

The background of the page features dark silhouettes of people walking, overlaid on a teal gradient. The silhouettes are positioned behind the text, with some figures appearing to be in motion, walking towards the right.

➔ Our community – good or bad?

Aim: To help young people think about the priority needs in their area as a first step to developing their list of funding criteria.

A good way to focus young people on what difference a YouthBank might make is to get them to think about their community – their estate, town or locality.

You will need

Paper, pens, art and collage materials, if available, and at least 2 hours.

What to do

Ask young people to say what is positive about where they live. And what is negative. At its simplest, they could just make a list. But you could also turn it into a more creative, fun and visual activity:

- Ask young people to devise a poster or large artwork, showing what is good and bad about their community.
- Use cheap disposable cameras, if they seem appropriate, and encourage young people to take photographs that show the positive and negative side of their community. They could then be arranged as a display montage.
- Being really ambitious, use video cameras to do the same. Or, just concentrate on the sounds – use audio cassette recorders (or minidisk) to record interviews with each other or members of the public, on the highs and lows.

Discussion

Talk about the results. What positive things can be built on? What negative things can be changed? What is it appropriate and realistic for a YouthBank to be involved in?

Afterwards

Preserve young people's work on this exercise and use it as part of your YouthBank's planning and monitoring. When you assess how successful your past year has been, refer to these early thoughts and look at your achievements in the light of them.