

I am currently a youth worker working with children and young people from the age of 6 years to 18 years.

An example of a successful youth participation model I used with my youth group aged 12-18 years was The Laura Lundy Model of Youth Participation which is a rights-based model that conceptualises Article 12 of the UNCRC, and breaks down what is need for a young person to experience meaningful participation in decision making. The model has four components which are: **space**, **voice**, **audience**, and **influence**.

This model was the foundation of recent work I have done with the 12-18 year old group. They **voiced** that they had concerns and questions about the risks of underage drinking, and wanted to do something to inform their friends and other young people as well as themselves. They decided to create a short film on the risks of underage drinking. As their youth worker I ensured that there was a safe **space** to express their views, questions and planning of the film. Over a few months they spent time research, planning scenes, writing scripts and preparing props. When they completed the film they then asked for it to be viewed by an **audience** other than their peers, they entered it into a competition recently and are waiting to hear back. So that was the beginning of an ongoing process with the group as from this film making they have been **influential** to one another. Comments such as we have a **voice**, we learned so much from making this film and it was a fun experience have led the group to applying for their own grant, writing up their grant application for Youthbank, which they have never done before. They were called for interview where their **voices** and ideas were shared and heard.

Following on from the interview they were awarded a grant which they have chosen to create another film on other issues affecting young people. From this group **voicing** their concerns and being listen to, respected and given the **space** to engage and develop in many ways they have taken ownership of their group and are participating in a way I have not seen them do before and i believe it is because they have realised and experienced that their voice matters, their participation is important and they have first hand experience of these issues that are affecting young people and they should have the space to have meaningful participating in decision making. This model was the foundation of this process and its clear four opponents were clear to both young people and staff.

A	useful	link
		http://www.tusla.ie/services/family-community-support/prevention-partnership-and-family-support-programme/participation/child-and-youth-participation-conferences/