**Hart’s Ladder**

**Key Questions**
- Which level of Hart’s Ladder is our project on?
- Which level of Hart’s Ladder should our project be on?
- What do we need to do to move to the right level on the ladder for our project?

**Quality of Participation**
- Young people and adults share decision-making
- Young people lead and initiate action
- Adult-initiated, shared decisions with young people
- Young people are consulted and informed
- Young people assigned but informed

**Examples**
- Young people have the ideas, set up the project and invite adults to join them in making decisions throughout the project. They are equal partners.
- A group of students get permission from their principal to run an environmental day. The students make the decisions, and the school provides support.
- Adults design and facilitate the project, and young people’s opinions are given weight in decision-making. Young people receive feedback about their opinions.
- A local council runs several consultations to get young people’s input about a recreation park. Young people tell the council about features in the park they want changed. The council provides feedback to the young people about how their views affected decision-making.
- Young people have the initial idea and decide how the project is to be carried out. Adults are available and trust in the leadership of young people.
- A community co-ordinator asks young people for event ideas for Youth Week. The young people suggest having a skating event. The co-ordinator and young people work together to make decisions and apply for funding.
- Adults decide on the project and young people volunteer for it. Young people understand the project and adults respect their views.
- A conference creates positions for two young people on a panel of speakers. Young people decide how to select their representatives and work with adults to understand their role.

**Non-Participation**
- Tokenism
- Decoration
- Manipulation

It is important to remember that tokenism, decoration and manipulation are not examples of youth participation. You do have the choice to move away from these methods towards more meaningful participation.