

CALLING ORGANISATIONS ACROSS BLACKPOOL

**WOULD YOU BE
INTERESTED IN HOSTING
A YOUTH ACTIVIST IN
RESIDENCE?**



We are looking for organisations, projects or services in Blackpool who are up for supporting a young person who wants to be heard and take action about something they are passionate about....



Acknowledgement - this brief has been co-produced with contributions from Boingboing, Aunty Social, The Grand Theatre and HeadStart Blackpool. This is a new project and on reading these briefs, if you have suggestions for how we can improve them and/or the project – we would love to hear from you!

HOSTING A YOUTH ACTIVIST IN RESIDENCE

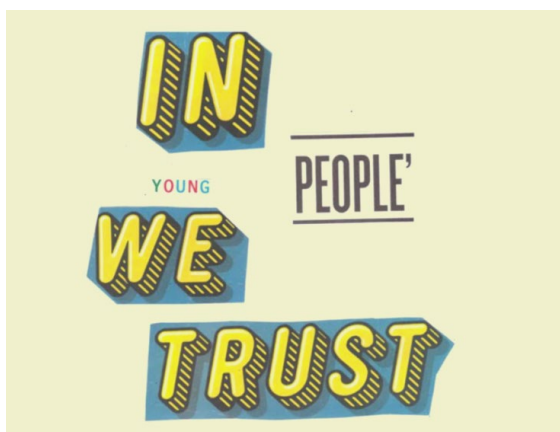


The Resilience Revolution in Blackpool brings together a wide range of people and organisations who want to make Blackpool a more resilient town to grow up and live in. In particular, we share an ambition to improve youth mental health. We have read lots of reports saying youth mental health in the UK is getting worse, and that the support available doesn't always work. We've been testing out different ways to improve things, and have learnt that activism has the potential to build resilience and boost mental wellbeing for individuals whilst at the same time working to reduce inequality and tackle social injustice.

We think now is the time to progress this and try out the idea of an Activist in Residence project. We are therefore looking for organisations, projects or services in Blackpool who are up for supporting a young person who wants to be heard and take action about something they are passionate about....

- Maybe your organisation is a community hub with an audience available to listen.
- Perhaps you are a company who has great connections across our town.
- You might be a service willing to host a youth activist as part of improving how things are done in the service or the wider community.
- Or maybe you have the facilities and a space to share that could provide the perfect platform to launch a youth activist's project.

If this sounds like you – then read on for more information. If you're not sure, still read on – we would love to hear from you!



WHAT IS A YOUTH ACTIVIST IN RESIDENCE?



- This project is part of the Resilience Revolution in Blackpool where youth and adult co-leaders speak up and campaign for change on things that are having a negative impact on **youth mental health** – this might be climate change, access to health services, knife crime or fair wages (as a few examples).
- This particular project is available for anyone who lives, works or volunteers in Blackpool aged 16-24 who are: bothered about something unfair in society, want to do something about it, and are looking for support to make a change.
- A residency aims to **use the resources, network and/or support of a host organisation to achieve a 'hope for change'** – for example a GP surgery might host a youth activist wanting to improve access to health services for LGBTQ+ young people, or a youth activist might want to work with a Multi-Academy Trust to establish a network of youth climate action groups. We would work with both the youth activist and host to find a suitable 'match'.
- We would expect a residency to last **between 8 to 16 weeks** – this doesn't mean a youth activist would be with a host full-time, but that they would work towards what they want to achieve over this time period.



WHY OFFER YOUTH ACTIVIST PROGRAMMES?



At Boingboing we are interested in resilience research and practice with a social justice lens. This means we believe resilience is about overcoming difficulties, despite the odds being stacked against you, AND it's about changing the odds, so that the world we live in becomes a fairer place for everyone.

In brief, we describe resilience as being about **beating the odds whilst also changing the odds**.

We are passionate about running this project so that young people have a platform to be heard, and can work to 'change the odds' that are important to them. We are also interested in the idea that taking part in Activism can improve young people's mental health in itself.

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR FROM A HOST

Each Activist in Residence project will want to achieve something different – we are calling this the 'Hope for Change'. In turn, it means that what they are looking for from a host will also vary. We will work with both potential hosts and youth activists to find the right match. Here are some of things we will need to think about:

- **An ally (or allies!)** - we are looking for organisations where people are willing to get alongside young people in ways that help them work towards their hope for change. This might be about sharing knowledge and experience, or it might be about using your status or authority in a system to create a platform for a young person to be heard.
- **A willingness to share what you have** – resources, equipment, contacts, knowledge, skills, ideas.
- **A space to belong** – a residency might be looking to change something within your own organisation or might be looking to make use of your network to share a message for change. Having a space – physical or virtual – to belong and be part of.

OUR OFFER



WHAT WE ARE OFFERING

- **Support for you and for activists** - Once we know more about an activist's proposed project, Boingboing will act as a 'matchmaker' to connect them with the right organisation. For example, your organisation might have the facilities, audience, or expertise an activist needs.

Your organisation, the youth activist, Boingboing, youth activist peer groups and, if needed, other expert mentors would then all work in partnership, enlisting everyone's strengths and collaborating to support the residency. So don't worry if you haven't done activism or hosted young people in your organisation before. Each partner would contribute what they can, creating a network of support around the project.

- **A budget** - Each residency includes a budget for the youth activist's time, which we imagine will be up to £1000. We will work the detail of this out together with the activist, looking at the time needed to undertake their residency using an hourly rate. Boingboing are registered with the Living Wage Foundation so we will use their figure of £9.50 per hour to calculate this.

The activist will be contracted by Boingboing to undertake the residency on a freelance basis, which we can support them to set up.

There is an additional budget of up to £3000 to support each Activist in Residence project be a success. This might be for things like resources, travel, room hire, or paying a mentor. Boingboing will help to work out these costs together with the activist and host organisation. The budget will be held by Boingboing who will process and manage payments on behalf of the residency.

If your organisation is keen to be a host but is unable to commit the time within your budget, we would be able to have a chat about covering costs for your time commitment too.

- **Resilience Revolution** - your organisation would become part of Blackpool's Resilience Revolution and its networks, learning opportunities and shared resources.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO IF YOU ARE INTERESTED



IF YOU ARE INTERESTED:

We are committed to supporting every youth activist get the most from their residency experience and ensure that they are well supported by the project as a whole - this will mean working together as a group of allies and drawing on each others strengths. If you are interested in getting involved, the first step is to simply get in touch so we can discuss the project and your potential to be a part of it. We are ultimately looking for hosts, but there are a range of other ways people and organisations might be able to contribute – through a skills workshop, being a mentor etc – please do get in touch if you think you have something to add.

On a practical front, for hosts, there are a few things we will need to check and agree together between Boingboing as the project facilitator, the youth activist and the host organisation supporting the residency. Here are some specific things to consider as a potential host:

- **Governance arrangements** - your organisation / company will need to be constituted or registered with a relevant body - for example you might have a volunteer run Management Committee, be registered with the Charity Commission and / or Companies House.
- **Insurance** - we will want to discuss what insurance you have in place and make sure that it covers the ideas and activities that are being considered as part of the residency.
- **Safeguarding** – we will want to know what your safeguarding policy is and share our own for working alongside young people and adults at risk. Part of this will be about making clear who is responsible for the welfare and wellbeing of youth activists during their residency and any particular things we need to be aware of.
- **Data sharing** – Please be aware that any personal information you send us as part of our collaboration will be held on file by Boingboing and processed in a computerised or manual filing system in line with the provisions of the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

CONTACT INFORMATION



If you or your organisation are interested in taking part, or have any questions, please contact Caroline at Boingboing:

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A bit about the Resilience Revolution in Blackpool and where the Activist in Residence Project fits

Just like with Boingboing, you can find loads of information about the world's first Resilience Revolution being piloted in Blackpool on various websites and social media channels including:

- Boingboing website:
<https://www.boingboing.org.uk/resilience-revolution-blackpool-headstart/>
- Resilience Revolution YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgW4b98BSpp0a7wh2_h6nCQ
- Twitter, Facebook & Instagram:
[@HSBLACKPOOL](https://twitter.com/HSBLACKPOOL)

