

Children and Young Peoples Projects

EDGE Learner Forum project

The *EDGE Learner Forum* project recruits young people aged 14 upwards from across Sussex to meet monthly. The aim of the Forum is for the young people involved to develop projects promoting practical and vocational learning to their peers, teachers, parents and employers. The Sussex Forum has been meeting since January 2008 with a project that improves work experience by sharing employers' and students' expectations of each other. Forum members are currently developing a product around this idea that we hope will be used in local schools.

The Sussex Forum is one of 8 around England who work with young people to raise the status of practical and vocational learning, aiming to inform and inspire other young people onto different career pathways. The Sussex Forum has also explored rural issues, such as the decline in traditional building skills and access to educational courses for young people living in rural areas. The young Forum members get to meet and work with other young people from all over the country. They can also develop new skills and confidence, and feel that they have a voice on issues affecting them.

The project is funded by EDGE, an educational foundation, running a ten year campaign aiming to transform the way in which practical and vocational learning is perceived and delivered. Young people are recruited from schools, colleges, youth services and other groups and projects across Sussex. They meet monthly, with transport and food provided, to discuss topical issues around practical learning and to develop their own projects.

Forum meetings are held in a variety of conference venues around Sussex, including the Science Centre at Herstmonceux and The Weald and Downland Museum in Singleton.

For more information, please contact:

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