

Pathways through participation



Background

The Pathways through Participation research project started in April 2009. It is being led by NCVO, in partnership with the Institute for Volunteering Research (IVR) and Involve and is funded by the Big Lottery Fund for 2.5 years.

Aims and objectives

The project aims to explore how and why people get involved and stay involved in different forms of participation over the course of their lives.

In this project, participation is understood in a very broad sense as the act of taking part in a wide range of social and civic activities, such as being a school governor; volunteering for a charity, boycotting a product, responding to a local authority consultation and voting.

The project focuses on the following questions:

- How and why does participation begin and continue?
- Can trends and patterns of participation be identified over time?
- What connections, if any, are there between participation in different forms of participation and what triggers movement between them?
- How can policy-makers and practitioners enable and encourage different individuals and communities to participate?

Approach and methods

This is a qualitative research project that involves a number of key stages:

- Literature review
- Area selection
- Local area profiling
- Activity mapping sessions
- In-depth interviews
- Participatory workshops

Fieldwork

The research is taking place in three areas: Enfield, Leeds and Suffolk.

Contact details

For more information and to subscribe to our newsletter, please visit our website:

<http://pathwaysthroughparticipation.org.uk/>

Or contact the researchers working on this project:

- Ellie Brodie (Enfield)
ellie.brodie@ncvo-vol.org.uk; 020 7520 2548
- Eddie Cowling (Leeds)
eddie@involve.org.uk; 020 7920 6480
- Sarah Miller (Suffolk)
sarah.miller@volunteeringengland.org.uk; 020 7520 8926
- Veronique Jochum (project manager)
veronique.jochum@ncvo-vol.org.uk; 020 7520 2482

