Young people taking the lead on evaluation
Key messages from 11th April 2019

This learning event was hosted by Evaluation Support Scotland and supported by The National Lottery Community Fund. The aim of the session was to share learning and build confidence in the youth work sector to involve young people to lead on evaluation.

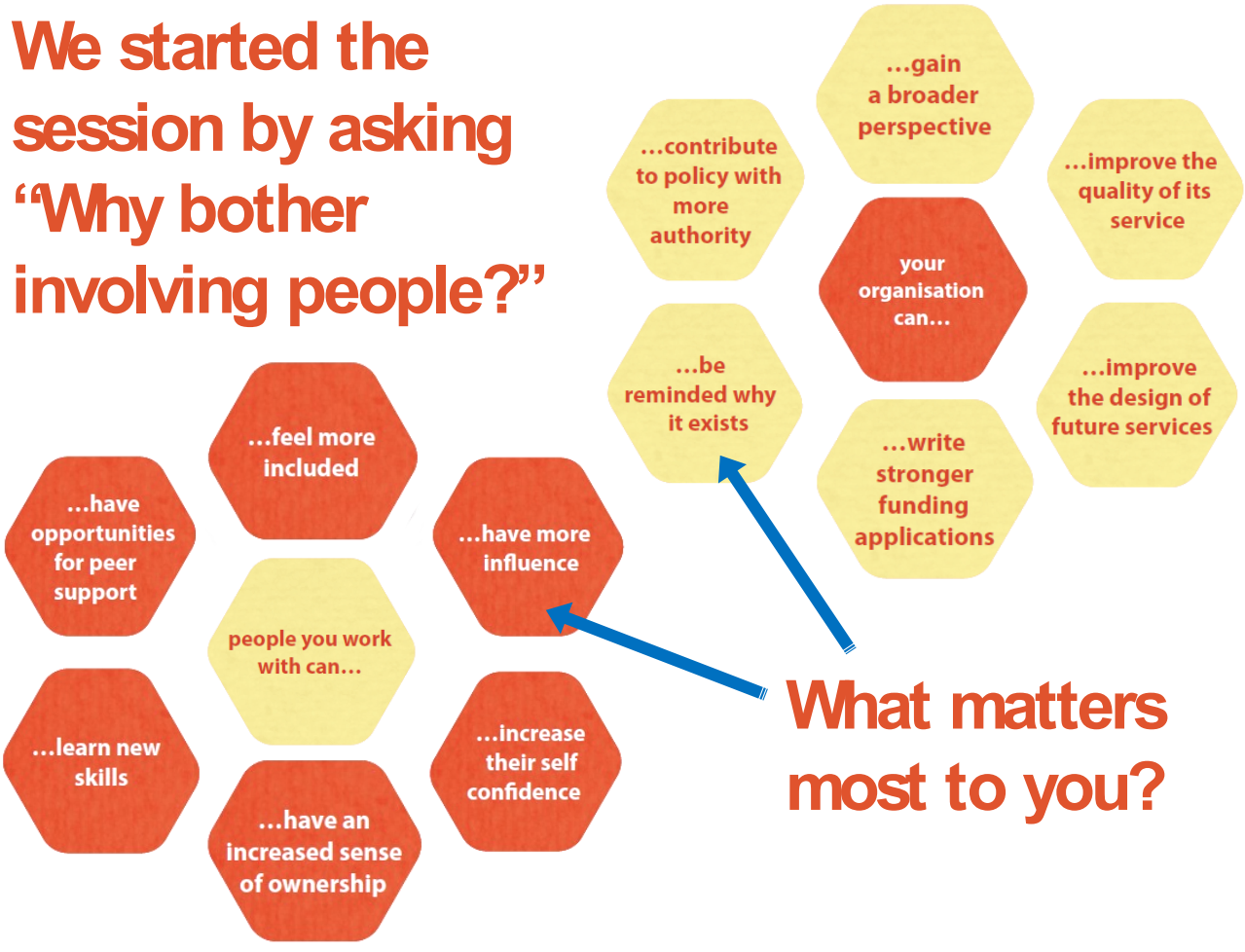
48 people attended, including ...

Young people

Youth workers

Funders

We started the session by asking "Why bother involving people?"



What matters most to you?

Springhall and Whitlawburn Youth Development Team (case study here)

Emma, Jayne and Chloe shared their experiences of re-designing evaluating methods for their summer programme. They are all keen to stay involved in evaluation this year. SWYDT youth worker, Kim, shared her tips for other youth workers:

- ***Letting go of control of evaluation is scary but trust the young people you work with!***
- ***Faith, trust and pixie dust helped us involve young people in evaluation***

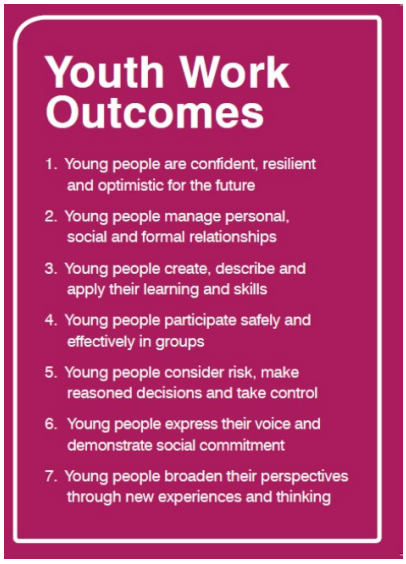
Streets Ahead project, Gowrie Care (case study here)

Ryan described how he and a small focus group had created a new emoji game to replace a "really dull" evaluation form that no-one liked filling in.

- ***Our next steps will be rolling this out across other projects in Gowrie***

YouthLink Scotland

Amy shared information on the outcomes model for the youth work sector.



For more info: youthlinkscotland.org/policy

Or email: acalder@youthlinkscotland.org

Youth Scotland

Julie highlighted some of her key ingredients to involving young people in evaluation, including:

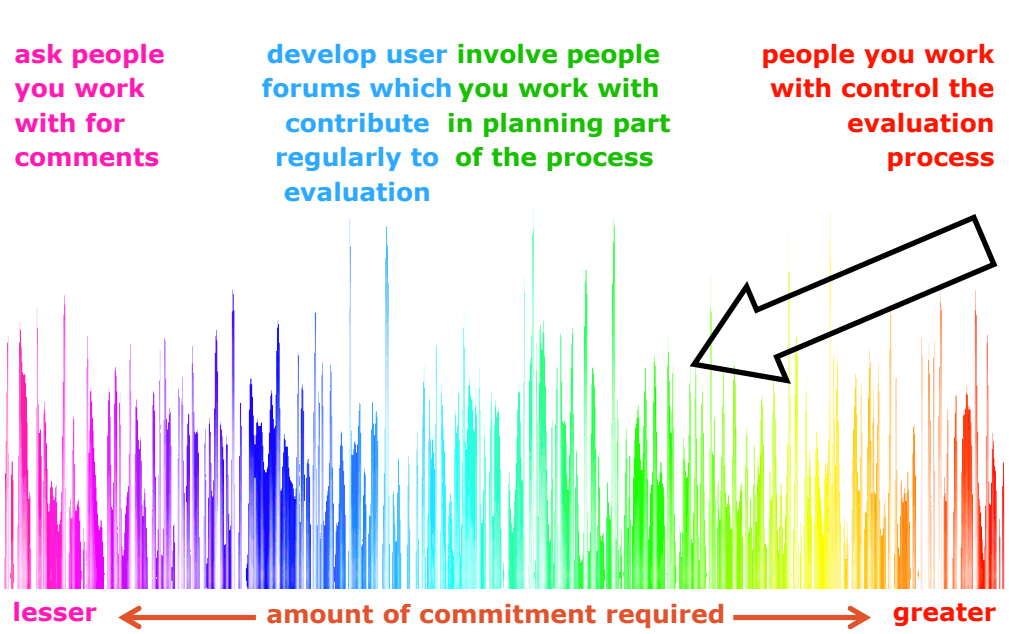
- Enable young people to bring their own ideas and provide training, support (and pizza!)

For more info: youthscotland.org.uk/

Participants shared ideas about how to overcome **potential challenges** to involving young people to lead on evaluation

Challenges	Participants top tips
Would our young people be **interested**?	Have a hook or reward for being involved
What will my **funder** think?	Speak to your funder—most will be keen to see young people taking a role in evaluating
I don't have **time!**	Doing something is better than doing nothing…so just make a start and build momentum
What if we can't meet young peoples' **expectations**?	Aim to bring everyone together, like involve young people in board meetings
How is this different from just using **creative** evaluation methods?	Build understanding by providing training/support for young people AND workers
What if staff **don't agree** with young peoples' plans/ideas? And vice versa!	Open communication—try to balance the power by brainstorming together
The group of **young people** we work with **changes** frequently	Be creative—try using social media to get young people involved

The Spectrum of Involvement



To get started, ESS suggests thinking about where you would like to be on the spectrum of involvement?

For more info and guidance go to:
www.evaluationsupportscotland.org.uk/resources/297/

Some of the actions participants plan to take:

Check out the resources mentioned today and see how they can inform our plans

Just go and do it!

Excite my colleagues about the possibilities

Start the conversation on where we as young people want to take evaluation

Discuss how we as a funder can help organisations feel better about involving young people

Have full confidence in our idea and push it to be rolled out

Take youth work outcomes to my organisation

Speak to young people about our evaluation process

Change the culture of evaluation and ensure this becomes a truly youth-led process

Set up a forum for young people

Participants described the event as:

Contact details

Evaluation Support Scotland (ESS) works with third sector organisations and funders so that they can measure and report on their impact. If you need ESS's support please email Evaluation Support Scotland info@evaluationsupportscotland.org.uk or phone 0131 243 2770

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