

Leadership Skills in Action

Justice

Determination

Service

Citizenship



! This activity needs to be revisited a while after it is first completed. The timeline can be adjusted to suit your needs.

Activity 1

Aim(s)

- To put leadership skills into action.

Resources

- *Matrix Headings.*
- Post-it notes and pens.

Delivery Guide

Part I

Set out the Matrix Headings as below and ask the young people to sit in a semi-circle around them.

	Very Easy	Fairly Easy	Fairly Difficult	Very Difficult
Environment				
Governance				
Activities				

Ask the young people to think about the organisation they attend (the youth club/sports group etc.) and the theme of justice, and to identify something they'd like to change or improve to make it fairer, more inclusive, or better for everyone.

Examples could be:

- Adding signs in braille or a different language to the building.
- Campaigning for longer hours or extra funding so more young people can access it.

- Changing the food provided.

(these are examples, but you might have some that are more relevant to your context)

They need to write their ideas on post-it notes and place them in the right place in the matrix. For instance, 'Adding signs in Braille or another language' might be placed in the *Environment* and *Fairly Easy* square, while 'Gain extra funding to allow longer opening hours' might be placed in *Activities* and *Very Difficult*. They can add as many ideas as possible, and they can be as ambitious as they want. They don't have to complete all of the tasks they add to the matrix!

Once everyone has placed their ideas in the matrix, go through them and talk about them. Then ask each person or pair to choose one task to go away and attempt to complete it.



This task can be done individually or in small groups.

Part II

Revisit this task at a later time (we suggest a couple of weeks) and ask the participants to report back on how they have done. There's not an expectation that they will have completed the activity, but they should have some progress to report back.

Ask them to think about and report back on the following things:

- Who were they trying to make things better and fairer for?
- What leadership skills did they use in completing the task?
- What barriers and obstacles did they face?
- How did they overcome them?

Points to highlight

- Leaders take their own initiative and go out to change things.
- They are using leadership skills by leading a campaign or a project to change something.
- They are using the virtue of justice and being fair by trying to change things for the benefit of others and to include others.
- They may need to use perseverance and determination to get things done.



Extension Activities

There are a number of ways young people can take a leadership role in the community or wider society. The Youth Parliament and the British Youth Council provide opportunities for young people to use their voices to bring about social change through meaningful representation and campaigning. Political parties often have youth groups.

You can find out more here:

www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk

www.byc.org.uk

(both available 8/16)

Some organisations or charities such as Step Up To Serve look for young trustees or members to sit on advisory boards, be ambassadors and contribute to the running and governance of the charity. You may have similar opportunities in your own organisation and if you don't, there could be scope for young people to get involved. Could they take a role on an advisory board?

1. You could give young people a chance to research the kind of leadership opportunity they would be interested in and what kind of skills and qualities they might need to apply.
2. The group could be tasked with trying to come up with a way to encourage more young people to take up leadership roles. What would inspire them to do it? There are some videos and web resources available, but they are not particularly accessible or engaging. Can they create a better campaign?



Further Resources

The Young Foundation has produced a report about Youth Leadership:

youngfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/Taking-the-Lead-October-2009.pdf

The Charities Aid Foundation have produced a booklet which explains the benefits for charities and for young trustees, as well as giving more information about what a young trustee might need to do:

www.cafonline.org/docs/default-source/about-us-publications/youngtrusteesreport_1682a_web_080915.pdf?sfvrsn=6

(both available 8/16)

