

Social Network Sites and Youth Participation

Action Learning Set - Outline Programme

Action Learning Set members will come together for full day or residential sessions every month to hear expert input, join group discussion and workshops, develop practical skills, share practice and learning, and to work on shared action projects that build the capacity of public bodies to promote youth engagement through Social Network Sites (SNS).



Monthly meetings will be complemented by an actively supported online network for the Action Learning Set, and opportunities to carry on discussions between meetings through web conferencing.

Meeting 1: Friday January 23rd

Understanding Social Network Sites & exploring opportunities and risks

Introductions: Getting to know each other and introducing the Action Learning Set.

Presentations

Introducing Social Network Sites (Tim Davies)

Participation, consultation and commissioning in children's services (Jasmine Ali, LGIU)

Keeping young people safe online (CEOP [Invited])

Responding to opportunities and risks (Josie Fraser)

Hands on activities:

Hands on exploration of Social Network Sites

Identifying opportunities and barriers for our work.

Discussions

SNS and participation - mapping existing practice and new possibilities

Exploring responses to opportunity and risk

Meeting 2 (Residential): Wednesday 25th - Thursday 26th February

Social Media, Social Networks and Young People's Experiences

Updates from participants and identifying shared action learning projects.

Presentations

Beyond simply SNS - integrating other social media tools (Dave Briggs, DavePress Ltd)

How young people are using SNS (Sonia Livingstone, LSE [Invited])

Young people's experience of using SNS

A practitioner's view of SNS participation

Hands on activities:

Social Media Masterclass - exploring tools including listening dashboards, online video, SNS pages and groups, blogging and more...

Network Mapping - a shared workshop for young people and adults to explore the power of networks in creating change.

Action projects

Time to work on action learning projects with expert input

Discussions

How young people are using SNS & what it means for participation.

Meeting 3: Thursday 26th March

Approaches to SNS Participation: tools, techniques and methods

Updates from participants and peer-assist session for sharing practical problems and solutions

Presentations

Supported Social Media (Radiowaves [Invited])

SNS Applications - building our own tools (Steven Flower, Substance Coop)

Engage on MySpace, or build your own network? (Tim Davies)

Hands on activities:

Social Media Surgery - a chance to get expert input and consultancy on your social networking questions.

Action projects

Time to work on action learning projects with expert input

Meeting 4: Friday April 24th

A strategic approach: exploring where SNS participation fits

Updates from participants		
Presentations Social Network Sites within a youth participation strategy (Tom Gaskin, Norfolk County Council) How SNS participation fits into a local authority (Carl Haggerty, Devon County Council) Key issues in Children's Services (Jasmine Ali, LGIU)	Action projects Time to work on action learning projects with expert input.	Hands on activities: Simulation game: exploring the use of social network sites in community consultation.
		Discussions Roundtable discussion - fitting SNS participation into your organisation.

Meeting 5 (Residential): Thursday 21st - Friday 22nd May

SNS Participation and Digital Democracy: and sharing our learning so far

Updates from participants and peer assist / open space session for sharing learning		
Presentations Democracy and New Media (Mark Wheeler, London Met Uni) Digital democratic potential (Julie Glidden, 21st Century Consultancy) Youth engagement online (Members of the UKYP [Invited])	Hands on activities Workshop: creating the ideal digital democracy in your town Skill sharing session: using everyday digital media tools	
	Action projects Time to work on action learning projects with expert input.	Discussions Trend spotting - what's coming next and how can we be ahead of the curve?

Meeting 6: Friday June 26th

Activism and evaluation: creating change and measuring impact

Updates from participants and an opportunity to explore the future of the Action Learning Set		
Presentations Young people as activists (Tbc) Empowering young people to campaign using SNS (Centre for Local Democracy, LGIU) Show me the stats: metrics for SNS participation (Delib [Invited])	Hands on activities Extra opportunities to focus on issues that participants have raised during previous meetings and web conferences.	
	Action projects Sharing learning and reporting back outcomes.	Discussions Fishbowl: social network sites as platforms for activism - and the role of local authorities.

Question & Answer

Who is the Action Learning Set for?

The sessions are designed for both practitioners and managers exploring the use of Social Network Sites (SNS) to engage young people in local democracy and/or organisational decision making.

Who is leading the Action Learning Set?

Tim Davies of Practical Participation and Jasmine Ali from LGUI will facilitate all of the sessions and the online network, with additional guest facilitators and experts at each session.

What are the 'action projects'?

As well as providing opportunities to share, discuss and get support for your own individual work engaging with SNS, we hope to provide opportunities to collaborate on shared project - such as drafting a clear policy framework for using SNS, and developing our own SNS participation tools.

Where can I find out more?

Contact Jasmine Ali at LGUI (jasmine.Ali@csn.info)