

saferlondon
**YOUTH VOICE &
PARTICIPATION TREE**





The Safer London young champion VIPs

The Safer London Youth Voice and Participation Tree was created in collaboration with the young champion Safer London VIPs.

Who are the Safer London VIPs?

We are a group of young Londoners who help to shape and inform everything Safer London does, as well as contribute to the wider conversation around violence and exploitation in London.

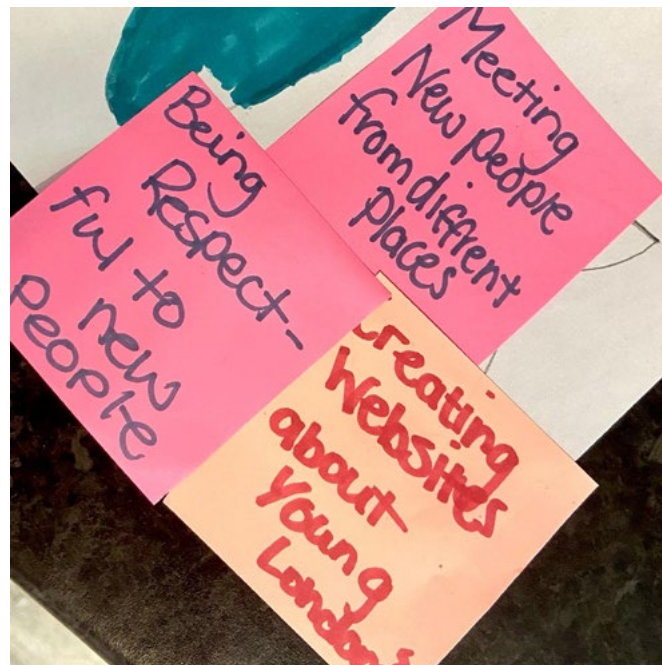
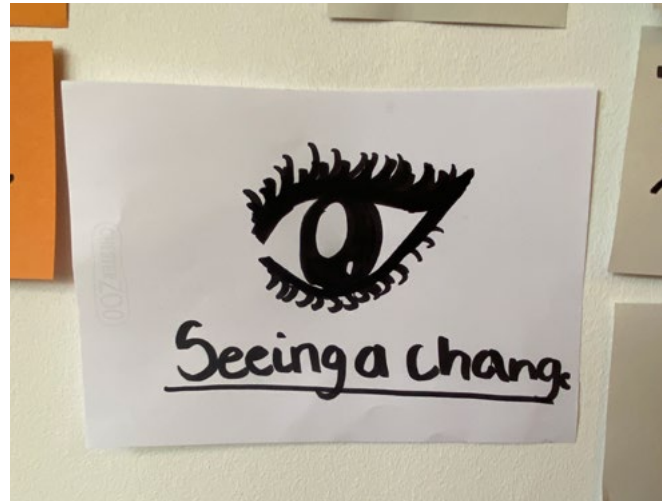
What do the Safer London VIPs do?

We meet regularly, both online and in person, where we work as a team to make Safer London the best it can be! We use our individual and collective voices, expertise, and experience to inspire and drive change.

How do I become a Safer London VIP?

If you, or someone you know wants to make a difference, gain new skills, and make new friends, then become a Safer London VIP – signing up is super easy! Just fill out the [online form](#) and we'll get back to you.

Join the movement and have your say on the things that matter... we can't wait to meet you!



Youth Voice and Participation at Safer London

At Safer London, we firmly believe in the power of youth voice and the transformative impact it can have.

Since 2020 we have been supported by an active participation group – the Safer London VIPs. Since then, there has been many twists and turns (hiii global pandemic!), with many successes and much to celebrate!

To mark this journey, we wanted to create a visually engaging representation of participation. So, in collaboration with the incredible young champions, the VIPs, we co-produced the Safer London **Youth Voice and Participation Tree**.

We came together in July 2023 and through a creative workshop the tree was born. Using sticky notes, the VIPs added their thoughts and opinions to each section of the tree, right from the seed, all the way up to the highest branches.

The result is a metaphorical representation of what participation at Safer London looks like – and more importantly the difference it makes.

Not just for us as an organisation, but the VIPs and every young Londoner we work alongside.



THANK YOU!

We would like to thank the following people for their role in creating the Safer London Youth Voice and Participation Tree:

- 👏 The Safer London VIPs
- 👏 Asani (Illustrator)
- 👏 Participation People

Thank
you!!



What is the Youth Voice and Participation Tree

The Youth Voice and Participation Tree stands as a powerful symbol of youth empowerment and engagement at Safer London.

By nurturing and amplifying youth voices, we are creating a vibrant and impactful community.

The Seed: Planting the Purpose

Every journey begins with a seed. Our seed is a symbol of purpose that ignites our drive to amplify young voices. The seed represents our unwavering dedication to inspiring and supporting young Londoners, nurturing their potential to effect positive change.

The Roots: Firmly Grounded in Core Values

Just as strong roots provide stability to a tree, participation at Safer London is firmly rooted in core values. Our shared values, held by both Safer London and the VIPs, form the foundation for meaningful engagement. By upholding respect, inclusivity, and openness, we ensure that every voice is heard, valued, and respected.

The Trunk: The Core of Empowerment

Standing tall and strong, the trunk symbolises the heart of effective participation at Safer London. Here, the remarkable VIPs take centre stage. They provide the stability and support necessary to build a solid framework for youth empowerment. By working hand in hand, we create an environment where young Londoners can thrive and make a difference ensuring that it grows.

The Branches: Diversity and Engagement

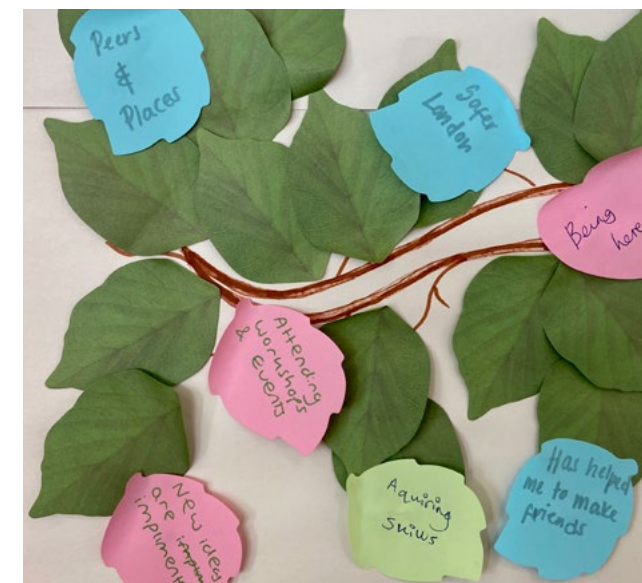
Branching out in every direction, the branches are the diverse ways in which participation is integrated into Safer London. We believe in fostering youth engagement through empowering workshops, open discussions, and inclusive decision-making processes. The branches represent the numerous opportunities we provide for young Londoners to actively shape their own futures and contribute to a safer society.

The Leaves: A Tapestry of Positive Change

The leaves of the tree illustrate the results and impact of participation. Each leaf represents the positive changes, growth, and opportunities that arise when youth voices are amplified and valued. Through their active involvement, both Safer London and the VIPs experience the tangible outcomes of their collective efforts, bringing about meaningful change.

The Sun and Rain: Nurturing Growth

Participation just like a tree needs nourishment and the perfect conditions to thrive. The warm sun symbolises the support and encouragement we provide to the young champion VIPs, empowering them to shine brightly. The rain represents the resources and opportunities we offer to nurture participation, ensuring that it grows.





The Seed

The seed of the Youth Voice and Participation Tree is like the fuel that keeps the young Londoner Safer London VIP group going.

It serves as a powerful embodiment of their collective drive. It stands for what inspires them and why they're part of this initiative.

The VIPs shared their individual reasons, like wanting to make new friends, learn from different perspectives, make sure services are tailored to young people's needs, advocate for youth representation, help other young people speak up, and team up to make youth services even better.

WHAT THE VIPS SAID...



"I am a part of Safer London as I want to meet new peeps and hear their points of view."



"To ensure that services are suited to young people. To ensure services support young people. Make young people comfortable at Safer London."



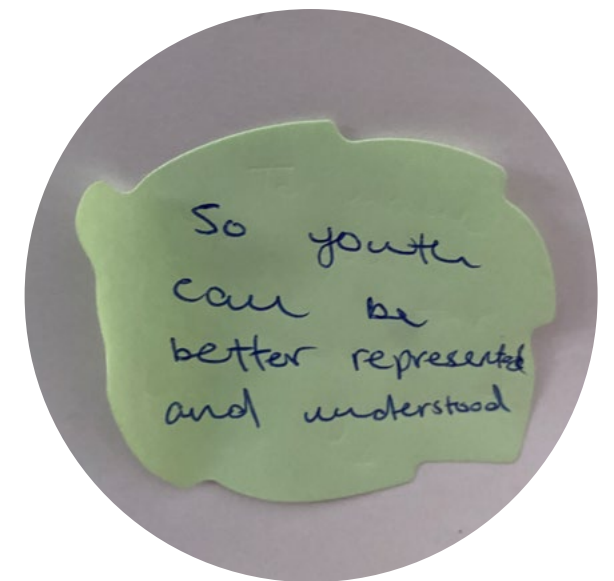
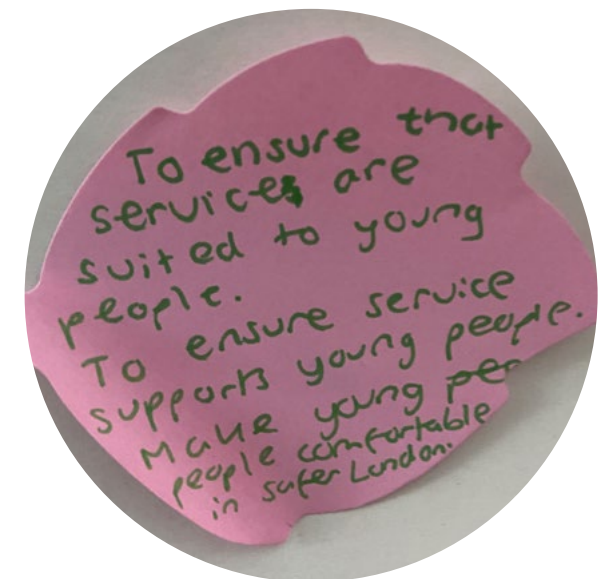
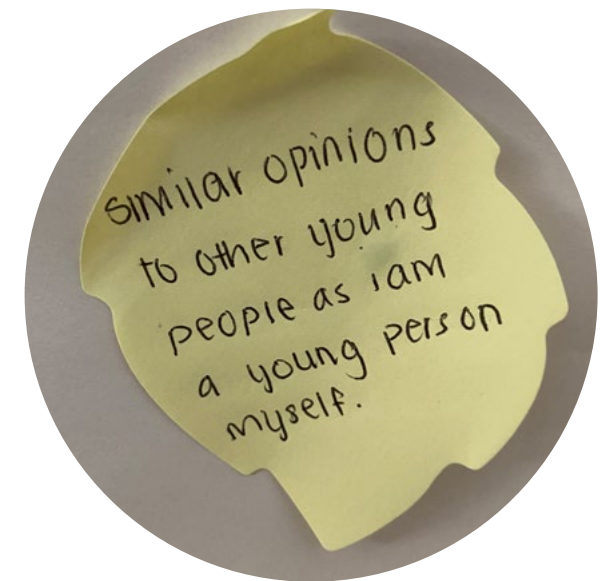
"So youth can be better represented and understood."



"I am here to encourage younger people to express themselves and feel comfortable to say their opinions."



"To make a youth service better for youth by listening to youths."





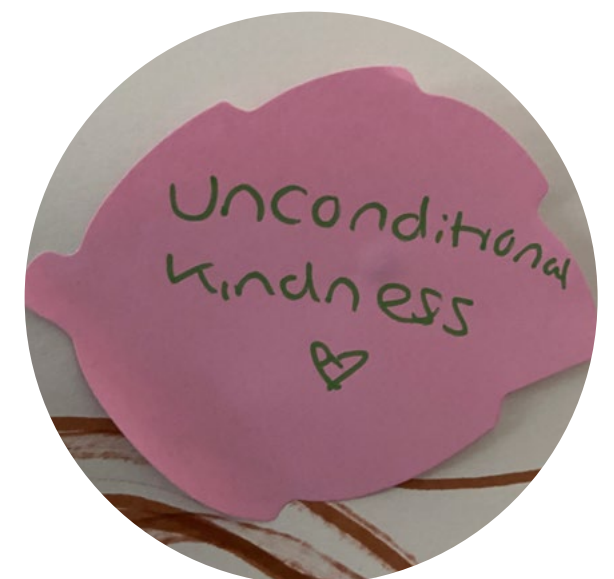
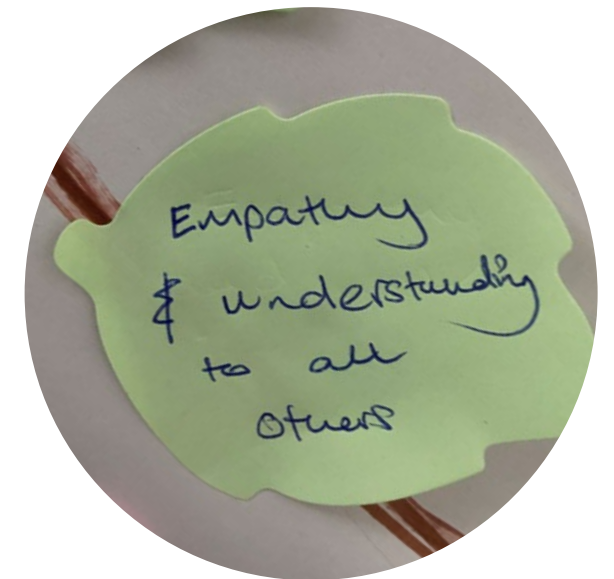
The Roots

The roots of the Youth Voice and Participation Tree form the foundation of this vibrant community at Safer London.

Anchored in core values like kindness, empathy, and respect. These values create a positive and supportive environment where everyone feels heard and valued.

WHAT THE VIPS SAID...

-  Kindness
-  Comfort and happiness
-  Safeness for all
-  Equity
-  Empathy and understanding to all others
-  Smiley faces
-  friendliness
-  Positive energy
-  Helping represent other young people
-  Organisation
-  Knowledge
-  Excitement
-  Respectful
-  Sympathy/empathy
-  Safe and supporting
-  Unconditional kindness
-  Free of judgment
-  Listen
-  Attention














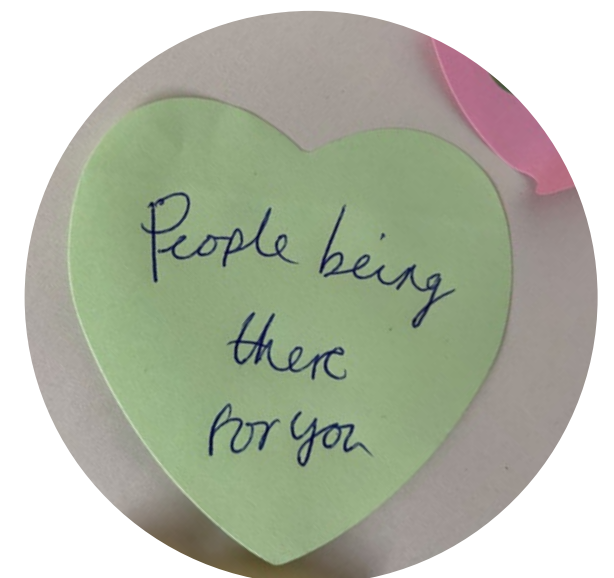
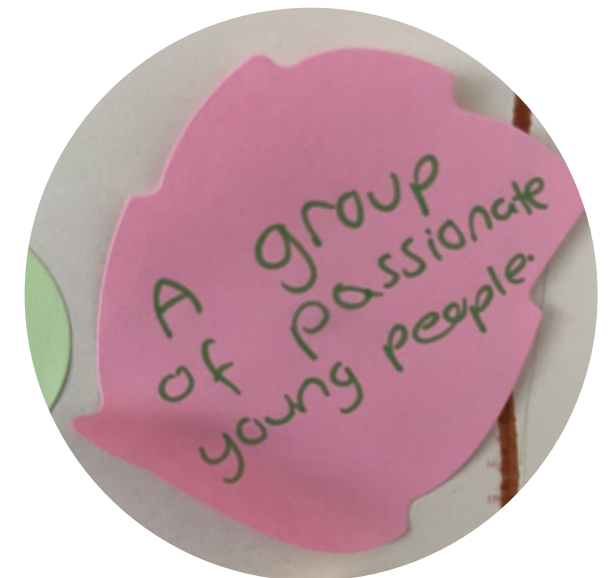
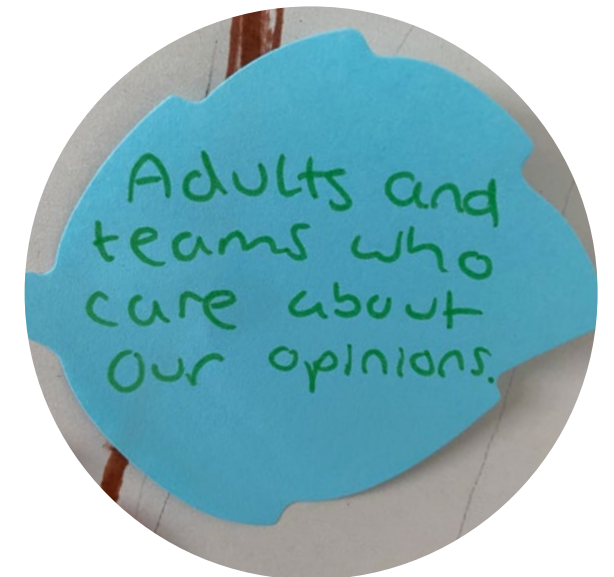
The Trunk

The trunk of the Youth Voice and Participation Tree serves as a solid foundation, nurturing and sustaining youth voice and participation.

It empowers young Londoners by providing opportunities and a supportive team that values their opinions and ideas.

WHAT THE VIPS SAID...

-  Young people sharing opinions
-  Planned and prepared with intention of support
-  Making a difference
-  Opportunities
-  Good vibes
-  Caring for us
-  Work experience
-  Smiles
-  Comfortable





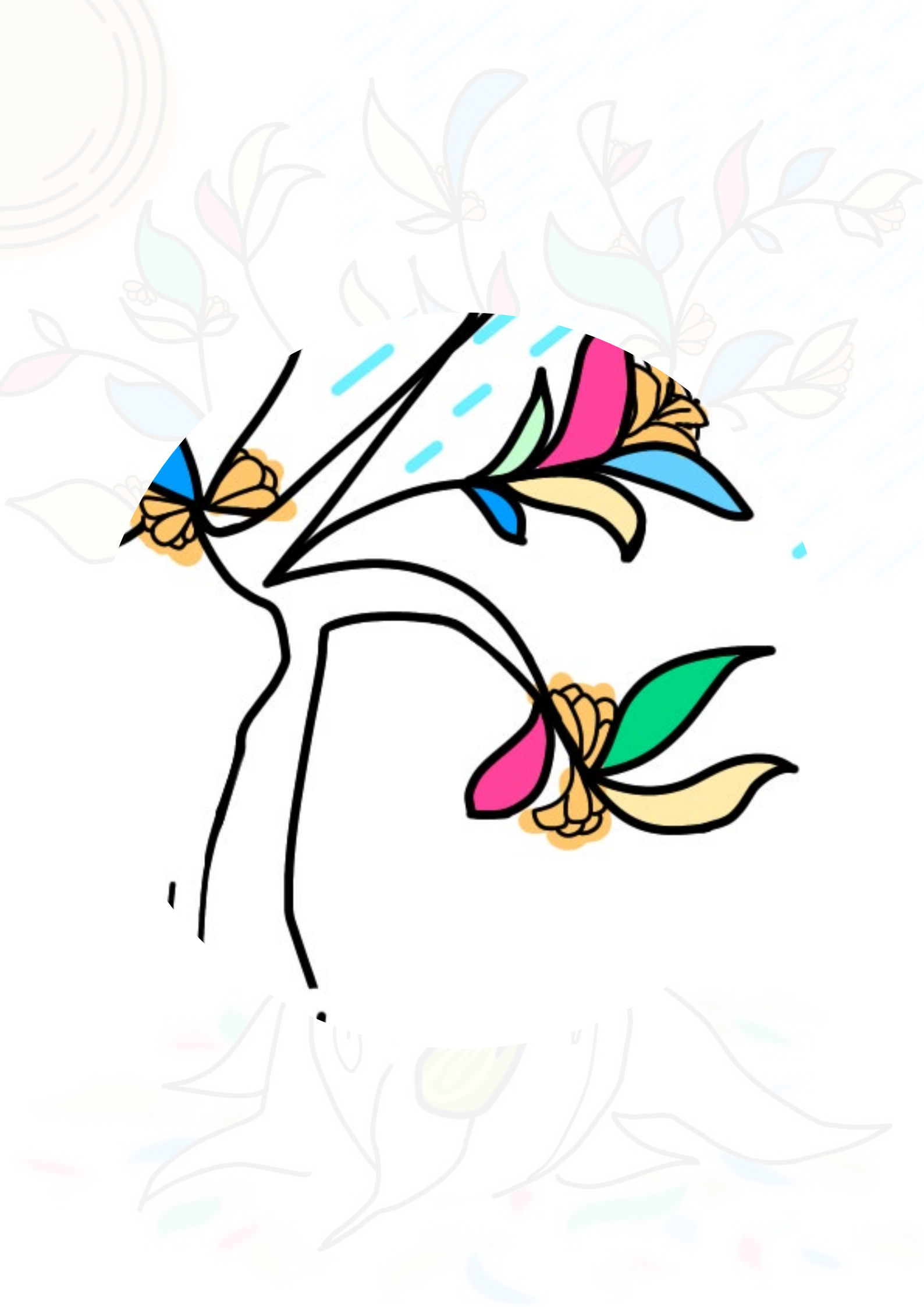
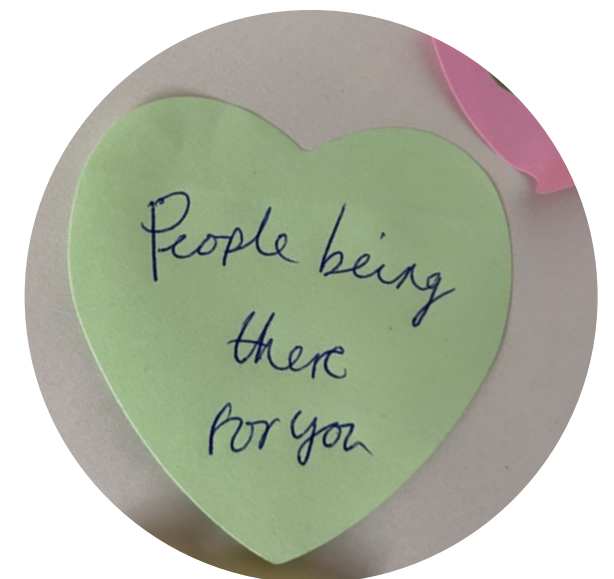
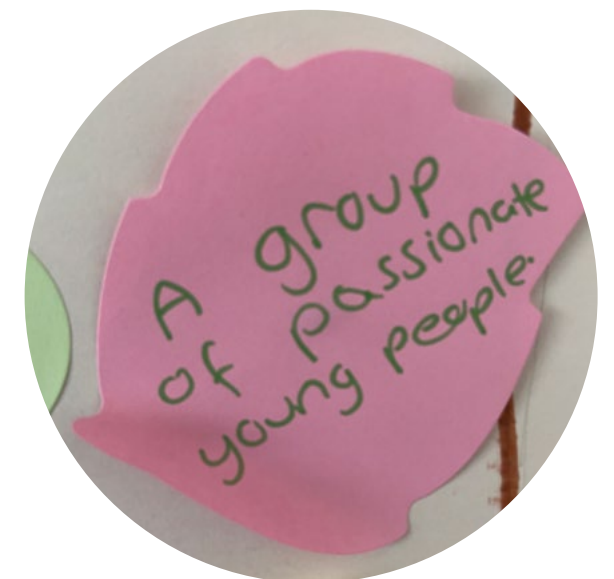
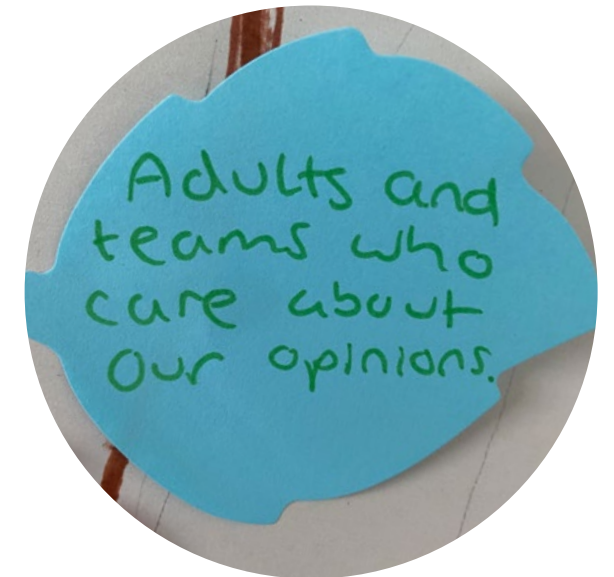
The Branches

The branches symbolise the diverse and dynamic methods through which the VIP group nurtures and amplifies youth voice.

These activities and initiatives create a space for young Londoners to grow, learn, and actively contribute.

WHAT THE VIPS SAID...

-  Attending workshops and events
-  Being here
-  Having people join us
-  Hard working people
-  Safer London group chat
-  Having fun
-  Having a space to talk about our opinions
-  Workshops
-  Good communication
-  Connected with and supporting young people
-  Creativity with sessions
-  Funds





The Leaves

The leaves represent the impact, tangible outcomes and transformative effects of youth participation, such as improved confidence, practical skills, and a safer environment.

Through participation young Londoners feel validated, and their ideas lead to positive change and innovation.

WHAT THE VIPS SAID...

-  New ideas are implemented
-  Peers and places
-  A Safer London
-  Has helped me to make friends
-  Has validated my feelings
-  Boost in my confidence to be social
-  Adapting skills
-  Bringing the youth confidence
-  Having a say in who is hired to ensure they are good
-  Become more comfortable and safer
-  Building confidence
-  Less awkward
-  Having answers from younger people
-  Service development
-  Input into research
-  Event skills
-  Helping share opinions
-  Young people feel heard
-  Having a launch
-  Feeling safe
-  Youth hub
-  Making friends
-  Good for CV
-  Better services for young people





The Sun and Rain

The Sun and Rain foster growth by promoting effective communication, leveraging social media, and encouraging new participants to join the VIP group.

These elements enable the Youth Voice and Participation Tree to flourish and grow.

WHAT THE VIPS SAID...

-  **Sharing ideas**
-  **Planning and communication**
-  **Safer London youth hub**
-  **Communicating/recommending to friends and family**
-  **Social media**
-  **Doing a range of projects to ensure a range of impacts**
-  **Advertising through website and social media**
-  **Encourage new people to join**





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www.saferlondon.org.uk