Roger Hart's Ladder to Participation

QUALITY OF PARTICIPATION **EXAMPLES** Young people have the ideas, Young people decide they need a one-stop shop in **Hart's Ladder** set up the project and invite adults their community. They partner with adults in different Young people and adults to join them in making decisions youth organisations and together lobby the share decision-making throughout the project. They are government for resources. equal partners. Young people have the initial idea A group of students get permission from their principal to run an environmental day. The students make the Young people lead and decide how the project is to be carried out. Adults are available decisions, and the school provides support. and initiate action and trust in the leadership of young people. Adults have the initial idea, and A community co-ordinator asks young people for Adult-initiated, young people are involved in event ideas for Youth Week. The young people suggest shared decisions Key having a skating event. The co-ordinator and young making decisions, planning and with young people people work together to make decisions and apply implementing the project. Questions for funding. Adults design and facilitate the A local council runs several consultations to get young Which level of Hart's Ladder project, and young people's opinions people's input about a recreation park. Young people tell Young people are is our project on? are given weight in decision-making. the council about features in the park they want changed. consulted and informed Young people receive feedback The council provides feedback to the young people Which level of Hart's Ladder about their opinions. about how their views affected decision-making. should our project be on? Adults decide on the project and A conference creates positions for two young people What do we need to do to young people volunteer for it. Young on a panel of speakers. Young people decide how to Young people assigned move to the right level on people understand the project and select their representatives and work with adults to but informed the ladder for our project? adults respect their views. understand their role. A young person is asked by adults to be on a panel Young people are given a limited NON-PARTICIPATION voice and little choice about what and represent 'youth'. The young person is not given Tokenism they can say and how they can the opportunity to consult with peers or understand It is important to remember that communicate. the role. tokenism, decoration and manipulation are not examples Young people take part in an event A group of young people are given a script by adults of youth participation. You do about 'youth problems' to present to adults attending in a very limited capacity and have have the choice to move away Decoration a youth conference. no role in decision-making. from these methods towards more meaningful participation. Adults have complete and A publication uses young people's cartoons; however, unchallenged authority and abuse the publication is written by adults. Manipulation their power. They use young people's ideas and voices for their own gain.

