

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN RAIL – ‘LOOKING TO THE FUTURE’

KEY FINDINGS



Young people learn and apply skills, have their voices heard, become more confident, ambitious, and socially mobile, and embrace their role as active citizens, creating and contributing to connected communities.

“

I think young people have so much to offer. It was just great to get the chance to be involved in a project where we could really express ourselves.

”



Community rail and rail becomes more diverse and inclusive, better placed to serve communities, more progressive and equipped to deal with succession, and benefits from creativity, passion, and new ideas and approaches.

“

That's one of the great things about working with young people, they are very creative, very inventive, and they come up with great ideas that we, probably too sensibly, wouldn't think of.

”



Society benefits from young people impacting on issues that matter to them, from improving social inclusion, community cohesion, and health and wellbeing, and making progress toward greener, more sustainable transport.

“

It's that sense of, 'I have added value, I have contributed to this, and I have given something to my community'... ..That is really powerful.

”



Youth engagement is vital for supporting the change we need to decarbonise transport and protect our climate, and, if every community rail group in Britain had just one regular young volunteer, could deliver social value of more than £3million a year.



Projects need to be genuinely youth-led, empowering young people through ownership. They should be shaped by young people's skills and interests, and allow their creativity to come to the fore.



Community rail groups need to reach out to young people on their terms, offering opportunities that are flexible, appealing, and fun, in a welcoming environment where their contributions are recognised.

To view
the full
report,
[click here](#)



“

Young people are key... .. it's got to work for them. If you don't involve them, they have no ownership. If we want a railway of the future, we need young people with us.

”



For more information on youth engagement and community rail, visit communityrail.org.uk