

Make Meetings Part of Youth Work

Structured meetings may be efficient but they can be intimidating and boring, especially for those not used to the process. This is particularly true for young people and this could be a barrier that can prevent them from taking part. The involvement of young people ensures the project meet the wants and needs of those that attend.

It offers young people the chance to develop skills that can be used later in life.

Meetings are not just about ensuring the project complies with group rules but is an opportunity to develop understanding, ideas, co-operation and commitment between members. This will benefit all involved.

Meetings can be held which meet the requirements of attending to club business whilst being dynamic, encouraging the inclusion of all members and being part of the process of developing the skills of young people.

To achieve these goals it is necessary to think of how meetings can be held, to make them more flexible and fun. A possibility is to break up the meeting into smaller discussion groups or perhaps not take such detailed minutes; a further option is to allow a young person to run the meeting. It is a question of trying to be as flexible as possible and encourage people to take part; even adults find meetings difficult and boring.