

Becoming a Rep

Seashell Trust (ISCP) – Everyone is a potential Learner Representative



Background

The examples in this section demonstrate that these institutions and organisations have developed their own method of identifying learner representatives. Traditional elections still feature prominently in many organisations, but practitioners and learners have developed systems that strive to articulate fairness, inclusivity, equality and participation in a way that suits their particular context.

About Seashell Trust

Seashell Trust is a charity based in Cheadle Hume, near Stockport in Greater Manchester, for children and young people and adults with sensory impairment, profound and multiple learning difficulties, and profound communication difficulties.

Their Story: What has Happened and How

Students are told about the role of Student Council and are given a booklet explaining the process on how to get involved. Following a tutorial and a chance for candidates to create election materials, class elections take place. Feedback shows that the combination of tutorials, handbook, posters and word of mouth all contribute to learners' awareness of the opportunity. Each learner at the college has individual communication needs and by learning from the experience of others in the college, Seashell trust has empowered each student to participate within their council by addressing these individual communication needs.

Impact, Successes and Ideas for Action

Personalised material inspired by an awareness that we all learn and communicate in different ways is important when considering *how* and *where* to promote opportunities for engagement, as well as *who* you are trying to involve.