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| **Name of Local Authority/Organisation** | Essex County Council |
| **Project Name** | Youth Strategy groups |
| **Lead member of staff** | Vicky Young |
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| **Youth voice strand that the case study demonstrates** | | | | | | | | | |
| x | Engaging |  | Campaigning |  | Influencing |  | Elections |  | Make your mark |

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| **Background and rationale: How did this work originate, what was the need and how was it identified?** | |
| This piece of work started because young people were not fully represented at the Youth Strategy Groups that take place in Essex.  Decisions were being made about what would be provided for young people in their local areas and districts but the input of young people was minimal. We wanted to change this. | |
| **Who was involved and what were there roles: (Professionals, young people, partners etc.)**  *Please add more boxes if necessary* | |
| Essex Youth Service |  |
| Essex County Council |  |
| District Councils |  |
| A range of Partner organisations including voluntary groups and community groups |  |
| Elected members ( local and County level) |  |
| The Police |  |
| Schools |  |

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| **What did you do and how did you do it?** |
| Over a period of a few months Staff, volunteers and young people carried out a consultation survey with young people across the 12 districts in Essex. This was carried out in school’s colleges, youth centres, youth groups, community groups and via detached and outreach youth work. We also attended local events to undertake consultation with any young people in attendance.  Over 10,000 young people were involved and had the opportunity to voice their opinions about the issues affecting tem within their communities. The results were analysed and visual aid charts and graphs were devised to help in decision making processes at local and county level. Ensuring that the views of young people were helping to influence the decision making about services for young people. |

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| **What was the impact, how did it affect change, what was different as a result of this work?** |
| The results of the consultation are used at local level when setting priorities for the Youth Strategy commissioning plans  The consultation was able to clearly highlight the differences across the 12 districts and enable young people to have more localised services that meet their local needs.  The Consultation also highlighted county wide issues that have enables the youth service in Essex to address these via joint commissioning.  Young people now sit directly on the Youth Strategy Groups alongside elected members and commissioners ensuring the ongoing representation of young people in these meetings. |

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| **What were the outcomes for the young people?** |
| Young people have a more localised offer via commissioned projects  Young people are represented on the youth Strategy group and hare directly involved in decision making processes  Young people’s voice in decision making has been enhanced  Young people have directly influenced the youth offer across Essex  Young people feel empowered and valued. |

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| **Are there any documents, weblinks additional information available about this? – please provide details of where these can be found** |
| The consultation report is not available to the public |

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| **What was the key learning from this piece of work, What top tips can you give to others who may want to replicate or do similar work to this?** |
| Young people are always willing to engage in they are informed and aware of how it will benefit them and their community – it’s important that staff supporting consultation have positive relationships with young people as they are key to engaging them.  That young people can have ownership of decision making - the priorities set were a direct result of the consultation. They can influence change. |