

Session Plan (based on group work setting of between 8 -14 young people)**Aim:**

- To use innovative and participative methods to engage with children and young people in order to hear their views and opinions.
- To seek the views of children and young people in relation to the themes identified within the proposed Social Investment Fund (SIF).
- To hear from those most likely to be affected about their thoughts in the impact of unemployment, deprivation and limited community services.

10mins	Background, context and introductions	<p>Facilitator to provide some background information in the purpose of the day (Government want to know what you think about your community, what's good about it, what needs fixed and how they might do that).</p> <p>Introduce any external visitors and explain why they are there (to hear directly from you).</p> <p>Explain the process (the ideas and things that you say today will be written up and given to those people in government who make decisions that affect you – you have a chance to tell them what you think).</p>
10mins	Opening Circle	<p>All people present say their name and the thing they enjoy doing most locally (in their community).</p> <p>Eg Playing in the park, going to the leisure centre, play on the street with friends etc.</p>
20mins	Employment Exercise	<p>As a large group discussion (depending on numbers) young people are asked to consider the following questions –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is your dream job and why? • Is getting this job realistic? • How do you think people feel when they don't have jobs? • What is the impact of not having a job? • What could be done to help people who don't have jobs. <p>Facilitator to make notes on final 3 questions.</p>
20mins	Impact of deprivation card game	<p>Cards are placed on the floor that represent different people. Young people are asked to do the following –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify who these people might be (eg young mother, drug user, older person

		<p>etc).</p> <p>2. Consider the following – the issues each of these people might face, the impact of these issues on their lives and any ideas they might have for addressing these issues.</p> <p>Facilitator to record main points</p>
20mins	Community Map (impact of community services and dereliction)	<p>In smaller group young people are asked to create a community map of their local area.</p> <p>On this map young people draw –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Local services such as youth venues, shops, schools, doctors etc. 2. Areas they think are good for the community and them (eg parks, green spaces, provisions) 3. Areas that are not good for the community and them (interface areas, run down or empty shops/premises etc) 4. Highlight things that would make the community better for everyone. 5. Young people then present these maps to each other. <p>Facilitator to record any recurring themes/points</p>
5mins	Next steps	<p>Facilitator to explain what will now happen with the information (it will be compiled with other youth groups who have done a similar session and will be given to government to help them make their plans). They will receive a letter to say their information has been received and what will happen next.</p>
5mins	Closing Circle	<p>One thing that you enjoyed about the session? Or One thing you are looking forward to in the next week?</p>

Resources Required: Flipchart, markers, pens, card game.

Print and cut out





