

Inclusive or intrusive?

Looking at how young people and youth workers feel about sharing personal information and fairness in youth services and organisations that support young people.

What is this report about?



Name *R. Smith*
Address *224 West St*
Manchester *UK*
Phone Number

The report looks at how **demographic data** is collected and used in the **youth sector**.



It looks at reasons why collecting this data can be helpful and why it can cause problems.



The report is based on the experiences of young people and **practitioners**.



The report will look at areas that can be improved.

Why is this report important?



Organisations collect data to understand the people they work with.



Many young people do not know why their data is being collected.



Some young people feel pressured or uncomfortable when asked for this information.



The way data is collected can sometimes make young people feel left out or judged.

What did young people say?



They don't always understand why their data is needed.



They want more choices when describing themselves (e.g. gender, ethnicity).



Some feel the questions don't reflect their real **identity**.



Others think data could help support under-represented communities if collected properly.

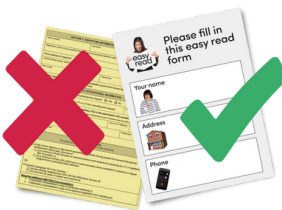
What did practitioners say?



They often don't get enough training on how to ask for **demographic data**.



They feel stuck between helping young people and meeting **funders'** demands.



They want better guidance on how to collect data in a fair and respectful way.

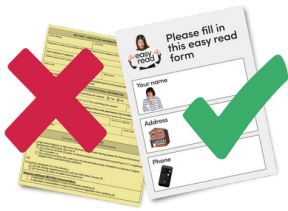


Some worry that the data is not used properly.

Problems with current data collection



Lack of trust – young people do not always trust organisations with their data.



Confusing language – unclear questions make it hard to answer.



One-size-fits-all approach – not everyone fits into standard categories.



Feeling exposed – young people may feel judged or uncomfortable sharing personal details.

What changes are needed?



Be clear and honest – explain why data is being collected and how it will be used.



More training for practitioners – so they can ask questions in a sensitive way.



More choice in answers – allow for more ways to describe **identity**.



Respect privacy – make sure young people feel safe when sharing information.

What happens next?



The project will continue to gather feedback and create better ways to collect data.



Funders, youth workers, and young people should work together to make improvements.

March

25

A final report will be shared in March 2025 with recommendations for change.

Glossary



Confidential

Keeping personal information private and safe.



Data Collection

The process of asking people for information about themselves.



Demographic Data

Information about people's background, such as age, gender, ethnicity, or where they live.



Funders

Organisations or people who give money to support youth programmes and research.

Glossary



Identity

How a person sees themselves, including their gender, culture, and background.



Practitioner

A person who works with young people, such as a youth worker or mentor.



Stereotype

A fixed idea about a group of people that may not be true for everyone.



Youth Sector

Organisations and people who work with young people outside of school, such as youth clubs and charities.