

Working together: co-operation and collaboration in learning and teaching

Workshop session 2

**Exposing students to 'real world' experiences – collaborating with external organisations to uncover policy implementation within the local context
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Abstract:

This presentation will report back on a Rapid Response Fund-supported teaching project that aimed to develop students' appreciation of how social policies are translated into practice at a local level through a collaboration with local social enterprise 'Inspired Youth' and City of York Council. The collaboration formed the basis of three lectures and the seminar activities in the spring term for the 2nd year undergraduate module 'Children, Young People and Social Policy'.

Whilst the inclusion of 'guest lectures' is nothing new, for our collaboration dialogue and interaction with the outside agencies formed an integral part of the learning process. Addressing a need to complement theoretical study with real life experiences, this collaborative project exposed to students the policy-practice relationship and how creative methods are used to engage young people in policy-making. Students were able to directly see the relationships between policy and practice, involving themselves in a collaborative process to achieve this and undertaking activities grounded in real world experiences.

In addition, to support the project we utilised a public blog to facilitate communication between Inspired Youth and our students, and to record the progress of the project.

We will draw upon our experience to address the following themes:

- A learning and teaching approach that embeds external agencies
- Developing a mutual understanding of objectives and agendas
- Facilitating a dialogue between students and external agencies
- Managing ethical dilemmas that may arise when working with external agencies
- The importance of buy-in from co-tutors

Participants can expect to come away with the lessons we have learnt as to how to engage with outside agencies in the development and delivery of teaching approaches, in particular those which incorporate visual methods.