



models used to understand young people's participation in school and community

Evidence briefing # 14: August 2022





Rung 5:

Young people are consulted and informed. Young people give advice on services, are informed of both how their input will be used, and outcomes of the decisions made by



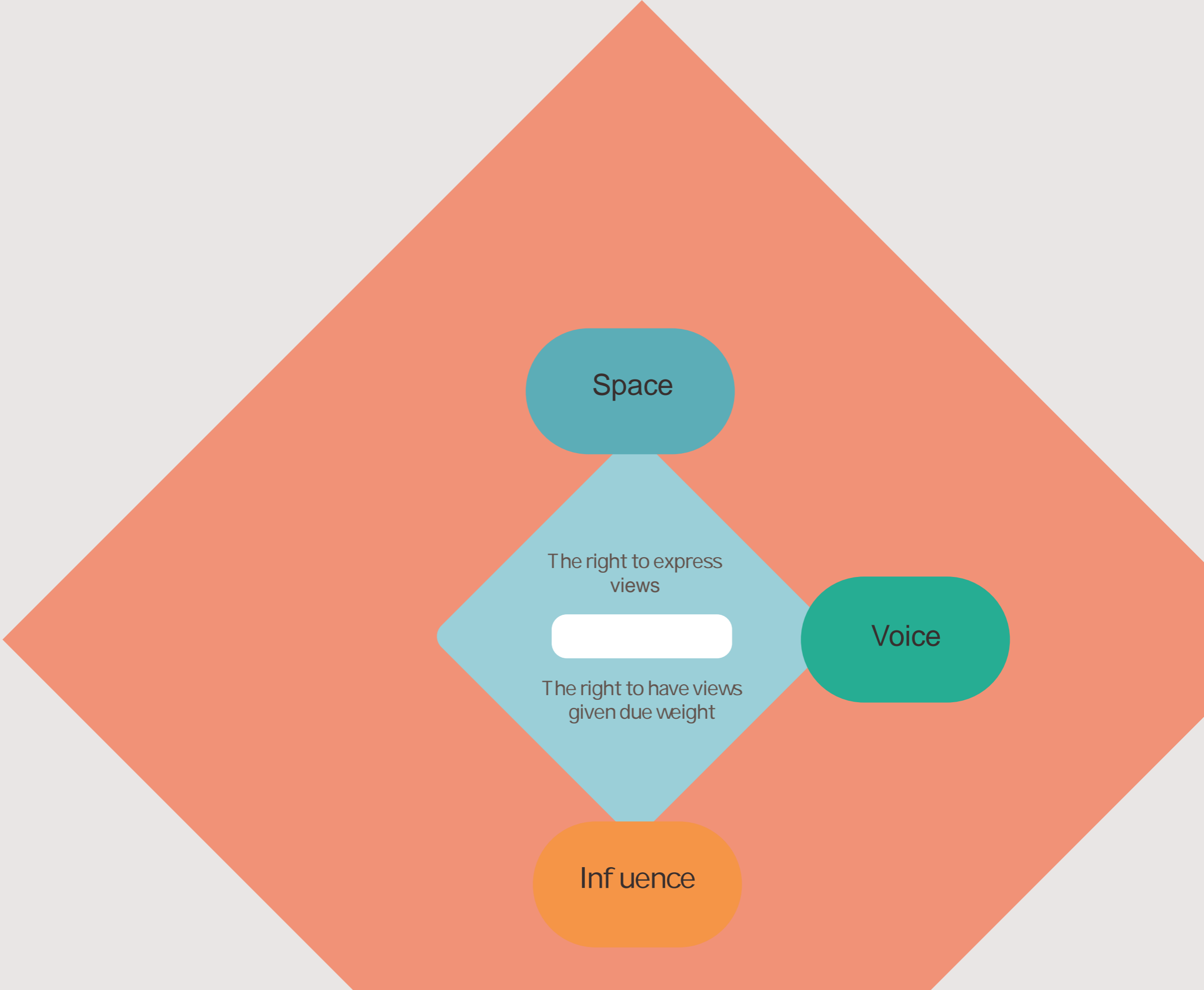
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In this model, participation is viewed on a spectrum. The further a programme moves on the spectrum, the higher the level of impact participants have on the programme and interventions.⁷

1. Children are listened to.
2. Children are supported in expressing their views.
3. Children's views are taken into account.
4. Children are involved in decision-making processes.
5. Children share power and responsibility for decision-making.

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This model consists of the original categories from the ladder model (on the vertical axis) and identifies different participation approaches (on the horizontal axis).⁸ Unique to the matrix model is its inclusion of both the types of participation and degree of involvement.



Space

The right to express
views



The right to have views
given due weight

Voice

Influence

It is important to recognise, when working with young people, the diversity within the group and consider differing identities and needs when planning your approach. It may be appropriate to adjust the language or format of the models to ensure accessibility and maximise engagement.

- Explore the various models with young people who are interested in engaging with youth participation. This will help encourage their involvement from the beginning and give you an insight into their ideas on what participation should look like for your specific organisation and project. For example, you could use this briefing in a workshop with young people to explore different models, looking at suitable approaches moving forward.
- When planning the participation activity for your programme, use a model to help ensure a range and balance of activity types. For example, you could use the matrix of participation⁸ to map out and consider different approaches to participation strategies from start to finish.
- Consider several models before you choose one to run with; you can then specify your organisation's or project's approach. For instance, you could read through this report, comparing each model, and decide on the most appropriate one based on your project aims and desired outcomes. Remember, participation is an approach to hold in mind at all times, rather than an activity to do on occasion.
- Utilise the models to identify multiple levels of participation in your project and distinguish roles for professionals and young people. This will ensure you keep a clear
