

SPACESHAPER 9-14 FACT SHEET

May 2010

What is Spaceshaper 9-14?

Young people can often be overlooked in community engagement, but Spaceshaper 9-14 aims to get them involved in improving their local parks, streets, playgrounds and other spaces.

CABE has been working with Beam, the architecture centre in Wakefield, as well as The Architecture Centre, Bristol and Kent Architecture Centre to develop the Spaceshaper 9-14 tool.

Spaceshaper works best when a wide range of stakeholders contribute to discussions about improving public spaces. Spaceshaper 9-14 will help young people to:

- Use observational and recording skills to establish current views of a local space
- Develop presentation skills to communicate findings to others
- Understand how different groups make conflicting demands of the same space
- See how their contribution fits into wider development plans, giving them confidence and opportunities to take part in future development of their public spaces.
- Raise their aspirations about their local space and how much better it can be

How does Spaceshaper 9-14 work?

Spaceshaper 9-14 is for use both in school and with youth groups. It is a workshop-based toolkit that is adapted to local circumstances. Essential to the process is a trained facilitator, who advises and runs the workshop.

A site visit is an integral part of the process and is often led by a local expert. This prepares the participants to assess the space and capture their individual perceptions using the eight Spaceshaper themes:

- Access: finding your way and getting about
- Use: what activities and opportunities the space has to offer
- Other people: how the space caters for different needs
- Maintenance: how clean and cared for the space is
- Environment: how safe and comfortable the space is
- Design and appearance: what the space looks like and what materials it uses
- Community: how important the space is to local people
- You: how the space makes you feel

These perceptions are fed into an online programme to produce a graphical illustration which can be used to prompt further discussion and debate. The session finishes by explaining how this information will be fed back to the client.

How to become a facilitator?

We are looking for people who work with young people and the built environment to become trained facilitators for Spaceshaper 9-14. Facilitators need to have a current Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check before delivering workshops.

Facilitator training events are run by Beam on the following dates – please note that places are limited:

- 20 January 2010 – The Studio, Birmingham
- 27 January 2010 - Chinese Arts Centre, Manchester
- 10 February 2010 - York Theatre Royal, York
- 17 March 2010 - Architecture Centre, Bristol
- 10 March 2010 – CAFE, London
- 1 July 2010 – Bankside Community Space, London

Training costs £50 for voluntary/community organisations, £100 for public sector organisations and £150 for private sector organisations (all prices excluding VAT).

To find out how to apply, contact Beam on 01924 215 550 or email Spaceshaper9-14@cabe.org.uk

Further information

www.cabe.org.uk/public-space/spaceshaper-9-14