

## Pro Forma for Participation Works Network for England regional case studies

<b>Region: East of England</b>
Submitted by: Christine Chester Date of submission: 31 March 2009
The sector this case study is an example of:  Statutory sector activity     x  The themes this case study can be used to support ( <i>tick all that apply</i> ): Commissioning <input type="checkbox"/> Rights/citizenship <input type="checkbox"/> Funding                    x Safeguarding <input type="checkbox"/> Standards <input type="checkbox"/> Hard to reach groups <input type="checkbox"/> Youth-led project        x Inclusive practice <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Name of project: Youth Opportunity Fund / Essex Youth Bank</b>
<b>Name of lead person on project:</b> Christine Chester  Contact information for further details ( <i>email, telephone number, website</i> ): Involvement Team- SCF Essex County Council <a href="mailto:christine.chester@talktalk.net">christine.chester@talktalk.net</a> 01245 431433 <a href="http://www.essex.gov.uk/youthopportunityfund">www.essex.gov.uk/youthopportunityfund</a>
<b>Aims of the project:</b> To support funding development of new projects in Essex and to consult, train and support young people to become part of Essex Youth Bank
<b>Timeline for the project (expected start and finish date, if known):</b> Started August 2006 to March 2011
<b>Who funded this project?</b> Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF)– via Government Office East (GO East)
<b>How many young people were involved?</b> 622
<b>How were children &amp; young people involved in decision-making?</b> Essex Youth Bank (Decision makers) = 94 YP

<p>YOF Project Leaders = 528 with over 68% of these coming from hard to reach groups</p>
<p><b>What changes has children &amp; young people's involvement led to?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate projects being developed to meet YP needs</li> <li>• Projects realising the need to involve young people in the development of projects</li> <li>• The application form coming out in an Easy to Read format, being YP friendly, other funding involvement</li> </ul>
<p><b>What did children and young people involved in this work achieve from this experience?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gained accreditation for volunteering</li> <li>• They have now been requested to become involved in a pilot project to involve young people in commissioning</li> </ul>
<p><b>What next for the project?</b>  Commissioning young people's services for SCF Directorate at Essex County Council</p>
<p><b>What next for the participants?</b>  Training conferences and extended opportunities for gaining experience &amp; accreditation which will enhance their CV.</p>

Participation Works wants to share your good practice to a wider audience to enable others to learn from your experience and develop their own participation practice.