808 1111
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Thanks to Photosymbols for the pictures