

Guiding Conversations



WE DISCOVER, WE GROW

Girlguiding

Being our best: Girlguiding's plan for 2020

Introduction

In March 2015, we launched our new five-year plan. 'Being our best' is a commitment from all of us - volunteers and staff - to be the best we can be and to deliver a bright future for girls and young women already in guiding, and for those we hope will join us. It lays out clearly what we want to achieve by 2020, and makes it easy for members to understand where Girlguiding is heading, how they fit in and what they can do to help.

Information about 'Being our best' was included in a leaflet in the Spring 2015 issue of *guiding* magazine, and can also be found online at www.girlguiding.org.uk/beingourbest. Updates on what is happening across the UK as part of the plan will continue to be shared in the magazine, through e-newsletters and on the website.

How to use this Guiding Conversation

This practical tool will help you as a Commissioner to introduce Leaders to the themes of 'Being our best' and engage them with the plan in their local area. It includes background information and questions to facilitate discussion at District or Division meetings. We hope that by using this resource you and your Leaders will be able to think about the great guiding you're already doing, the things you could do better and how these all fit in with 'Being our best'.

As a starting point, ask your Leaders to have a look at the 'Being our best' leaflet and webpages prior to the meeting - there's also a great video on the home page. It would also be useful to have copies of the leaflet available for reference at the meeting. Additional copies are available by contacting commissionersupport@girlguiding.org.uk.

Top tip

During the course of this conversation a question may be asked, or an issue raised, that you are unsure of how to answer. In anticipation of this, you may like to provide a 'question box' for participants to use. This will allow you time to respond accurately and appropriately to any queries, and may also help you to identify any training needs for your area.

Background information about 'Being our best'

To develop our plan, we asked volunteers, parents and young members four simple questions.

- What will the world look like in 2020?
- What will girls and young women want and need in 2020?
- What should Girlguiding be doing that is the same in 2020?
- What should Girlguiding be doing that is different in 2020?

Thousands shared their views, and from the results we developed a clear commitment, vision and mission for the next five years, with six words that reinforce Girlguiding's values.

Our commitment to girls: By 2020, we will empower more girls to find their voice and be their best through high-quality, girl-led programmes delivered by inspirational Leaders.

Our vision for the future: An equal world where all girls can make a positive difference, be happy, safe and fulfil their potential.

Our mission as a charity: Through fun, friendship, challenge and adventure we empower girls to find their voice, inspiring them to discover the best in themselves and to make a positive difference in their community.

Our shared values: Caring, Challenging, Empowering, Fun, Inclusive, Inspiring

Putting the plan into action

We have broken our plan down into four themes to help guide our actions and support everyone in being their best.

Excellence: We will get better and better at all that we do for girls.

Access: We will work together to ensure that more girls from all backgrounds benefit from what we do.

Voice: We will listen to girls and promote their voice.

Capacity: We will work collaboratively to improve our processes and decision-making.

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Top tip

Encourage Leaders to go to www.girlguiding.org.uk/beingourbest to take our interactive quiz and see which area of the plan they're great at. If you have internet access in your meeting space, you could even set up a laptop so that members can do so there and then - use it as a conversation starter.

Discussion points

1. How much do you feel you know about 'Being our best'? What were your initial thoughts about the plan? What do you think now?
2. What are we doing in our area that we're proud of?
3. How does what we are currently doing fit into the four themes of 'Being our best'?
4. Is there anything you think we could do better in our area? How could we achieve this?
5. How do you think we live the values of Girlguiding?

Top tip

For discussion points 2, 3 and 4, you could ask Leaders to write their thoughts and ideas on sticky notes or pieces of paper, which can then be sorted into the themes of 'Being our best'. If you have a large number of Leaders, you might want to divide into smaller groups for discussion point 4 and then come together to discuss the ideas before moving on.

As part of or following your discussions, you might want to start putting together a 'Being our best' action plan for your area. There is a template included at the end of this resource to help you do so. You also might want to think about how you will monitor any actions so that you can share what you've been doing and how everyone is being their best at future meetings.

Further information

You can find out more about 'Being our best', how we got here and what the plan means for each and every member on our website: www.girlguiding.org.uk/beingourbest.

We'll be sharing all the things Girlguiding plans to do to make guiding even better for all members on the website and in our newsletters. This will include action checklists on each theme for members to download, and case studies from volunteers and girls. Do keep checking for the latest announcements. There are also great conversations happening on social media. Search for #BeingOurBest to find out what people are up to and get involved.

If you require extra support in running this conversation, please speak to your County Commissioner or email commissionersupport@girlguiding.org.uk. And if you'd like to share the outcomes of any discussions you have while using this resource, we'd love to hear from you.

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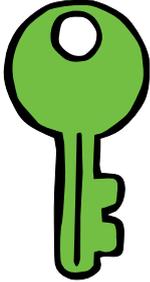


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Action plan template

Theme	What is it all about?	Action?	Who and when?
<p>Excellence</p> 	<p>Improved programme offer, more training for Leaders</p>	<p>Plan a District Guide residential weekend in consultation with Guides</p>	<p>Leaders and Guides from all District/Division Guide units will have had the opportunity to attend a residential weekend by the end of the year</p>
<p>Access</p> 			
<p>Voice</p> 			
<p>Capacity</p> 			