Kailo recommendations

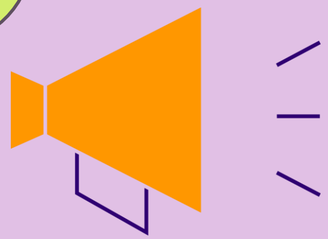
Participation, place-based working and systems thinking

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Kailo

Our recommendations

1



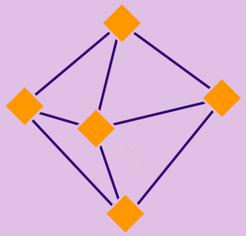
Embed meaningful youth participation in decision-making

2



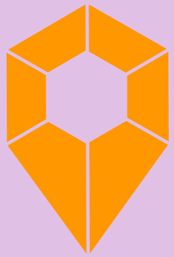
Recognise lived experience as a valid and complementary form of evidence

3



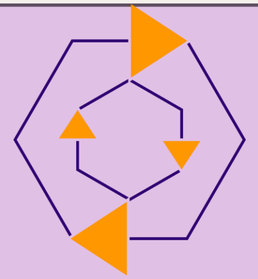
Address the interconnected social determinants of young people's mental health

4



Take a place-based approach that responds to local needs and inequalities

5



Move from understanding systems to learning through action

01. Embed meaningful youth participation in decision-making

Policy makers, commissioners and organisations should make young people's participation a strategic priority in decisions that affect their lives, including the allocation of resources, the design of initiatives and their implementation.

Meaningful participation should be embedded across organisational strategies and ways of working, rather than relying on individual roles or isolated engagement activities.

This requires…

- Ring-fencing sufficient resources to remunerate and support young people's participation, including skilled youth facilitators, appropriate training and wellbeing support.
- Ensuring decision-making spaces are safe, accessible, equitable and designed to enable young people to influence decisions meaningfully.
- Recognising and showcasing young people's talents and expertise to challenge assumptions, shift mindsets and influence the wider system.

02. Recognise lived experience as a valid and complementary form of evidence

Policy makers, commissioners and practitioners should recognise young people's and communities' lived experiences, knowledge and expertise as valuable forms of evidence alongside administrative data, academic research and professional knowledge.

These different forms of evidence should be considered together, with attention to the distinct questions each can answer and the perspectives each brings to understanding young people's lives and informing decisions about policy, services and resources.

This requires…

- A shift in mindset away from traditional research, data and evidence being the only type of evidence to be considered when making decisions.
- Creating space and resource to enabling lived experience to be meaningfully brought into conversations and decision making
- Questioning and challenging traditional forms of evidence, and acknowledging the gaps in this, and how bringing in lived experience can fill some of our gaps in knowledge.

03. Address the interconnected social determinants of young people's mental health

Policy makers, commissioners and local leaders should look beyond clinical services to consider the interconnected social, economic and environmental factors that shape young people's mental health and wellbeing. This includes factors such as access to education and employment, safety, relationships, recreation and belonging.

Develop ambitious, shared priorities across departments and organisations to address these determinants, supported by coordinated action and resources across relevant policy areas and services.

This requires…

- Creating shared priorities and goals across systems and sectors
- Working in new, and often unfamiliar ways, with organisations, departments, and subject knowledge you might not be used to engaging with; moving away from siloed working and learning.
- Taking time to understand how individual organisations, people, services, might be connected to wider social, economic and environmental factors.

04. Take a place-based approach that responds to local needs and inequalities

Organisations should recognise that young people's experiences, opportunities and support needs vary across places, including within Devon.

Develop approaches that respond to local contexts and the priorities identified by young people and communities, while ensuring equitable access to opportunities and resources across different places. This requires understanding how local assets, relationships, services and structural inequalities interact to shape young people's experiences.

This requires…

- Understanding experiences of communities in different places by working with communities, local organisations and young people to understand
- Mapping out the strengths and assets of different communities and working alongside and with them, to address local needs and inequalities.
- Not taking a 'one size fits all' approach to needs, supports and services across Devon, and adapting, flexing and designing bespoke ways of working in different places.

05. Move from understanding systems to learning through action

Organisations should move beyond building an understanding of the challenges facing young people towards testing, adapting and implementing responses in practice.

Resource initiatives to support implementation, not only discovery and co-design, and create opportunities to learn from what works, for whom and in what circumstances. Use these insights to adapt approaches and inform wider organisational and system change.

This requires...

- Knowing when to transition into doing, testing and implementing, and not to get stuck in the listening without action.
- Resourcing initiatives that support implementation of initiatives that have been developed and co-designed
- Being confident in testing and learning through action (even if it's not perfect) and learning from the process to improve in future iterations.
- Involving young people, communities and others in learning, and iterations of initiatives.

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[Add contact name, role and email]

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