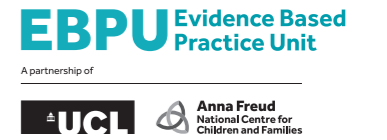
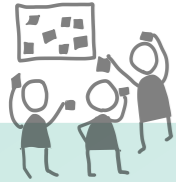




# Young people's experiences during the coronavirus pandemic: views of young HeadStart volunteers



During summer 2020, the young people who volunteer for HeadStart shared their experiences of the coronavirus pandemic. Their views have been collated and these are the findings.



## The top 5 challenges for young HeadStart volunteers were:

1. Missing seeing each other in person
2. Technical problems
3. Miscommunication and confusion
4. Hard to get work done
5. Slow process

The volunteers prefer meeting up in person and value face to face interaction. They felt this was highlighted because not every volunteer has access to the internet or a computer to be involved in online meetings. Many felt that it is difficult to read people online. Someone could say 'I'm fine' but they're actually not.



*At first it was awkward but I got used to using Microsoft Teams for our meetings and it became really fun, especially running online quizzes with the team. I find that I have actually engaged more with HeadStart.*



*It's easy to become isolated right now, so meeting with HeadStart online helps me feel less lonely and that I'm doing something that matters.*



*It's nice to be able to meet the team virtually, but for the future I prefer working face to face. I think it is a better and a more quality experience. I feel that time wise working face to face is more productive.*



*We could help by making stuff such as videos or PowerPoints of how to cope and all other issues that have come up in this situation.*

## Being part of HeadStart during the coronavirus pandemic



### The top 5 benefits for young HeadStart volunteers were:

1. Being part of a team
2. Getting support
3. Getting to see people (at least virtually)
4. Doing something that matters
5. Rewarding

### Other positive things HeadStart volunteers mentioned were:

- Feeling less bored
- Having something to do
- Helping others
- Having fun
- Making people happy

## About HeadStart



HeadStart is a six-year, £67.4 million National Lottery funded programme set up by The National Lottery Community Fund, the largest funder of community activity in the UK. It aims to explore and test new ways to improve the mental health and wellbeing of young people aged 10 to 16 and prevent serious mental health issues from developing.

Six local authority led HeadStart partnerships in Blackpool, Cornwall, Hull, Kent, Newham and Wolverhampton are working with local young people, schools, families, charities, community and public services to make young people's mental health and wellbeing everybody's business.

We would like to thank the HeadStart partnerships, especially Hull and Kent for providing responses from young volunteers for this document and the Child Outcomes Research Consortium (CORC), who supported this work.

