



“Creating a more inclusive future for youth volunteering”

- Opportunities for MVP-

Matthew Linning, Volunteer Scotland



Youth volunteering...

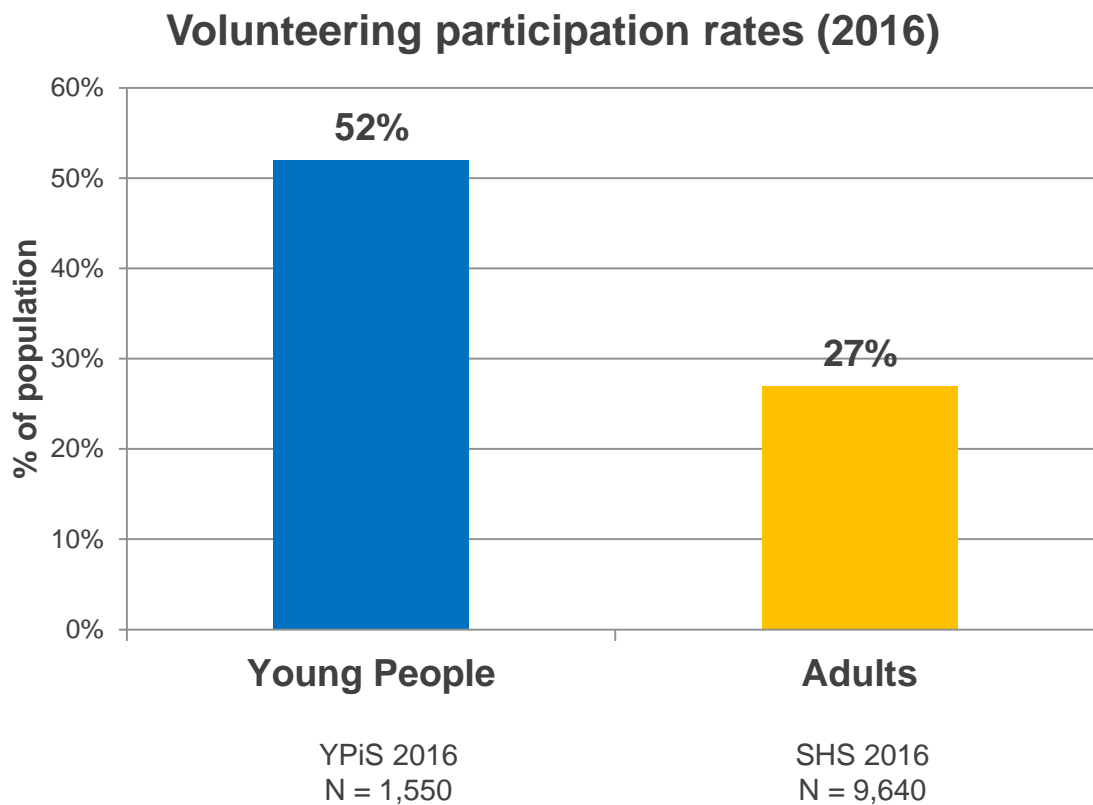
- ✓ 'Good news' story
- ✓ But.....The problem of exclusion
- ✓ Obstacles and opportunities



GOOD NEWS STORY

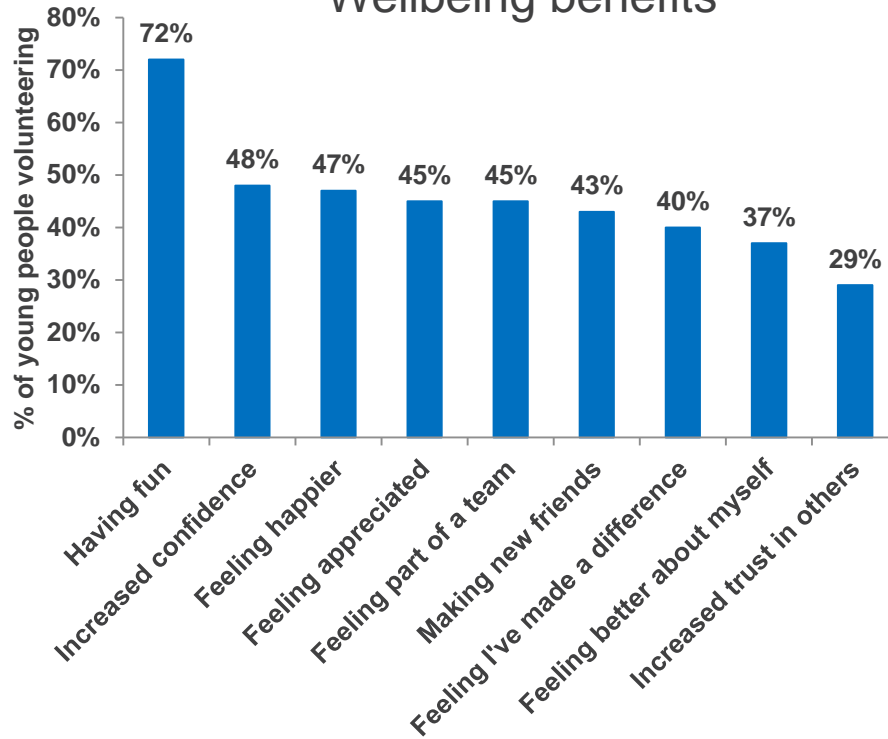
Volunteering participation

Young people vs. adults

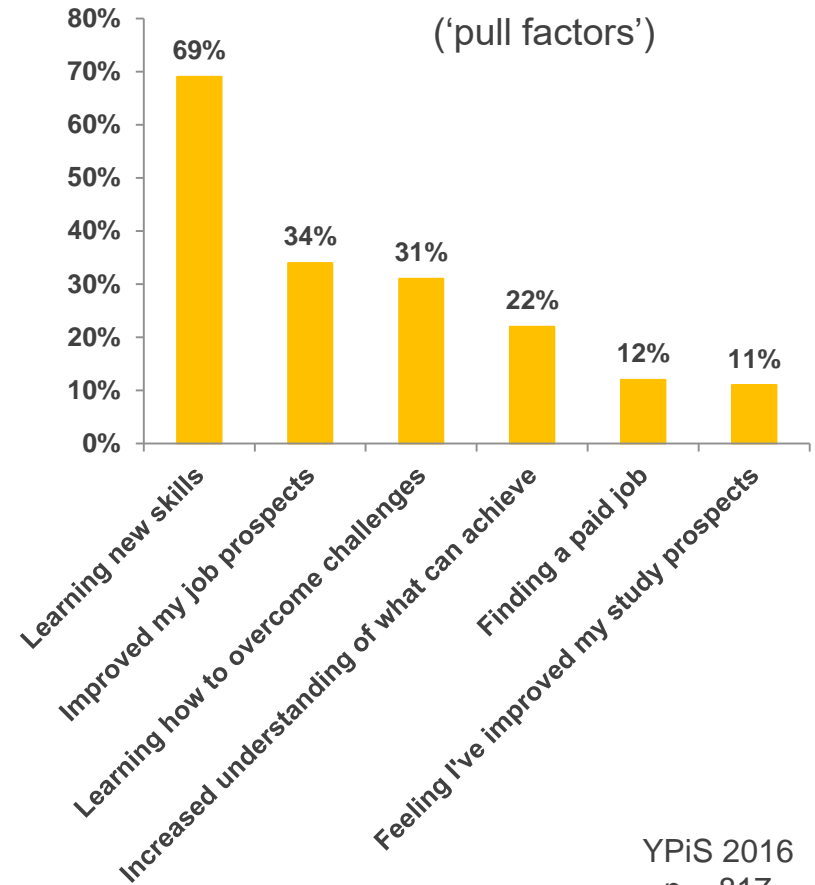


Benefits of youth volunteering

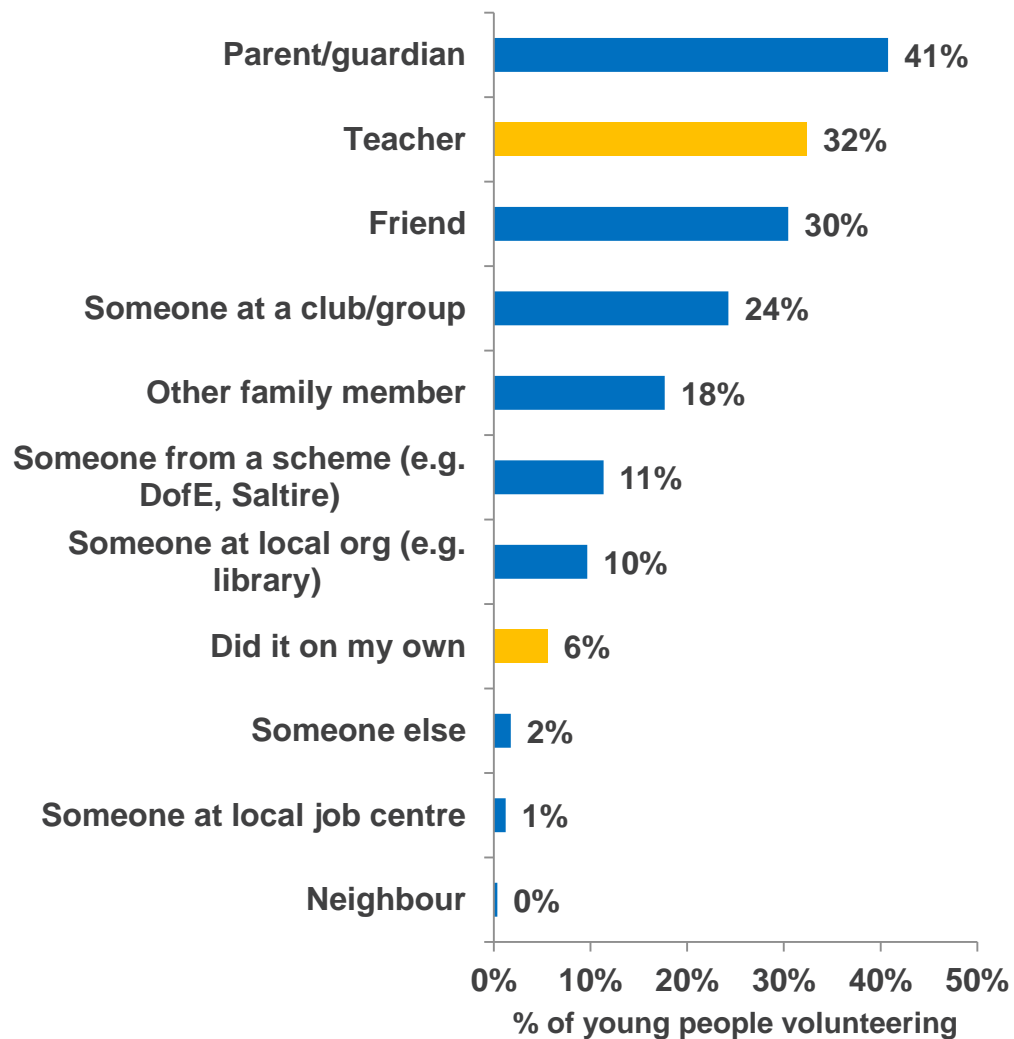
Wellbeing benefits



Career benefits (‘pull factors’)



Routes into youth volunteering: 'Push factors'



YPiS 2014
n = 923

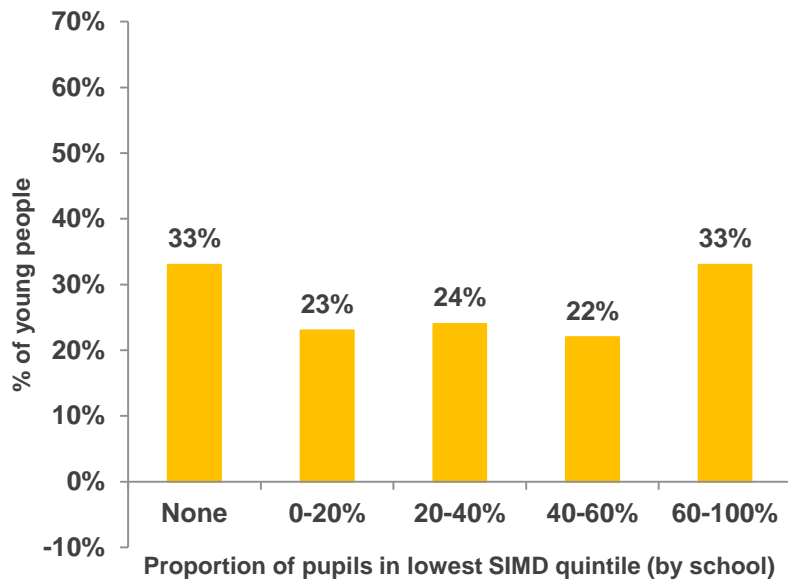
Reasons for success?

- **Push factors:** parents, teachers & friends
- **Pull factors:** skills, experience and CV
- **Jobs market:** tough employment conditions for young people
- **Incentives:** awards & recognition
- **Targeted support:** Government programmes and funding

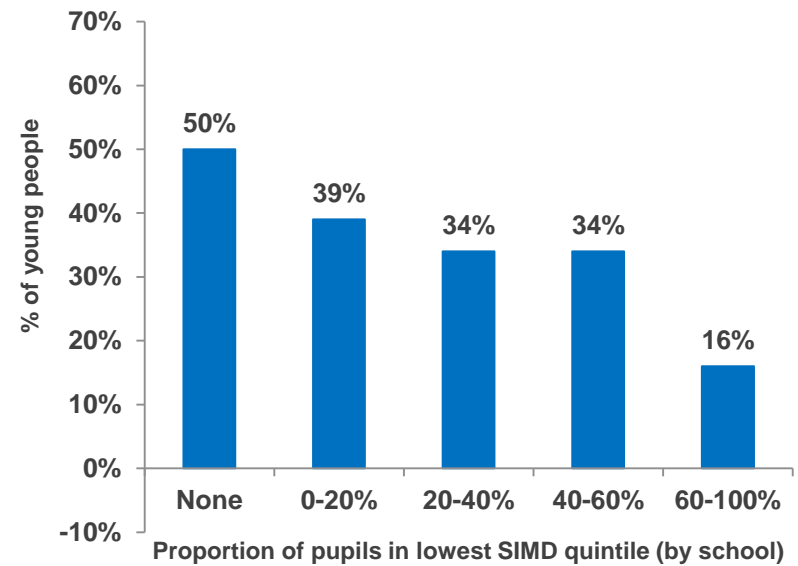
THE PROBLEM OF EXCLUSION

Impact of deprivation

Youth volunteering in school time



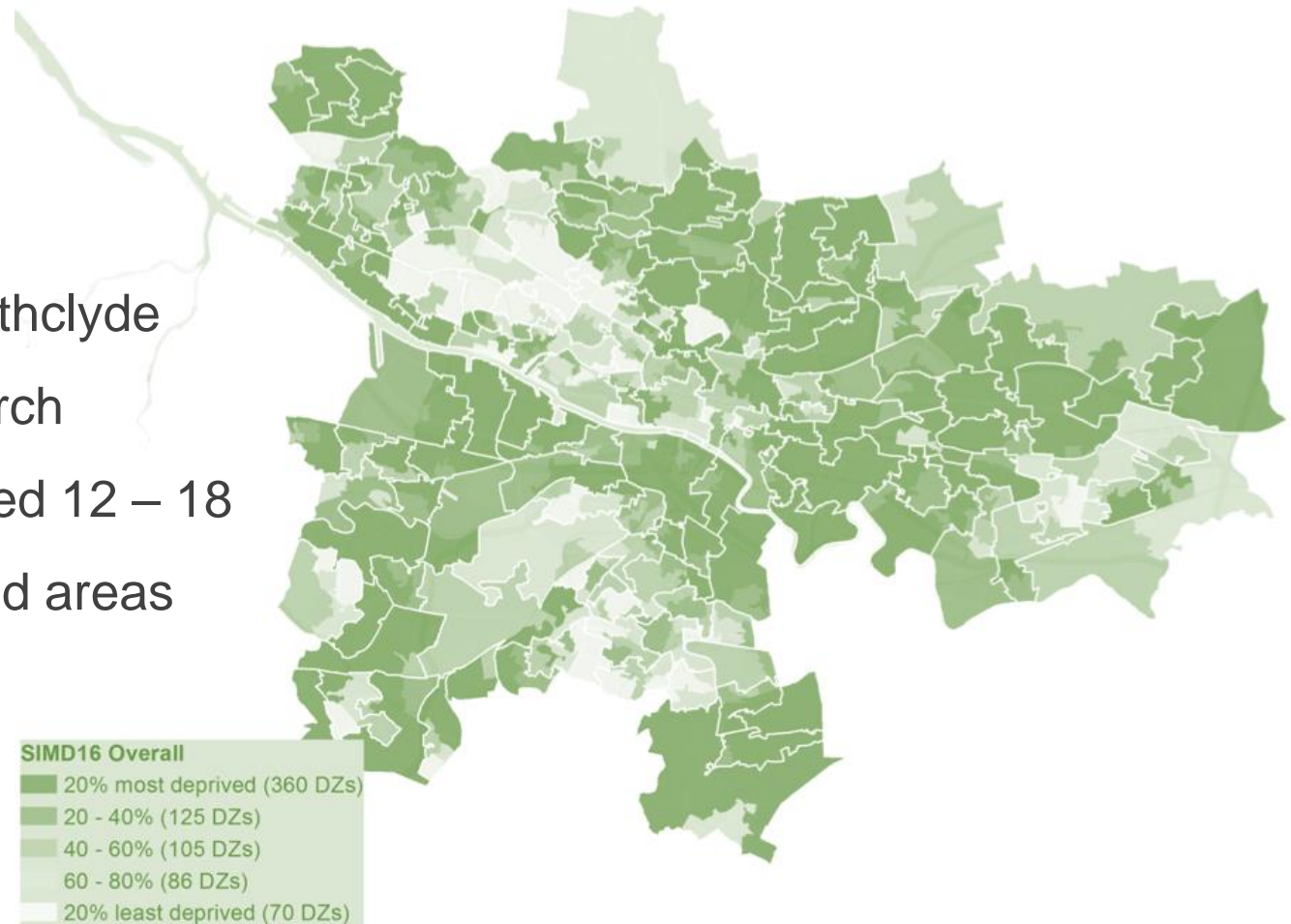
Youth volunteering outside school



YPiS 2016
n = 1,550

PhD research in Glasgow (2014 – 2018)

- James Davies
- University of Strathclyde
- Qualitative research
- Young people aged 12 – 18
- The most deprived areas

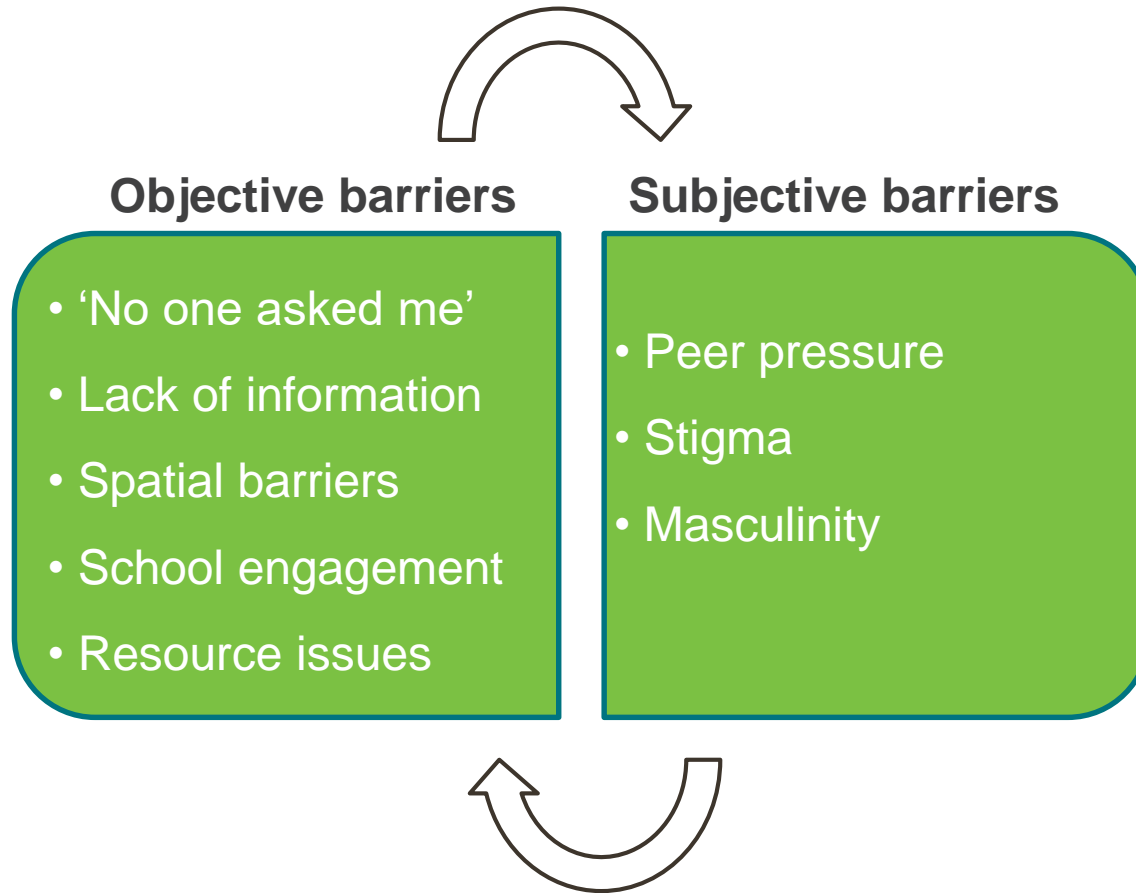


Young people's environment

- Lack of disposable income
- Limited things to do
- Lack of knowledge about social activities
- Neighbourhood problems and anti-social behaviour
- Gang culture and religious divisions

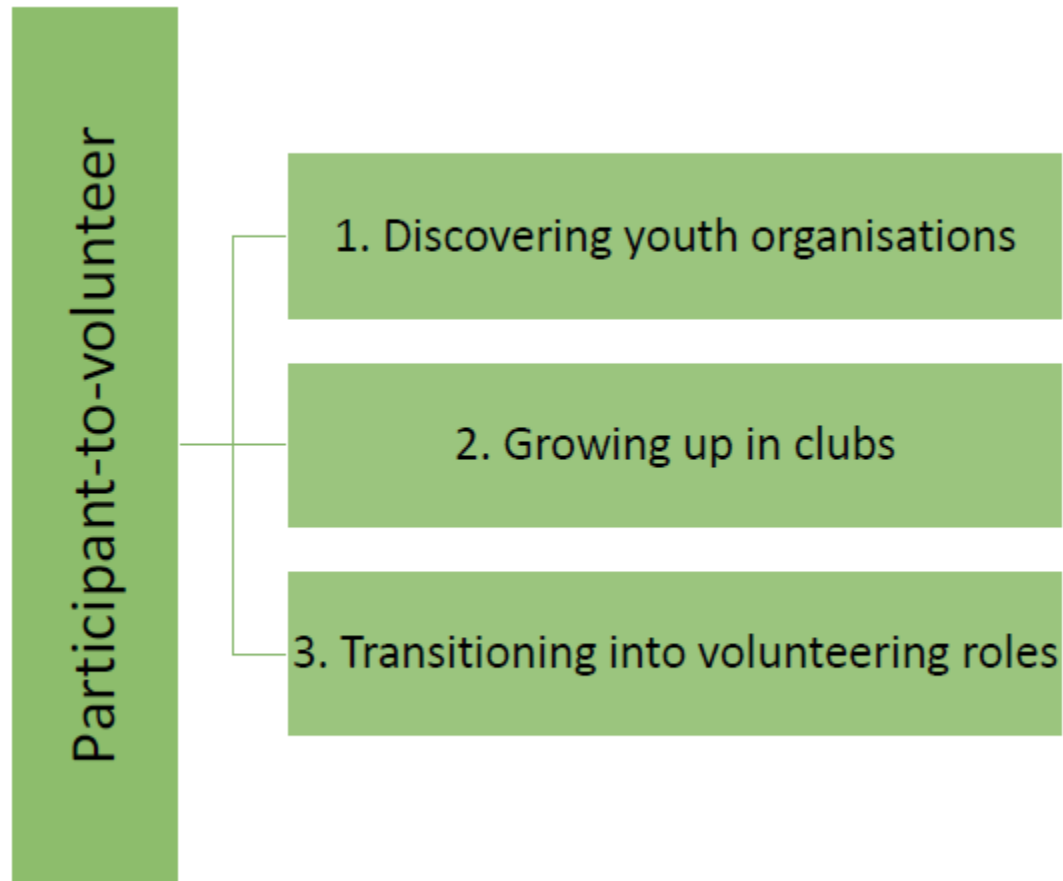
OBSTACLES & OPPORTUNITIES

Obstacles



Community engagement

Facilitating access



School engagement

- Variation across schools e.g. buy-in to Saltire Award
- Possible link to constrained resources
- Issues cited:
 - Lack of information on volunteering opportunities
 - Focus on older pupils
 - Focus on the more able – ‘Blue Peter kids’
 - Focus on those with disability/special needs

School opportunities

- Role of schools and teachers is critical
 - Important source of information (Musick & Wilson 2008; Smith, 1999)
 - Making ‘the ASK’
 - Connecting to volunteer engagers
 - Supporting national awards, etc.

Volunteer Scotland’s hypothesis:

Benefits to excluded young people are disproportionately greater

Benefits to young people

Making
friends

Social
skills

Confidence

Helping
others

Having fun

Wellbeing

More
structured
lives

“You just learn how to socialise with people...” (Niamh, 14, volunteer)

“If you’re having a bad day....they can kinda cheer you up.” (Amy, 15, volunteer)

“....and now that you are actually helping them you feel like a lot better about yourself “

(Donna, 14, volunteer)

MVP – areas to consider

- Primary school engagement
- MPV mentor & pupil targeting
- Recognition from volunteering awards
- Local partner engagement – external support

Further information

Sources:

[James Davies - PhD Research "Youth volunteering in areas of multiple deprivation"](#)

[Young People in Scotland Survey 2016](#)

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