

THE ROAD TO YOUTH PARTICIPATION:

THE DIANA AWARD YOUTH VOICE CHARTER AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO THE LUNDY MODEL



THE LUNDY MODEL

(Lundy, 2007) breaks down a child's right to be heard and listened to into four key concepts: Space, Voice, Audience, and Influence. This model is widely utilised as it provides a strong roadmap for organisations to use when thinking about participation.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUTH VOICE MODELS?

Youth voice models and sets of principles can have a variety of benefits:

- Provide organisations with starting points for how they can embed youth voice activities in their work.
- Provide consistency in practice for organisations to share learnings and collaborate in order to boost their impact.

YOUTH VOICE CHARTER

Is a set of 5 principles underpinning all youth participation work within The Diana Award. These principles ensure youth participation is meaningful, safe, and valuable to both the young people engaged and the organisation.

WHY DID WE CREATE OUR OWN YOUTH VOICE CHARTER?

- To ensure our youth voice activities were tailored to our specific organisational needs and priorities.
- We created our own Youth Voice Charter to build a strong, organisation-wide culture of youth voice from the very beginning. Involving everyone in the process meant that all staff felt included and committed from the start.



COMBINING THE TWO MODELS

The visualisation on page 2 shows how The Diana Award Youth Voice Charter can work alongside the Lundy Model. These two participation concepts are not independent and can be used to enhance each other. Both concepts are grounded by Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child – the right to have your voice heard and listened to.

This visualisation is of how The Diana Award Youth Voice Charter aligns with the Lundy Model, along with prompt questions to help organisations adapt these approaches and find out what could work best for them. This is just one way to illustrate how different approaches can work together.

EXPLORING THE VISUALISATION

Imagine this example as a young person's journey through a youth voice project. In the visualisation this young person is represented as the car about to join the route.

'Principle 3' applies first as they choose to participate in the project, this then becomes the road beneath them as they move through the participation process.

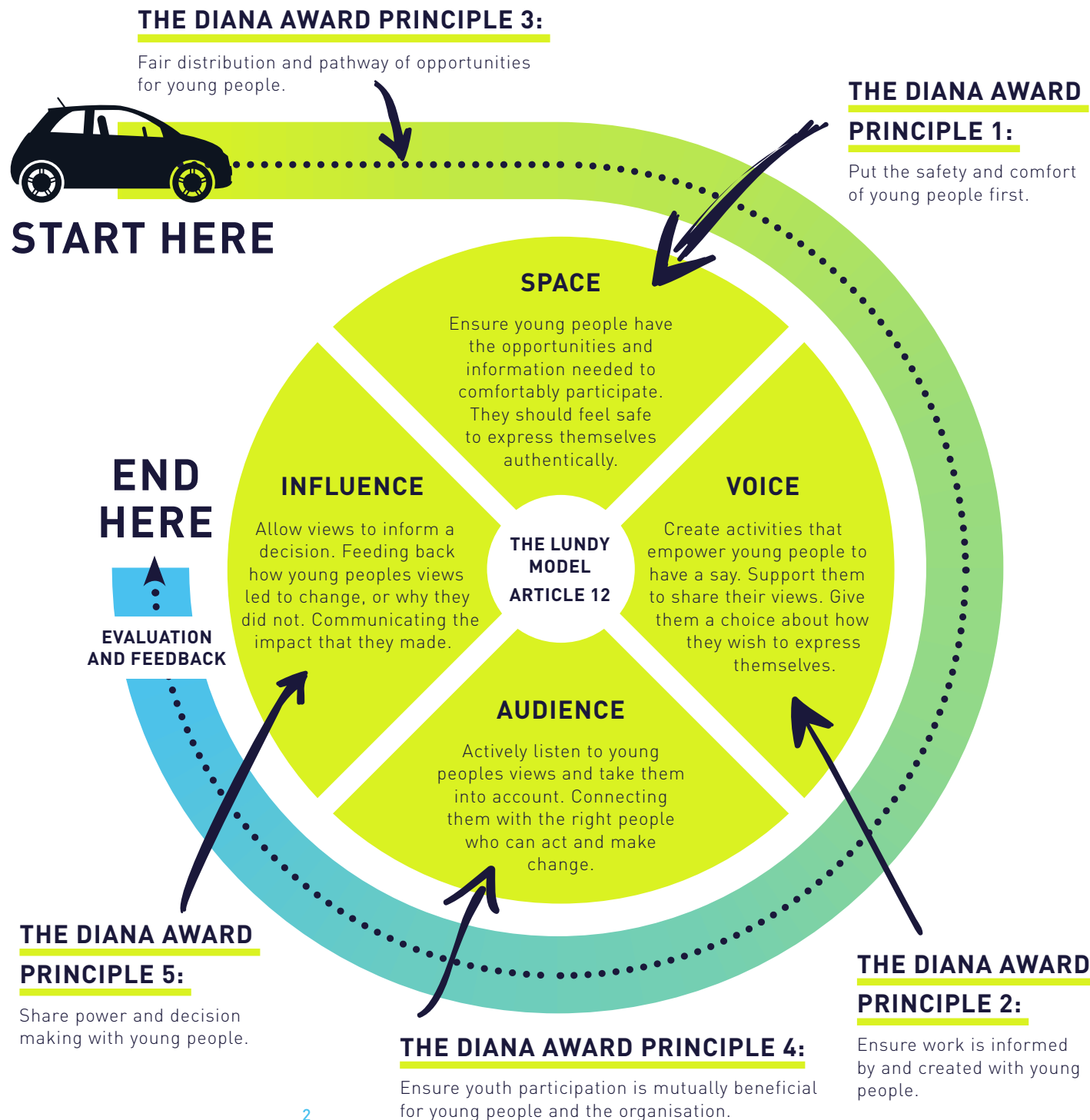
The first section the young person comes across is 'Space' which aligns well with 'Principle 1', because before they can move on, young people need to feel supported and comfortable to engage further.

The young person then moves into Voice where they get the chance to speak in the way that works right for them. This aligns with 'Principle 2' that addresses the need to provide a variety of youth voice activities.

The second half of the journey begins with Audience, focusing on connecting young people with decision makers and taking steps to ensure this is done in a meaningful way. This is seen in 'Principle 4' which reinforces the importance of investing in young peoples development.

Finally the young person enters the Influence zone – that's where change happens. Similar to 'Principle 5' these concepts mean young people are actively involved in making improvements and deciding priorities, and are kept informed of the outcomes of their contributions.

Don't forget to take some time for feedback and evaluation.



HOW A YOUTH VOICE MODEL CAN WORK FOR YOU

DOES YOUR ORGANISATION CONDUCT YOUTH VOICE AND PARTICIPATION WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE?

YES

GREAT! ARE YOU USING THE LUNDY MODEL AS THE FOUNDATION FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION WORK?

YES

The principles of The Diana Award Youth Voice Charter can be implemented alongside the Lundy Model, you may wish to consider these or use it as a basis to create something specific to your organisation through an audit or coproduction project.

NO

A Youth Voice Charter may help your organisation to embed high quality, meaningful participation. By identifying principles and committing to them, your organisation can work towards a clear and tailored vision for youth participation.

NO

WOULD YOUR ORGANISATION BENEFIT FROM A YOUTH PARTICIPATION MECHANISM?

YES

You can use both The Diana Award Youth Voice Charter and the Lundy Model as inspiration to create a participation structure for your organisation. Check out our Principle 5 resource for help.

NO

Reflect on The Diana Award Youth Voice Charter principles, think about how they can be applied to your practice more broadly or shared with a sector colleague who might benefit from exploring youth participatory approaches.

THIS RESOURCE WAS CREATED BY OUR YOUNG ADVISOR, ARTHUR



GET STARTED

Good luck with your Youth Charter journey, here are some links you may find useful:

- Read more about the [Lundy Model](#) and find out how it has been applied to play and [sport](#)
- Explore some other popular [participation models](#)
- Find out more about [The Diana Award Youth Voice and Participation Project](#)

The Diana Award Youth Voice Charter project
was supported by:



/dianaaward



@dianaaward



/dianaaward

The Diana Award is a registered charity (1117288 / SC041916) and a company limited by guarantee,
registered in England and Wales number 5739137.

The Diana Award's Office, 33 Queen Street, London, EC4R 1AP.

All images and text within this resource © The Diana Award and cannot be reproduced without permission.

This resource was created in July 2025.

www.diana-award.org.uk