The ARYB pilot tool

Why do we need this tool, and why do we need to test it?
In our extensive experience of supporting youth organisations with their learning and evaluation, we have found that observational approaches are rarely used. At the same time, feedback from practitioners has consistently highlighted challenges with other tools, particularly self-report surveys, which place the burden on young people themselves to understand and reliably report on their own development.

The ARYB pilot is an exciting opportunity for the UK youth sector to establish a viable alternative: a reliable, practical approach to gathering useful insights into the development of young people while they are accessing a youth service or provision. In order to achieve this, we need a broad range of youth organisations to take part in this pilot process. Having a range of UK-based practitioners use the process in their context will give us the evidence we need to demonstrate that this tool has a valuable part to play in supporting high quality practice in the youth sector.

Aims
The key aims of this phase of the pilot in the UK are to establish that:
- the tool is **reliable**, ie that two practitioners, observing the same young person, will consistently give similar ratings;
- the tool is **useful**, ie that practitioners are able to use the ARYB as a reflective tool which provides them with insights into how best to support the young people accessing their service or provision.

In order to achieve these aims, we are inviting youth organisations to take part in this pilot in one of three ways: reliability testing, reflective practice with groups of young people, and reflective practice in a one-to-one setting.

1. Reliability testing
The aim of this strand is to establish that the process produces consistent scores, across a range of settings and practitioners using the tool.
To participate in this strand, we need participants to:

- Schedule **at least two** sessions where two youth practitioners observe the behaviour of **the same** young person in a group setting;
- Ensure these two workers/practitioners then complete the ARYB for this young person, without comparing notes or conferring beforehand.
- Schedule a 30-minute structured interview (via phone /video conference) to gather feedback on their experience)

This is a *minimum requirement* for participation in the reliability testing: organisations are encouraged to complete ratings across as many sessions as they can.
The greater the number of paired ratings we gather in this phase, the greater the confidence we will have in the reliability of the tool.
Minimum time commitment: 4 hours (2 hours for each practitioner)

2. Reflective practice

For this strand, our aim is to understand how the ARYB can support practitioners working with groups of young people to reflect on their practice and young people's behaviour during sessions.

To participate in this strand, we need participants to:

- Schedule **at least two** sessions where a practitioner observes one or more young people in a group session;
- Ensure the practitioner completes the ARYB for the young people observed;
- Schedule **at least one** discussion session with the practitioner and colleagues, to discuss the experience of using the tool, and how it supports their practice.

As with the reliability testing, this is a *minimum level* for participation: we would hope for and welcome participant organisations making multiple observations over the testing period. We will provide participants with a simple agenda for their discussion session, with key questions to explore, and an online feedback form to complete over the course of the session.

Minimum time commitment: 4 hours

Important notes

Firstly, we recognise that many organisations are working with fewer young people in smaller groups now. Furthermore, we also appreciate that settings within organisations might be different in order to be COVID-19 secure. This undoubtably will influence how many observations can be undertaken and what we might expect to observe in terms of young people's behaviour. We will factor this in our pilot testing as best as we can.

Secondly, to preserve confidentiality, the system encrypts personal details of all young people, so that only the practitioners themselves will be able to identify individuals. If you have any concerns or questions about data security, feel free to contact the Centre's Data Manager - josef.fischer@youthimpact.uk.