

What is Spaceshaper 9-14?

CABE Space developed Spaceshaper as a practical toolkit to measure the quality of a public space before investing time and money in improving it.

Young people are often overlooked in community consultation and it is important to get them involved in improving their local parks, streets, playgrounds and other spaces. This version of Spaceshaper for young people has been created to allow nine to 14 year olds to have their say. The development of the toolkit has been led by Beam Architecture Centre in Wakefield and supported by The Architecture Centre, Bristol, Kent Architecture Centre and make:good working in partnership with CABE Space.



Spaceshaper 9-14 is delivered differently to the earlier version. It engages the young people in activities and facilitated discussion, so that they have a better understanding about design quality and how spaces work. The workshop based toolkit aims to be positive and raise aspirations, encouraging young people to demand more from their local spaces. The overall aim is to gather data that will be used directly to inform the improvement of the space in question.

It can:

- Identify the strengths and weaknesses of a space
- Establish what is most important to young people
- Compare different people's views
- Measure how well the space meets their needs
- Stimulate new ideas for improvements
- Track changes in young people's views over time
- Bring young people together in a structured way to discuss the space.



How does it work?

Spaceshaper 9-14 is a workshop-based toolkit that has the flexibility to be adapted to local circumstances. Key to this process is a trained facilitator, who will give advice and run the workshop. A site visit is an integral part of the process. The visit prepares the participants to assess the space and voice their opinion on the space. Eight themes are explored to capture the opinions of the group:

ACCESS	finding your way and getting about
USE	what activities and opportunities the space has to offer
OTHER PEOPLE COMMUNITY	how the space caters for different needs how valued the space is by local people
MAINTENANCE	how clean and cared for the space is
ENVIRONMENT	how safe and comfortable the space is
DESIGN AND APPEARANCE	how the space looks and what materials it is made from
YOU	how the space makes you feel

The young people vote on a question relating to each theme, after exploration and discussion of the area. The votes are fed into a web-based programme, which graphically prompts further discussion and debate.

It is important that at the end of the session young people are advised how their views will be used and what further involvement they may have.

