

Community Action Workshop






Community Activists

This workshop has been created as part of a resource pack to look at the extra costs children and their families encounter in day to day life. Most of the activities in this resource pack focus on the costs of the school day, however this workshop focuses on the costs for children and young people in their local community.

Children and young people who we spoke to during this project valued the opportunities they have in their local community. They also felt passionately that some important services were missing.



Community Activists

Link to Rights:

Article 12 – The right to be listened to and taken seriously

Article 15 – The right to join groups and make friends

Article 26 – My family should get the money they need to bring me up

Article 29 – The right to an education which develops my personality, respect for others rights and the environment

Timing:

This activity will take 60 minutes

Learning outcomes:

- This workshop enables young people to think about their community and the rights they have.
- It also supports young people to think about the changes that they would like to see.

Resources:

- Snaptivists Game
- Large paper (rolls of paper would be ideal)
- Sticky tape
- Pens and pencils
- [Know your Rights Posters/symbols cards](#)
- Post it notes (you can also use scrap paper and sticky tape)
- Check with Ceri character profile
- 'Making Changes' handout
- 'Who Can Help' Handout

Community Activists

Introduction:

- Start by telling the group:
'Before you start looking at your own community and the positive impact your group can make; we're going to play Snaptivists. In this game pack you will find the descriptions of young people who have made a positive impact to their local community and other young people's lives.'
- If you have a large group, split the group into smaller groups of 5-6.
- Hand out a pack of each of the descriptions and rights to each group.
- Ask the groups to pair the activist with the description and then the right that they are defending.

Main:

Next, you will move on to think about your own community.

- Give each group a large piece of paper.
- Ask each group to draw a picture of their local community, putting their meeting point at the centre.

- Allow 15 minutes for this part of the activity, encourage the group to get creative while creating their maps, they could use symbols or use other art materials.
- Ask each group to use post-it notes or symbols cards to link places in their community to their rights.
- Suggest beginning at their meeting place with Article 12 (the right to be heard) and Article 15 (the right to meet with friends and join groups). This will give participants a good idea of how to link other places in their area with rights.

Other examples:

- School – Article 28
- Playground/sports ground/theatre group – Article 31
- Religious building – Article 14
- Library – Article 17
- Doctors – Article 24
- Welsh Language School – Article 28 and Article 30
- Police Station – Article 19 and Article 37

Community Activists

- Once all groups have completed their maps ask the groups to come together to show their maps.
- Next, introduce the character of Ceri by saying the following:

"I would like to introduce a character to you all. This is Ceri, Ceri is the same age as you, Ceri can identify with whichever gender you like, Ceri lives in this community and goes to your school. Ceri's family don't always have enough money for the things Ceri needs."

- Share the **Check with Ceri character profile**, which has more details about how Ceri feels.
- Ask each group to go back to their maps and consider what things in their community would be difficult for Ceri to access.

Finish

- Ask each group to feedback what they think may be difficult for Ceri to access in their community.
- Use our '**making changes**' handout to work together and consider who the group need to express their views to so they can create positive change for young people in their community e.g. local council or Assembly Member.

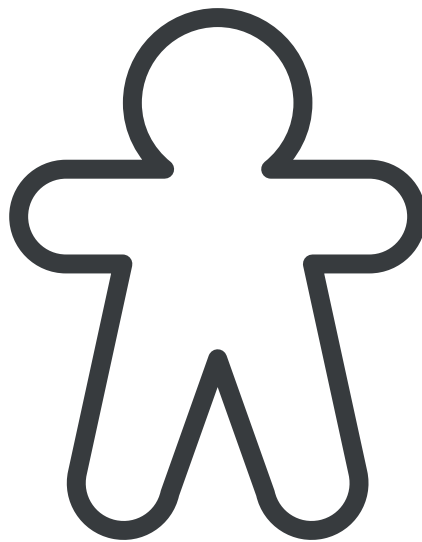
Check With Ceri Character Profile

I feel very miserable because my family are different to everyone else.

Jealous, I feel jealous because I can't afford important things and others can.

I feel really sad because my friends have things they want and I don't even have some things I need.

I don't feel safe and I don't feel any hope for the future, like it would be difficult to get a home, further education, get a job.



I feel like I can't talk to my family about my problems because they are already stressed, I feel like I need to get a job instead of going out and spending time with friends so I can provide for my family. I wouldn't tell my friends because I'd be scared they would make fun of me for not having the same things as them. I'd be lonely!

Making Changes Handout

Step 1 – What would you like to change?

Step 2 – How would the change benefit young people in your community?

Step 3 – Who could help make this change?

Step 4 – Find the contact details of the people you need to speak to by using the “Who can help me?” Guide

Step 5 – Write to the person or organisation you have decided to contact.

Step 6a – If you receive a reply from the person/ organisation agreeing to make the change you have asked for then you should ensure to keep in contact with them to monitor the progress and ask for regular updates of this progress.

Step 6b – if you receive a reply from the person/ organisation stating that the change you have asked for cannot happen you could reply asking for an explanation and maybe try to come to a compromise. Remember that not everything you will want will be possible due to budget restrictions etc.

Who could help me?

WHO COULD HELP ME?	WHO ARE THEY?	HOW DO I CONTACT THEM?
Local County Councillor	This is someone who is elected to represent your area and the people who live there at your County Council. This might be located at the biggest town or city in your county.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Search 'Contact my local County Councillor'• This should lead you to your local County Council's website• Enter the area you live in and your local councillor and their details should appear
Local Community/ Town Councillor	This is someone who is elected to represent your area and the people who live there in a smaller more localised council, these are often people you might know better within your community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Search '(the name of your county) community councils' e.g. 'Neath Port Talbot community councils' or 'Gwynedd community councils'• Click on your community council to find the contact details
Local AM (Assembly Member)	This is someone who is elected to represent your area and the people who live there at the Welsh Assembly in Cardiff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Search 'Contact my local AM'• Enter your constituency (if you do not know your constituency then search that first)• Then the profile of your local AM should appear and here you will find the contact details
Local MP (Member of Parliament)	This is someone who is elected to represent your area and the people who live there at Parliament in Westminster, London.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Search 'find my MP'• Enter your postcode/area• The name of your local MP and their contact details should then appear

Who could help me?

Local Charities	These could be branches of national charities or smaller local ones that might be able to help you raise money to change or develop things in your community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Search 'Charities in my area' or 'Local charities'• A variety of charities should appear, both branches of National ones as well as local smaller charities• You can find their contact details on their website• REMEMBER to read about what the charity does before contacting them to ensure that they are the correct organisation to contact
Local Community Groups	These might be other groups like yours that already might have solved the problems you are facing. They could also be groups of adults that you could work with to implement the changes you wish to make.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Search 'community groups in my area'• This should then come up with a variety of groups that are around your area• You will find their contact details on their websites or on their social media pages• REMEMBER to read about what these groups do before contacting them to ensure that you are contacting the correct groups and people
Local PCSO Police Community Support Officer	This is someone who works on the front line of your local police force, providing a visible and reassuring presence on the streets but they do not have the same powers as a regular police officer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Search 'contact my local PCSO'• Enter your Postcode into the search engine on your local force's website• Contact details for the officer you need to contact will then appear

Snaptivists Game:

Name: Sophie Cruz

Age: 5 when they began activism

In 2015, she ran into the middle of Pope Francis' parade in Washington DC. She gave a letter to the Pope, because she was scared that her parents - undocumented Mexican immigrants - would be deported. In an interview she said, "I believe I have the right to live with my parents. I have the right to be happy."

In March 2017 she met Barack Obama and spoke at the Women's March.

Name: Malala Yousafzai

Age: 11 when they began activism

In 2008, the Taliban took control of her village and said that girls could no longer go to school. Disagreeing with this, she spoke publicly on behalf of girls and their right to learn. In October 2012, she was shot in the head by a masked gunman who was trying to silence her. She recovered in a hospital in Birmingham and moved to the UK. She continues to be an activist for girls, ensuring they get access to education worldwide.

Name: Millie Bobby Brown

Age: 14 when they began activism

She recently became an ambassador for UNICEF and now uses her fame to help raise awareness of children's rights. She focuses on promoting education, safe places to play and learn, and the negative impact of violence, bullying and poverty.

Name: March for our Lives

Age: 15-18 when they began activism

After a mass shooting at their high school in Florida, the group decided to establish a movement that would call for tighter gun control in the United States. The group staged protests and walk outs and in November 2018, they won the International Children's Peace Prize.

Snaptivists Game:

Name: Bana al-Abed

Age: 6 when they began activism

In September 2016, she set up a Twitter account, and with help from her English-speaking mother sent out videos and tweets criticising the use of weapons by the Syrian government.

Name: Iqbal Masih

Age: 10 when they began activism

He was sold by his family at the age of four to repay a debt. He worked long hours in a carpet factory until age 10 when he escaped, he was captured and then escaped again for good. He went on to help over 3,000 Pakistani child slaves escape from hard labour and received international recognition for his efforts.