

Involving Children and Young People

Introduction

The British Government agreed in 1991 to undertake the obligations set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by the British Government in 1991. One of the four core principles is the need to show respect for the views of the child, Article 12 of the convention states that children have a right to an opinion and for it to be listened to and be taken seriously.

The Government is therefore committed to giving children and young people a real say and real choices about the government policies and services that affect them.

All BWL clubs should take a similar approach and ensure that young people have an opportunity to be consulted and, where appropriate, be involved in decisions that relate to their involvement in the sport as well as within the specific area of safeguarding policy and procedures.

Key principles when involving young people

- The extent that a child can be involved in decision making will depend on their age and level of maturity and understanding.
- Children and young people's involvement and opinions must be acknowledged and appreciated.
- Children and young people should be treated honestly. Their expectations need to be managed and boundaries that may limit their involvement explained.
- Children and young people should be provided with timely feedback about how their involvement has shaped or influenced a policy or approach.
- All children and young people should be given the opportunity to be involved irrespective of race, religion, culture, disability, age, ethnic origin, language or the area in which they live.
- Children should always be provided with age appropriate information to help them understand.
- Information for young people should be clear and accessible and in appropriate language and style of communication.
- Children should be supported to enable them to make a positive and effective contribution e.g. by the welfare officer.

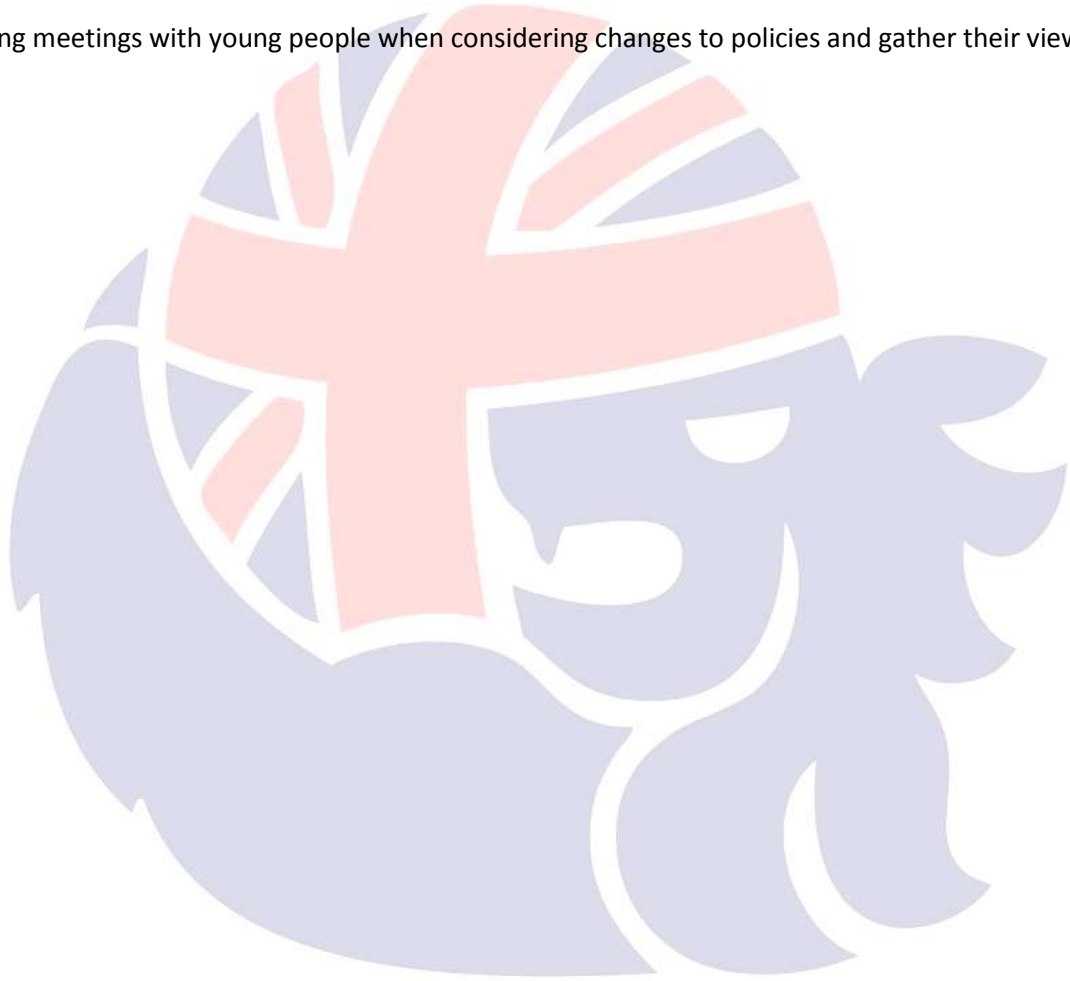
Some ideas on involving young people include:

- Establishing a young person's forum to seek the views of children in the club.
- Identifying a young person's representative to communicate young persons' views in formal settings such as Club Committee Meetings.

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- Involving young people in helping develop literature, posters and website information on child safeguarding issues.
- Carrying out questionnaire based surveys to seek views and comments from young people.

Holding meetings with young people when considering changes to policies and gather their views.



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