

APPROPRIATE METHODS

How will you work towards:

- Ensuring that staff understand participation and are trained and supported to involve children and young people
- Developing a range of ways to involve children and young people
- Building relationships with child and youth agencies who can help them develop effective participative methods, especially for engaging very young children
- Allocating resources to support participation within policy and service development budgets
- Ensuring that children and young people have fun and enjoy the process
- Engaging with younger children in whatever location the children feel most comfortable

SUPPORT

How will you work towards:

- Ensuring that children and young people have access to a skilled and trusted person who can support them to prepare for their involvement
- Addressing the particular support needs of vulnerable and marginalised children and young people
- Supporting children and young people to access opportunities to learn and to develop skills that will enhance their participation
- Making sure that children and young people are kept safe throughout the participative process and that rigorous child protection measures and safeguards are in place

KNOWLEDGE

How will you work towards:

- Producing easily understood, child friendly versions of background materials, proposals and policies and ensuring that these are widely disseminated
- Ensuring that consultation materials are available in formats that are accessible to children and young people with sensory and learning disabilities
- Making sure that children and young people understand what is being asked of them, who is involved in the process and how decisions will be made

FEEDBACK

How will you work towards:

- Keeping young people informed of progress made in relation to the process they have been engaged in
- Letting children and young people know what has changed as a result of their involvement and, where relevant, explaining why their ideas have not been taken on board
- Ensuring that the contribution of children and young people is acknowledged
- Asking children and young people what they think of the participative process as part of ongoing evaluation and review

INCLUSION

How will you work towards:

- Developing participation strategies that are clearly equality proofed
- Seeking the support of specialist agencies to ensure the involvement of vulnerable and marginalised groups of children and young people
- Meeting any additional costs of ensuring that engagement processes are fully accessible and inclusive
- Creating opportunities to engage with children and young people in their own locations
- Ensuring that opportunities for engagement are widely advertised

RESPECT

How will you work towards:

- Showing children and young people that they are respected and valued by allowing them enough time to prepare and think through their ideas and by listening to and taking their views seriously
- Ensuring that children and young people have the opportunity to set agendas and bring their own issues to the table
- Conducting transparent participative exercises and being honest about what can or cannot be changed
- Guaranteeing that children and young people will not be penalised for deciding not to participate

SENIOR PEOPLE

How will you work towards:

- Creating opportunities for children and young people to have direct contact with politicians and senior public sector personnel

- Encouraging senior personnel to attend consultative exercises

- Ensuring support is provided to enable the effective participation of children and young people in appropriate high level decision making forums

TIMING

How will you work towards:

- Ensuring that children and young people have opportunities to inform and shape the initial development of services and policies
- Creating service and policy development models that clearly show how children and young people's views and experiences inform each stage of the process
- Making sure that participative opportunities are scheduled to take account of children and young people's availability