

POWER OF YOUTH CHARTER

Me2 Club believes that all children and young people should be empowered to make a positive difference on the issues that affect their lives, their communities and broader society. We therefore adopt this Charter, committing to growing the power of youth in the following areas:

We will...



rioritise supporting young people to take social action

We will create opportunities that empower more young people, particularly from low-income and ethnic minority backgrounds, to be positive changemakers

What will your organisation do?

Me2 Club's 3-year strategy 2021 to 2024 has a clear objective for young people to actively influence decisions in the charity and co-produce the support that they receive. Our co-production policy sets out how Me2 Club can empower young people to make positive changes to the charity.

Me2 Club have a young person's Participation Coordinator and are creating opportunities to empower our young people to make positive changes, including:

- Completed a survey of how young people want to be involved on 5th November 2021.
- Arranging a young person's Takeover Day in January 2022. This will include young people taking over our social media to campaign on Inclusion, helping us improve our referral process and meet with Me2 Club Trustees. Our aim is to make this an annual event led by young people.
- Me2 Club helped young people take part in the DfE's research "Lessons learnt from Lockdown" in March 2021. Young people have told us that they want to take part in more national social action, and we will continue to provide them with opportunities as they arise.

All new staff will have participation as part of their induction, and we have developed a co-production tool to assist staff.

Reading has one of the most ethnically diverse populations in the UK and Wokingham has an increasing Asian population. Me2 Club are successful in engaging ethnically diverse young people to take part, through our inclusive approach. For example, just 7.4% of the Wokingham population are of Asian background. Whereas twelve per cent of the Wokingham children and young people we reach are of Asian background. We also make sure that young people on low incomes are enabled to take part by:

- Ensuring venues for young people's involvement have good public transport links,
- Offering families help with transport costs if they are in financial hardship.
- Me2 Club has IT equipment available at participation sessions to enable young people to take part. Access to their own computer or smart phone is not required.



Open up our decision-making structures

We will offer opportunities for young people, particularly from low-income and ethnic minority backgrounds, to participate in decision-making, leading and shaping both the activities they are involved in and wider organisational decisions.

Our co-production policy is that young people will be invited to both tell us their ideas about what they would like Me2 Club to do and that we will coproduce all service developments with them.

Young people will be meeting our Trustee Board in January 2021 to help shape the activities we offer.

Me2 Club pledge that we will invite young people to attend interviews for all new staff.



Work collaboratively with other organisations

We will work collaboratively with other organisations to create more high-quality opportunities, reach young people from low-income and ethnic minority backgrounds to enable them to take part, share learning and achieve shared goals

Me2 Club are a valued local partner in the Wokingham SEND Innovation and Improvement Programme and are responsible for leading the Co-Production group established under these arrangements to ensure that children’s voices and experiences shape decision making throughout all levels of the programme. We are currently helping the SEND Local Offer, the SEND Information, Advice and Support team, local authority commissioners and the short breaks team to develop the opportunities they give young people to have a voice.

“Me2Club have also been of incredible support to our SEND Improvement programme in Wokingham and have been active members of the SEND Improvement Board, taking a lead in key areas such as co-production and youth voice”
Sal Thirlway, Assistant Director for Children’s Services, Wokingham



Evidence the benefits of youth social action

We will capture and share insights, stories and data on how we are working with young people, and the positive impact this has on them, their communities and our organisation

Me2 Club will produce six monthly reports for the CEO and Trustee Board on how we have enabled young people to take action and the impact of this in terms of our service. This will include how well we have ensured representation from our ethnic minority groups and from low-income families.

We have asked our young people how they want to get involved and we pledge to seek their feedback and adjust what we are doing after each involvement with young people. We will use “You Said, We Did” to let young people know the difference their involvement has made. We also assess the impact of taking part on the young person in terms of reduced social isolation, increased confidence and developing independence.



Recognise and celebrate young people’s impact

We will use our communication channels to advocate for and celebrate young people as positive and powerful changemakers.

This is a key part of our coproduction policy. Me2 Club already use our role within Reading and Wokingham to advocate for disabled young people, supporting local organisations to make their clubs accessible to all young people such as Scouts and swimming lessons providers.

Young people will take over our social media on 25th January 2022, advocating for inclusion. We also invite young people to share their experiences and speak at events. Me2 Club has an active presence on Facebook and Twitter, and we pledge to use this to celebrate how our young people have been positive and powerful change makers within Me2 Club.

