

Youth Friendly Space Audit



Any space that young people frequent should be **safe**, and when you get it right for them, you've probably got it right for everyone

Research supports CPTED principles

- Well-lit
- Open space
- Safe toilets & amenities
- Covered walkways
- High visibility

Appropriately located – considering surrounding businesses and facilities

Deliberate and safe spaces to hang out that are visible but are not in the flow of movement of other people

Waiting and transition areas

Young people need to be able to safely get in and out. There needs to be information on public transport available. Safe and sheltered bus stops and car pick ups areas.

Questions

Do you feel safe when you:

- Arrive and leave? (walking, bussing, biking, driving)
- Walk around? (during the day, at night)
- Go to the bathroom?
- Are alone here?
- Are there at night?

Is this a safe space for young people?

Completely safe -----

Is there somewhere for you to hangout here? Do you feel like you're in people's way?

A space is going to be more **appealing** and successful when people want to use it for its intended purpose.

Socially credible – young people want to go there to connect with the space

At arms length but within arms reach – Young people want to connect with the wider community as well as purpose built youth space, however they prefer areas which are slightly separate

Engaging - young people want to be engaged in the space

Inclusive – young people are far more likely to use space which has had their input, involvement and investment throughout the design and concept stages

Questions

Is this a place you like to go?

Love this space ----- Only come because its convenient

Do you use this space for its intended purpose?

Used for its purpose ----- Not used for its purpose

Do you feel part of the community here?

Would you come back here?

Definitely ----- Nope

Were young people involved in the planning of this place? Do you feel like your feedback about this space would be listened to?

Any space needs to be **accessible** - all young people should be able to use it, even if their circumstances are different.

Physically accessible - good disability access is essential

Strong connectivity with **good public transport cannot be underestimated**

Reasonably priced – activities, services and goods on offer should be affordable for young people

Low-cost **food options** close at hand

Connectivity to key youth spaces such as public libraries, malls, sport facilities, community centres

Questions

Disability access and use

- Disabled parking
- Disabled toilets
- Can disabled young people use this space?

Can you get here from home/school easily? Are there enough public transport options?

Can you safely bike/walk here?

Is this place reasonably priced?

- Are there discounts for young people?
- Can you afford to eat here? Or near here?

Is this place near other key spaces you visit?

Heaps of stuff near here ----- Nothing else around

A space that is well-resourced with young people in mind is one that will be well-used

Easy access to **relevant social services & support functions** such as Youth Workers and medical professionals

Free wifi or internet access

Low cost or free pricing **structures**

Multi-use – functional spaces with more than one purpose that are well-used

Appropriate amenities for what the space will be used for

Questions

Could you get information about other services for young people here? Do you feel like you could go and talk to the staff here if you had questions?

How well-priced is this space?

Affordable ----- Expensive

Is there more than one thing you can do here? Could you stay here for a long time?

Does this place appeal to lots of people?

Appealing to many ----- Appeals to few

Does this space have?

- Internet?
- Drinking fountains/somewhere to get a drink?
- Food or places to eat?
- Safe toilets? Unisex toilets? Safe showers (if needed)?

Safe bike stands?

You can tell a **youth-friendly** space by the feeling you get when you walk in - young people are wanted here!

Vibrant and alive – a tidy, contemporary and colourful space that reflects young people and their sub-cultures

Welcoming – staff specifically trained to deal with young people (strong preference for Youth Workers over security guards)

Embraces Young People – a place where young people feel they are wanted and valued

Prioritises Youth Participation – a space that includes young people as much as possible in its development

Questions

Does this space feel youthful?

Very youthful ----- Not at all youthful

Does this space reflect your culture?

Yep ----- Nope

Do you feel comfortable and valued here?

Yeah ----- Nah

Do you feel wanted? Are you treated well by people?

Everyone here is cool ----- Everyone here is mean

Do young people help make decisions here? Are they involved with how this space runs and looks? Are you able to give suggestions/feedback about this space?

