

# LOCAL YOUTH XPERTS

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MENTAL HEALTH &  
LEISURE ACTIVITIES



# INFORMATION FOR ALL THE TOOLS

## **Who can benefit from the tools**

- decision-makers in the municipal council, the executive committee, the heads of childhood and youth services board, or other main committees
- service managers, headteachers, project leaders, or advisors in the municipal administration

## **Those who are invited must receive understandable, engaging information about**

- what the theme is and what the answers will be used for
- who is wondering about this and why these questions are being asked
- how the answers will be used

## **The responsibility of decision-makers when collecting answers from children and young people**

- ensure that the participants receive a greeting or a video as thanks for taking part
- ensure that the participants know how they can get in touch if they have more to contribute or are wondering about something
- ensure that the participants are told how the answers they have contributed have been used as the basis for the decision and what weight it has been given. This can be done through a text, an audio file, or a video
- publish on the municipality's website or social media how the answers have been used as the basis for the decision and what weight it has been given

# 08 OPEN DIALOGUES FOR ADVICE

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## **Purpose of the tool**

Decision-makers collect experiences, advice, or concrete solution proposals from children/young people by arranging open dialogues. The dialogues are arranged in places that children/young people may experience as safe. The dialogues can be open to everyone or only for children/young people with a particular type of experience. The aim is for decision-makers to learn from different groups of children/young people what is important to them, in order to make correct decisions.

## **What the tool can be used for**

- Decision-makers collect experiences, advice, and solution proposals by arranging dialogues for children/young people on different themes, to create the best possible municipality for those who will live in the municipality in the future.

## **Which children and young people can take part**

All

# USER GUIDE

## Who can be invited

- A larger group of children/young people
- Children/young people with a specific type of experience

## Possible themes for the dialogue

- How the mental health services in the municipality feel
- Which changes are needed in the School Health Service
- Which leisure activities the municipality is lacking
- How to prevent violence and youth crime
- What kind of help young people who abuse drugs need
- What the municipality can do so that fewer young people spend evenings in the town centre
- What schools in the municipality can do to improve learning
- What schools in the municipality can do to improve well-being

## How invitations can be made

- The decision-makers who will take part in the dialogue can make a short video where they explain the dialogue and why they are arranging it
- If the dialogues are open to all children/young people, information is posted on social media about the dialogue meeting and its theme
- If the dialogue is for children/young people with a specific type of experience, information is sent to them through health services, the Youth Outreach Services, the Child Protection System, or the police
- Information is given about why the decision-makers are there and what they will do with the answers they receive

## Places the dialogues can be arranged

- Primary or lower secondary schools
- Youth clubs
- Low-threshold houses
- Cultural venues
- Football pitches or skate parks

## How the dialogues can be conducted

- Start with one or more energisers, something to get to know each other a little
- Give information about why they are there and what the answers will be used for
- Invite those who take part to talk about what is good, what should be done differently, and give advice on what the municipality should improve in the future

## **The decision-makers' responsibility after they have received advice and ideas**

- Leave information on how children/young people can get in touch if they have more to contribute or are wondering about something
- Post information on social media about how the advice from children/young people has been included in the process

## **Places where the dialogues can be organised**

- Primary or lower secondary schools.
- Youth clubs.
- Low-threshold services.
- Cultural venues.
- Football pitches or skate parks.

## **How the dialogues can be carried out**

- Start with one or more energisers, something to get to know each other a bit.
- Provide information about why they are there and what the answers will be used for.
- Invite those who take part to talk about what is good, what should be done differently and to give advice on what the municipality should do better in the future

## **The responsibility of the decision-makers after they have received advice and ideas**

- Leave information on how children and young people can get in touch if they have more to contribute or have questions.
- Post information on social media about how the advice from children and young people has been included in the process.