

BLOG IT!

Andy Baker provides a guide to a new young people's blog.

UK Youth Voice (UKYV) has joined the blogosphere! UKYV is the youth-led group within UK Youth. We meet four times a year to work on various projects aimed at improving youth services; we also plan and run our Annual National Young People's Conference.

Telling the world

We decided to make a blog so that everyone in the world can see how amazing being apart of UKYV is! Our blog was designed and produced by UKYV with support from Claire, our e-Participation Officer (see her article below).

In the blog we write about what we get up to at UKYV meetings and other events. It features videos, photos and information on the



various projects we are involved in, as well as regular diary posts following meetings and events.

We choose how it looks - the layout, colours, theme and, obviously, the content. We have also made it interactive by offering everyone the chance to comment on the our posts – and our 'widgets' add to the possibilities – for example, we chose Flickr to show a

photo gallery, which can be seen in the sidebar.

Blogging potential

Having a blog means that we can share the work we do with everyone, and we can use it to advertise our conference (it's in July, by the way!). People can comment on what we are saying and give us ideas on what we can do better.

Have a look at our blog and find out more about us. Updates about next year's conference will appear there soon!....or maybe you could try setting up a blog with your group!?!

Andy Baker is PR and Media Officer for UK Youth Voice. visit [our blog!](#)



Why blog?

Claire Dever looks at the thinking behind setting up the blog.

Blogging fulfils many of the group's aims as it can improve e-participation, act as a recruitment tool and promote the work they do using a youth-friendly medium.

Blogging plus points

- Many blogs are free and have step-by-step guidelines on how to do it.
- They are easy to set up, even easier to maintain, and offer help and support if you have any difficulties.
- Blogs are as safe as you make them – you can control the settings, so anything and everything can be published or, make one person a moderator, so no content can be published without their authorisation – we chose the latter option!
- Blogs can provide up-to-date information on the projects your young people are working on and give a useful timeline that your group can use for evaluation purposes.



- You can demonstrate the work you do using a variety of methods and media, such as photos, videos and podcasts.
- A blog also allows the whole group to contribute to, giving young people the responsibility and ownership they want.

Claire Dever is e-Participation Officer with UK Youth.

contact ▶ Claire.

visit ▶ for more on UK Youth Voice.

Andy Baker and Claire Dever (above).

UK Youth Voice in discussion (other pics).



NEWS & INFO

Survey questions

The Universities of Cambridge and Leicester, alongside CSV, are looking for organisations that are willing to complete a five minute questionnaire about the young people they work with.

Organisations who take part will be sent summaries of the report and also invited to special events to be hosted by the University of Cambridge, the University of Leicester and CSV.

go ▶ to take the survey.

contact ▶ Tom Harrison to request a hard copy.

OPPORTUNITIES

Climate change images

COPArt is a visual petition aimed at anyone who is passionate about climate change. People of all ages are asked to upload images or clips they have created which contain their message about climate change. All of these will be collated into one large digital picture montage. The initial montage was displayed at Copenhagen, so that politicians from around the globe can witness what people feel and want to do about catastrophic climate change. The project will run until at least until the end of June 2010. COPArt is part of the Climate Squad project, run by Global Action Plan and funded by Bank of America and v, the National Young Volunteers Service.

go ▶ to COPArt.

go ▶ for more on the Climate Squad.

Film request

The Human Rights Watch International Film Festival is looking for youth-produced film, video and animated works on human rights issues made by young people, aged 19 and under. Young people across the globe are exposing human rights issues faced by themselves and their communities.

Supported by Adobe Youth Voices' Youth Producing Change programme, the Festival provides a platform for youth to share their perspectives with audiences worldwide. Selected films will travel to Film Festivals in New York, London and San Francisco.

go ▶ for more information and to submit your film.

REPORT

Participation growing up

Changemakers in partnership with the Local Government Information Unit has published *Youth Participation Growing Up?* The report describes theories of youth participation in relation to UK policy. The report concludes that, although there have been significant advances in recent years, there is a need to re-examine local practice to ensure youth representation is meaningful and can make a real difference to young people's lives.

pdf ▶ for more, including download.

NETWORK
UPDATE

YOUTH VOICE

ACCREDITATION

FEATURES

ACTIVITIES

WORKFORCE

NEED TO KNOW