

## ~ Case Study ~

### Participation by young people with learning disabilities

Throughout 2007 a young person from Devon, Alice Clancy, attended UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) meetings locally, regionally and nationally to “understand better what changes can be made to UKYP to enable all young people to take part, including those who have disabilities”.

She was supported in her project by Mencap, UK Youth Parliament at national and regional level and also Devon Youth Service who support the local Members of the Youth Parliament. Additional support for the project was given from a research worker at the Open University.

Alice’s project was funded by a bid she made to the Big Boost. Her excellent report gives some recommendations and top tips which can be adopted in a variety of contexts when working with young people.

Some of the things she identified as helpful to ensure everyone can participate are -

#### **My top tips** (So I can take part in things)

- Have small groups whenever possible
- Have less noise/one person speaks at a time
- Use easy words (no jargon)
- Use pictures and symbols
- Have agenda and minutes and information that is easy to understand and read
- Tell me what the meeting is about and what will be covered
- Have plenty of breaks
- Don’t have too much to do/not too long a meeting
- Don’t have too many different subjects
- Don’t have too much writing /reading and have a support worker available
- Be friendly and helpful
- Have fun and games/activities
- Listen
- Give time to think
- Give enough time for me to have a chance to speak