

**YOUR VOICE
MATTERS!**

Powys Youth Engagement Strategy



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Our commitment to you

We are committed to ensuring that every young person in Powys feels valued, heard and empowered to speak up for what they believe in. We believe in working together to build a community where young people can thrive, and we are here to support you every step of the way.

From the Leader of the Council: “Let me be very clear, as the Leader of Powys County Council, the voice of our young people is paramount in securing a sustainable future for our county.

Sustainability means that the decisions we take today to meet our needs will not hinder the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. So, on behalf of my fellow councillors I promise that, as future custodians of this fantastic county, your voice really matters.

The choices we make today will shape your tomorrows, so we are committed to listening to you about your ambitions for the future and involving you in decisions about your education, your community, and your wellbeing.

We want to hear your ideas and act on your concerns. It is my opinion that when young people share their views and use their creativity to help make decisions, we are collectively stronger, now and for future generations.”

From the Chief Executive: “I want every young person in Powys to know that what you think really matters. Whether you live in a town or out in the countryside, your ideas and dreams are super important for making Powys better. We promise to listen to you and include you in the decisions that affect your life.

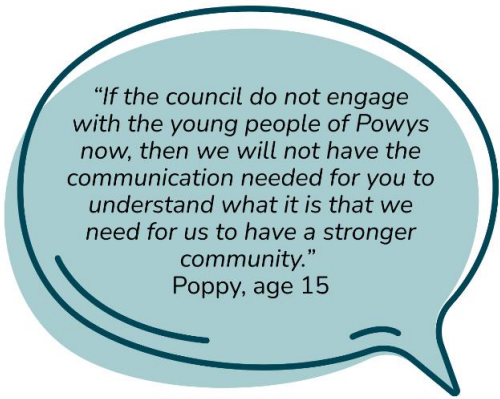
“We know that living in Powys is special and being a young person here has its own fun and challenges. That's why we want to make it easy for you to share your thoughts and help us improve Powys for everyone.

“Your ideas will help us build a stronger, more friendly community where every young person feels important and supported. Thanks for being part of this journey. Together, we can make a big difference!”

From Poppy, aged 15: “Powys is well known for being the most rural county in Wales and while this is an excellent quality for farmers and perhaps even those wanting to retire in the peaceful countryside. It's not the most ideal for the youth of Powys.

“Although the cozy and quaint towns of Powys create a sense of community that is comforting and perfect for young children, as you grow older you begin to recognise that there is a lack of opportunities.

“While it is important to keep people in Powys to increase our population and make life more enjoyable for its residents, it is also just as important to prioritise it's young people and their future, as in 20 years' time, it will hopefully be us living here and therefore if the youth are unhappy now and they move away for more opportunities, then you cannot expect us to return to keep our population alive.



“If the council do not engage with the young people of Powys now, then we will not have the communication needed for you to understand what it is that we need for us to have a stronger community.”
Poppy, age 15

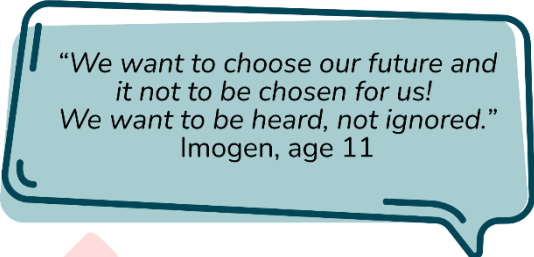
“If you continue to listen to the young people in Powys then you can continue making our lives more comfortable and the thought of remaining in Powys much more pleasurable to the youth of today.”

What's this all about?

We want to create more chances for you to speak up, be listened to, and help shape the future of our communities. It's not just about being asked what you think - it's about being involved from the start. That means working together with us to plan, design, and improve the things that matter to you.

Our aims:

- **We want you to feel heard**
- **We'll be honest and open with you**
- **We'll make it easier for you to get involved**
- **We'll act on what you tell us**
- **We'll support you to grow and lead**
- **We'll keep improving how we work with you**



*"We want to choose our future and it not to be chosen for us!
We want to be heard, not ignored."
Imogen, age 11*

Who is it for?

If you are aged under 25 and either live, study or work in Powys, then this is for you.

It's also for the adults who support you - teachers, youth workers, council staff and councillors - so they can help you to speak up and be taken seriously.

What does participation and engagement mean?

Participation means having a say in decisions that affect you. It's about being involved, sharing your views, and helping to shape what happens in your school, community, or local services. It can be as simple as giving feedback in a survey or as involved as sitting on a youth council or helping design a new project.

Engagement is how we make participation happen. It's about creating spaces where you feel welcome, respected, and confident to speak up. Good engagement means listening to you, acting on what you say, and making sure you know your voice has made a difference.

How are we engaging with young people now?

There are a few ways that we, at the council, use to listen to the voices of young people from across the county:

Pupil Voice: covers all the ways you have in school to give your views on important topics, like in your classes, by joining a school committee, or through a class or whole school assembly.

School Councils: each of our high schools in Powys [should have a student council](#) who meet to make sure that the voices of their fellow students are heard by the governors and the head teacher.

Junior Start Well and Young Adults Start Well Boards:

bring together representatives from different schools, community groups, and diverse backgrounds to create positive changes, strengthen support systems, and make sure young people's voices are at the heart of decision-making.



"Being part of the Junior Start Well Board has given me the skills to be more confident in giving my views. I feel like I'm making a real difference, and I feel my opinions are valued. It's a comfortable and friendly group, with some of the nicest people you could ever meet!"
Tomos, Junior Start Well Board Member

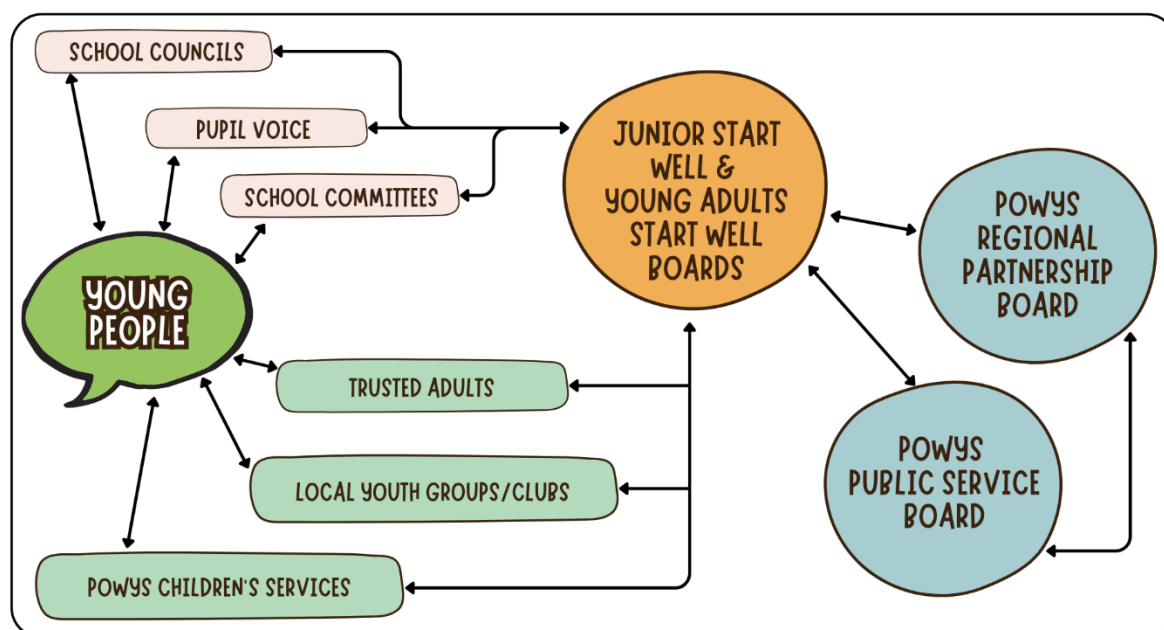
Powys Children's Services: has a Participation Officer who makes sure young people are involved in making decisions, through the Youth Led Strategy Committee - a group of young people who meet to make sure your voices are heard and that the Council is doing its best for you and other activities including choosing new Children's Services staff by being on the interview panels.

Champions of Young People: There are lots of people in your community who want to help you speak up and be heard, especially when decisions are being made that affect your life. These include third sector clubs and organisations (like youth groups, charities, and support services), as well as parents, carers, and guardians - they're often your biggest champions.

Trusted Adults: They could be a teacher, youth worker, sports coach or friend/family member. You can spot a trusted adult by asking yourself if they listen without judging, show up when they say they will, respect your ideas, and help you feel safe and strong. They listen first, help you find the right words, and back you up to make sure your ideas are taken seriously.

Corporate Parents: the council and its staff take on a special responsibility for our children looked after in the county. We aim to support you to achieve your aspirations, reach your full potential, keep you as close to your communities as possible and provide you with a high standard of education, healthcare, accommodation and support throughout your journey through care.

Below is a diagram showing how all of the ways we've discussed so far in this section fit together:



What will we be doing differently?

There is always room for improvement, and young people across the county have told us that some of the ways we could improve include:

- Creating more ways for you to speak up and be listened to - at school, in your community, online, and at special events just for young people in Powys.
- Supporting you to build your confidence to speak up, challenge stereotypes, and show what you're capable of. You could even be a future county councillor!

*"We need to be seen and heard because we are the future. We are independent, let us think for ourselves."
Charlotte, age 11*

Where does this all fit in?

This plan is connected to the important rights you already have. It's important for you to know where all this fits in with local, national and international policies and rules.

Locally



Powys County Council: We have lots of rules, plans and strategies that we use to make sure that everything we do benefits everyone that lives, works and studies in Powys:

- [The Council Constitution - Principles of the Council](#)
- [Our Corporate Plan](#)

- [Sustainable Powys](#)
- [Public Participation Strategy](#)
- [A pledge to all children and young people in Powys](#)



Powys Regional Partnership Board (RPB): is a group that includes people from the local council, health board, voluntary sector, and other important community members, including Powys residents. The **RPB** works together to make sure everyone collaborates to improve health and wellbeing in Powys and their priorities are set out in the [Powys Area Plan – A Healthy Caring Powys](#).



Powys Public Service Board: There is a Public Services Board (PSB) for each area in Wales. The Powys PSB created a local [wellbeing plan](#) to improve the wellbeing of the area by encouraging teamwork among all local and national public services.

Nationally and Internationally

Across Wales, there are lots of people, organisations, and policies working to make sure you can have your say on the decisions that shape your life and future.



Children's Commissioner for Wales: works to protect and promote the rights of children and young people in Wales.



Nyth/Nest Framework: is all about making sure that children and young people in Wales get the right support for their mental health and well-being, no matter where they are or when they need it.



Future Generations Commissioner for Wales: is a champion for young people and future generations. Their job is to make sure decisions made today help create a better, fairer, and greener Wales for tomorrow.



Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015: is all about making Wales a better place to live. This will help us to create a Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future.



Welsh Youth Parliament: is made up of 60 Members aged 11-17, 40 of whom were elected through a national vote and 20 chosen by partner organisations to ensure diverse representation.



CYSUR (the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Children Board): brings together local councils, police, health boards, and other services to protect children and young people. By working together, they aim to improve lives and ensure safety across diverse communities.



PLANT YNG NGHYMRU
CHILDREN IN WALES

Children in Wales: is a national organisation that supports people who work with babies, children, young people, and families across Wales. They work with the Welsh Government and others to make sure children's rights are part of important decisions



Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011: helps make sure that public organisations in Wales - like councils, schools, and health services - treat everyone fairly and equally.



Comisiynydd y
Gymraeg
Welsh Language
Commissioner

Welsh Language Standards (2016): are rules that make sure people in Wales can use Welsh when dealing with public organisations, like councils or health services. These rules mean that Welsh must be treated just as fairly as English.

WcVA
CgGC

National Principles for Public Engagement in Wales: are a set of 10 guidelines that help organisations involve people in decisions that affect them. They're designed to make sure public engagement is done well and in a consistent way.



United Nations Convention of the rights of the Child (UNCRC): is an important agreement between countries that says all children and young people under 18 have rights - like the right to share their views and be taken seriously when adults make decisions that affect them.

Who's Who?

It's important that you know who you can speak to about local subjects that matter to you. We've included a list below of people linked to the council that are there to listen to your ideas or concerns.

Powys County Council staff: are the people who help deliver local services like schools, roads, recycling, housing, and social care. They work behind the scenes and in the community to make sure things run smoothly for local residents.

Powys County Councillors: are elected representatives who make decisions about how the council is run and how money is spent in Powys. We have 68 County

Councillors across Powys, and you can find details of your local [County Councillor](#) on our website.

Town and Community Councillors: work at a more local level and focus on things like parks, local events, and small community projects. We have 110 town and community councils across the county and you can find a list of them on our [website](#).

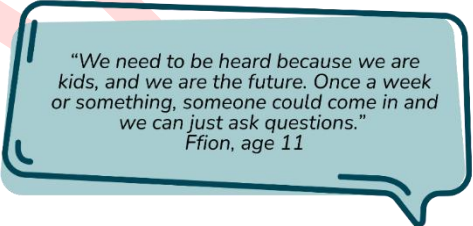
Members of the Senedd (MSs): are elected to represent people in Wales in the Senedd (Welsh Parliament). They make laws and decisions about things like health, education, and transport in Wales. Powys is currently covered by two MSs: one in Montgomeryshire (Changing to Gwynedd Maldwyn at the 2026 Senedd Election) and one in Brecon and Radnorshire (Changing to Brycheiniog Tawe Nedd at the 2026 Senedd Election).

Members of Parliament (MPs): are elected to represent people in the UK Parliament in London. They make decisions about things that affect the whole UK, like defence, immigration, and benefits. Powys is represented by two MPs: one covering Brecon, Radnor and Cwm Tawe and the other Montgomeryshire and Glyndŵr.

How can you get involved?

We understand that everyone is different, and that's why we will use various ways to engage with you. Depending on the topic and timing, we will try and choose the best method that suits the situation.

We want to know the best ways to connect with you so we can meet your needs and ensure your voice is heard. We'll create a toolkit for our staff and councillors that explains the different ways you prefer to be contacted, and which methods work best for various topics.



"We need to be heard because we are kids, and we are the future. Once a week or something, someone could come in and we can just ask questions."
Ffion, age 11

If you spot anything wrong with a service we provide or have a suggestion on how we could improve you can get in touch with us on our website: [Comments, Compliments and Complaints - Powys County Council](#)

How will you know you are having an impact?

You'll see things change because of what you've said. We'll share updates on what's happened and what's improved thanks to your input, and we'll keep checking in with you - asking what's working, what's not, and how we can do better.

If you think your voices aren't being heard or acted upon, you need to let us know. The easiest way to do this is to email our Junior Start Well Board on jswb@powys.gov.uk or via their feedback form: <https://forms.office.com/e/XDMQW5AdCw>

How will we know we are getting things right?

To make sure that we are keeping to our end of the deal and that everything we've listed in this document is working well, we need a way to check how we're doing.

We will measure the following things:

- **Engagement Rates:** The number of young people taking part in decision-making processes, events, and consultations.
- **Action on Feedback:** The number of actions taken following feedback from young people.
- **Satisfaction Levels:** The satisfaction levels of young people with the engagement processes.

We will produce the following materials:

- **Regular Updates:** on the progress and impact of your contributions by sharing findings, actions taken, and future plans.
- **Case Studies:** Celebrating the successes and contributions of young people.
- **Annual Report:** reviewing the achievements, challenges, and lessons learned from the engagement activities with young people.

Document Control

Title of document:	Your Voice Matters!
Type of document	Strategy
Owner:	Youth Engagement Working Group yourvoicematters@powys.gov.uk
Consultation:	Phase One Public Consultation: May – July 2025 Scrutiny: January 2026 Phase Two Public Consultation: June - July 2026
Approval process / approving body:	Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee and Powys County Council Cabinet
Approval date:	August/September 2026 TBC
Publication date:	October 2026 TBC
Review arrangements:	This strategy will be reviewed every 5 years. A consultation exercise on any revisions to the Strategy will be undertaken with young people from across Powys as part of each review. To keep the strategy relevant and up to date, necessary minor changes will be made and approved by the Director of Education.
Next review date:	June 2030