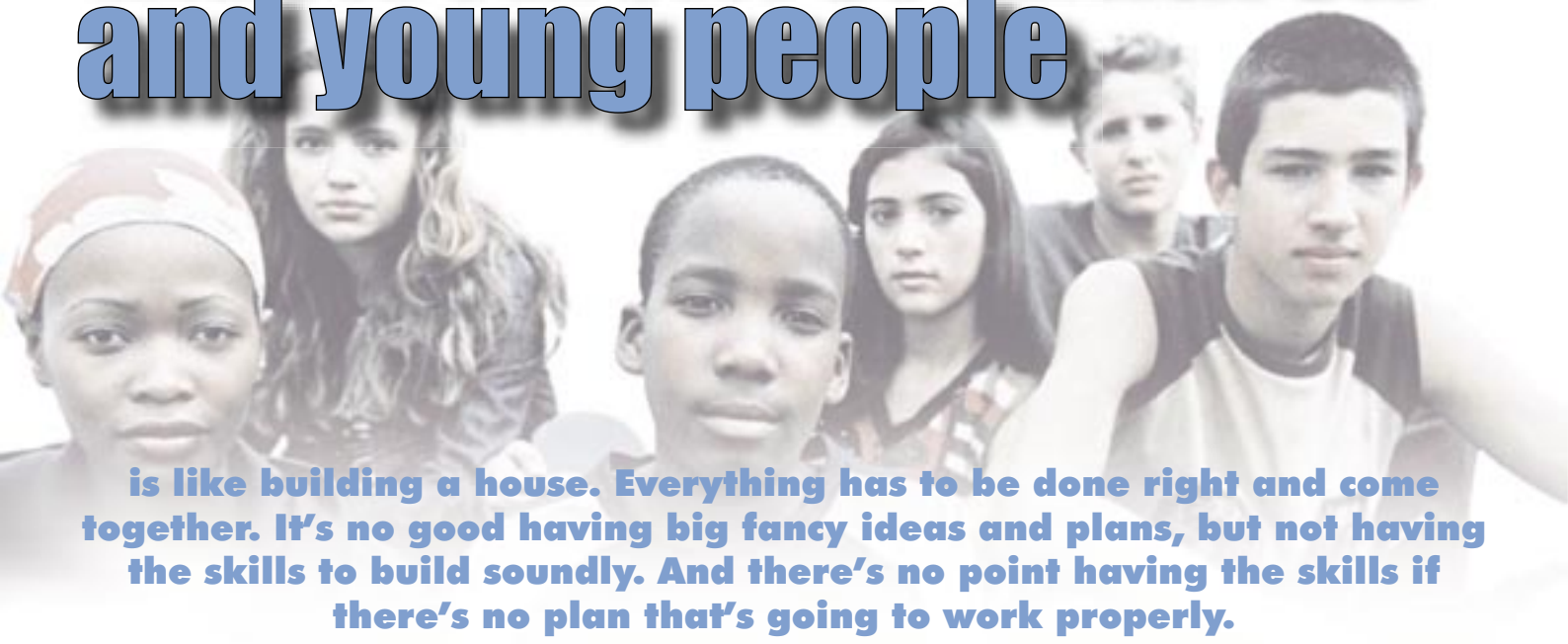
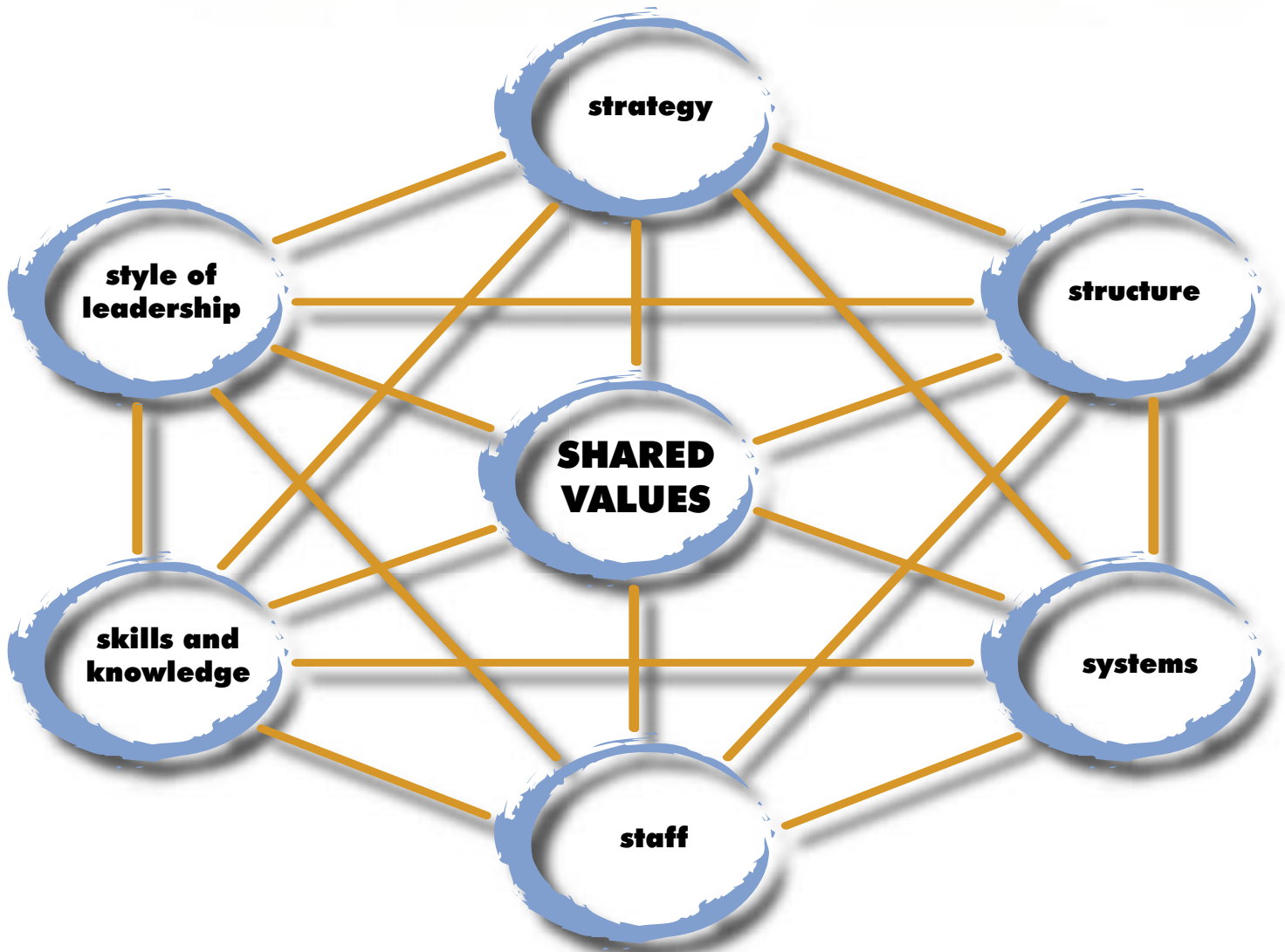


Building the active involvement of children and young people



is like building a house. Everything has to be done right and come together. It's no good having big fancy ideas and plans, but not having the skills to build soundly. And there's no point having the skills if there's no plan that's going to work properly.



We're here to stay. We have a right to take part in building our lives here and now and for the future.

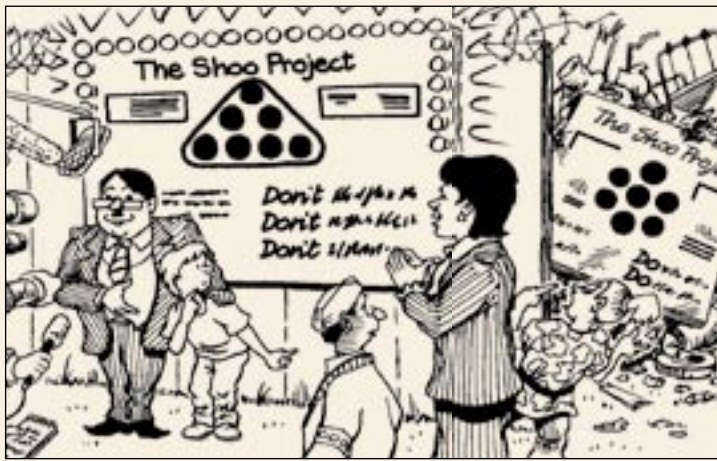
We are not pawns in an adult game. There are so many reasons why we need to be involved in decisions that are about us:

- **We are here – we're not invisible**
- **We want to be involved – we've got loads to offer**
- **We live here too – and we use lots of services like schools, health, parks and leisure, roads and transport ...**
- **Loads of decisions affect us**
- **We have a right to be involved and taken seriously**

Everyone benefits from us having a say and getting involved:

- **Children and young people**
- **Organisations and services**
- **The wider community**
- **We are a big part of the present and we are 100 per cent of the future**

And we have ways to make sure we are involved – properly. To do this right, here is what we think needs to happen. We think that there are **seven important building standards** to help adults and children and young people work well together and do a good job developing our active involvement.



Shared values – WHAT EVERYONE BELIEVES

We expect that throughout the involvement of children and young people, there are clear shared values where everyone is respected and is treated equally, with honesty, openness and sharing of information.

Strategy – THE PLAN

We expect a strategy for the active involvement of children and young people that is simple, easy to understand, that works for the children and young people involved, is exciting and challenging and is young people friendly.



Structures – THE SCAFFOLDING

We expect effective structures for hearing our ideas and helping us take part, which are useful, reliable and simple and include a wide range of children and young people.

Systems – THE MACHINERY

We expect strong and reliable systems to be in place (like transport and money) that make it possible for us to get involved easily and safely and which use technology in a friendly way.





▶ **Staff – THE WORKERS WHO BUILD**

We expect all staff we meet to be good at their jobs and hard working, but also understanding, trusting and extremely friendly. They must also be fair and not patronising.

▶ **Skills and knowledge – THE WORKERS' SKILLS**

We expect staff to have skills that are varied and useful, including teamwork and getting on with children and young people. We expect children and young people to have the chance to develop our skills as well.



▶ **Style of leadership – THE BOSS**

We expect that there should be a simple, fair and friendly style of leadership. There should be not just one leader and everyone should be able to be involved in all decisions.

What next?

- **Is your area, organisation or group serious about involving children and young people?**
 - **How are they making sure they do it well? Are they using *Hear by Right*?**
- **You could write a letter, phone or e-mail the boss or key contact to find out what they are doing. Ask them how your ideas and views can be taken seriously.**
- **Use the *Hear by Right* map and plan for children and young people to get your views heard.**
 - **Let us know how you get on.**

The *Hear by Right* briefing for children and young people was created and written by Alex Renouf, Chris Griffin, Lee Hitchings and Natalee Riley, 2004; with thanks to Dorset Youth and Community Service and to Brick for illustrating the building site of active involvement.

You can contact us via the Active Involvement team at The National Youth Agency: Tel: 0116 242 7406.
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