

Young voices in AI research: Piloting an MPLS-wide youth advisory group

Isobel Voysey, Vidminas Vizgirda, Jun Zhao, Georgia Best

Department of Computer Science

Young people and AI research

- AI is impacting young people's lives, but it's rare for them to be actively involved in shaping the direction of AI
- We need their voices to be heard in research at MPLS

What is a youth advisory group?

A group of children and young people who provide input, feedback, and advice to researchers, ensuring youth perspectives are integrated into decisions affecting them

Why we should be doing this

- Key for responsible research and innovation
- Behind other departments (AIEOU, NeurOx)
- Benefits to researchers
 - Deepen understanding of issues studied
 - Improve impact of research
 - Better understand how to communicate work
 - Evidence of public involvement for grant applications

Buuuuut...

My research is too technical – young people won't understand it

I don't have the time or resources

My research doesn't impact young people

How do I even do this properly?

What could they even advise me on?

Cross-departmental YAG pilot

- Awarded funding through MPLS Public and Community Engagement with Research Fellowship
- Trying to remove some barriers to consulting young people through a central YAG on data science and AI research, run by researchers experienced at working with young people
- Exploring the feasibility of this approach in MPLS

How does it work?

- Sign up to join one or more online meetings with the YAG
- Receive guidance from organisers about presenting research
- Get input and feedback on study design, participant materials, public engagement events, research questions, etc
- Share research and experience at a public summer showcase



Get involved!

Deadline: 29th January 2026

Youth advisory group - researcher
expression of interest



bit.ly/MPLSYAG