

It was inspiring to be amongst those with such a deep commitment to youth social action and leadership. The day was the courage to ask the hard questions about how we as a sector are overcoming or contributing to young people not taking the lead.

In our new Young Trustees Project we are taking a fresh look at one aspect of youth leadership, our aim is to move the dial on representation of people under 26 on charity boards from 0.8% to 5% over the next 5 years. The project aims to take a systemic approach with young people driving change and we are just getting started on developing ideas on how we get there.

At the partner's meeting we had wide ranging discussion on how and why bringing and retaining young people in governance has been a challenge. A lot of it is some of the obvious barriers like the recruitment process and how we structure governance that makes it accessible for a wider range of people. However, I think we uncovered some compelling questions that we need to address as a sector like:

- What perceptions do we carry about young people and their competence and who in our organisations are ready to challenge these assumptions? How do we make sure that we recognise what richness young people can bring to a board and not just be present to tick a box?
- Assumptions about the "drudgery" of trusteeship are seeping into who we think would be giving their time to board meeting. Do we need to rethink how we structure our governance to make it more dynamic, responsive, and inclusive to not only attract those outside the typical profile of a trustee, but that we a meeting the needs of a rapidly changing sector?
- What do we really mean by Governance? Do youth advisory boards count? Do they meet "The No Test"? If not, are you really allowing for youth leadership?

These are not easy questions to answer, but that is the very reason we are building a movement of people to address them, and we need you on the vanguard of the youth social action to take the lead. The first step to getting involved is to attend one of our workshops in [London, Cardiff, and Leeds](#) over November to start co creating a plan of action. If you can't make it, don't worry sign up here to receive updates.