

SAFEGUARDING VOICES LEADERSHIP NETWORK

What we did

1. Welcome, norms, and intros.
2. Thermometer check (-3 to +3): Where is voice/participation within your MASA today?
3. Miro mini-tutorial (text, stickies, emojis, shapes; show/hide cursors).
4. Live problem-solving circle (clarify → question → advise).
5. Tool of the Month: Youth-Engaged Feedback Loop.
6. Success spotlight and close.

Tool of the month

- **What was the opportunity?** (Invitation and purpose)
- **What you told us.** (Themes of feedback)
- **Together we did.** (Actions taken as a result)
- **What we couldn't change** — and why. (Honesty about constraints)
- **What's happening next.** (Next steps and how CYP/families can stay involved)

The challenge

Lead a task-and-finish group to improve multi-agency co-production of children's plans — where to start and how to design it well?

Clarifying questions raised

- What is the buy-in across partners?
- Do you have a framework/charter to start from?
- Who is at the table — are lived experience voices included?
- What influence does the group hold; what can actually be changed?
- Does everyone share the same vision of success ("what does good look like")?
- Is there a budget to recognise lived experience contributions?

Suggestions

Foundations & governance

- Draft clear Terms of Reference for the group.
- Use a Co-production Charter to guide expectations.
- Establish shared language around participation, consultation, engagement, and co-production.

Design & inclusion

- Involve people with lived experience from the outset, not as an afterthought.
- Recognise and reward young people (payment, references, training).
- Look for under-represented groups to ensure diversity.

Practice tools

- Use a Learning Hub approach: define good → map current practice → identify gaps.
- Ensure a feedback loop is in place from the start.

Rhythm & review

- Hold the group in-person where possible.
- Re-assess membership after the first meeting to confirm right people are present.

Young consultants' key messages

- Always close the loop: young people lose trust if they don't see outcomes.
- Be authentic and realistic: don't over-promise.
- Make participation flexible to young people's needs.
- Provide training so young people know how to contribute effectively.

Creative ideas

- Run a Dragon's Den-style workshop to build a co-production model in a fun, collaborative way.

Success Stories!

Liverpool: Openness and honesty about the need for change; creating an "honest space."

Westmorland & Furness: Clarity about who to connect with to "get out of the starting tracks."

Stockport: Having a young person sit in the room transformed the dynamic when refreshing the co-production charter. Also opened a Hub for care-experienced young people offering safe space, advice, and therapy.

Cheshire East: Partnership has signed off on its participation strategy.

Wirral: Learning event planned for November focused on engaging multiple partners with babies, CYP, and families.

Sefton: Striving to put the lived experience of children and families at the forefront of learning and development.