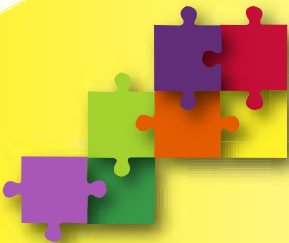




Neath Port Talbot

Participation Strategy for Children, Young People & their Families













“Putting Our Children and Young People First”



Neath Port Talbot
Children and Young
People's Partnership
Partneriaeth Plant
a Phobl Ifanc
Castell-nedd Port Talbot

MISC0698

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FOREWORD



The Children and Young People’s Partnership want to encourage children, young people and their families in Neath Port Talbot to get involved in making decisions about the services that are needed, how they are provided, how well they are working and how they can be improved.

There are already lots of people who are involving children, young people and their families in making their services better. This Strategy will help make sure that organisations are listening to what you have to say and most importantly making changes because of what you have said.

This means that the services will be delivered in a way that is more suited to your needs.

By being involved you can gain new skills, become more confident and feel better about yourself. Also, being involved can help you make new friends and get on better with others.

We hope that you will read and think about what has been written in this Strategy and let us know if you agree that it will help organisations to involve you more.

This is a big part of helping the Children and Young People’s Partnership make sure that plans for improving the lives of children, young people and their families can really happen.

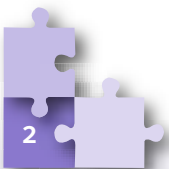


Having a real say in services, is a challenge. We hope you will take up this challenge with us and use every opportunity to become involved in many different ways.

A group of young people came together to give their views on what this document should look like and the language that would make it easier for children and young people to understand.

Our thanks to them for giving of their time, for their enthusiasm and their creativity, making it possible for more young people to know about their right to be heard;

HAVING A VOICE, HAVING A CHOICE.



WHO ARE WE?

Neath Port Talbot Children and Young People’s Partnership is made up of people who represent organisations that provide services for children and young people aged 0-25 years and their families.

These people are committed to making sure that the services you access are the best that they can be, and that you are involved in making decisions about how those services work and how they can be improved.

After all, there’s no one better to tell us how something should work than the people who use it themselves. The Children and Young People’s Partnership know that you and the people who care about you can make really valuable contributions.

THESE ORGANISATIONS INCLUDE:



WHAT DO WE WANT TO DO?

We want to let all children and young people know that:

It is your right to have your say in decisions that affect you!

We also want to let you get involved in a way that you choose, so that together we can make things better.

HOW WILL WE DO THIS?

We want to write a document that will help organisations to involve you in the way that services are delivered. This document will be called a 'Participation Strategy' and it will show why participation is important and will make sure that organisations are involving you, listening to what you have to say and most importantly, making changes based on what you have said.



WHO SAYS PARTICIPATION IS IMPORTANT?

The law and government say that we must involve you in the way that services are provided. Some of the documents and guidance which help us to do this are given below for your information:

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.



National Service Framework for Children & Young People & Maternity Services

Children Act 2004 & guidance on local duties to co-operate

Learning Country: Vision to Action



Making the Connections: Delivering Beyond the Boundaries

Extending Entitlement: Supporting Young People in Wales

WHAT WILL BE IN THE STRATEGY?



What participation is and its benefits – this explains to organisations what they can achieve by involving you in a meaningful way.

Promises – organisations will be expected to keep promises when working with you to increase participation.

National Standards – these are like targets that organisations have to try and meet to improve the way they involve you in their services. These have been decided by children and young people living in Wales and will be the same right across the country.

Organisations will receive help to meet the standards and progress will be reviewed regularly.

What we want to happen – this section will let people know what we (the Partnership) will do, and what we want organisations to do to improve participation.





PARTICIPATION . . .

“Means that it is my right to be involved in making decisions, planning, and reviewing any action that might affect me. Having a voice, having a choice.”

DIFFERENT PEOPLE LIKE TO GET INVOLVED IN DIFFERENT WAYS.

- Being asked your views about things that affect you, for example, guidance about bullying in schools.
- Making decisions about your life, for example, what hobbies you would like to do.
- Being given proper information so that you can make a decision about getting involved.
- Interviewing and employing people for a different services and projects.
- Designing leaflets for young people.



PARTICIPATION . . .

“What are the benefits of Participation?”

There are many benefits to getting involved - for you, for organisations and for your community.

For You!

- You'll feel respected and listened to; and learn to listen respectfully to others, helping everyone to get on better.
- You can build your self-confidence and self esteem.
- You can play an active part in your community; and can make a difference to your own life and to others.
- You may feel more motivated and achieve more.
- Services will improve to suit your needs.
- You can gain new skills.
- You can learn about teamwork and the way your community works.

For Others!

- Communities will understand you more and relationships between yourselves and other community members will improve.
- Organisations will be able to improve their services based on what you've said.





P R O M I S E S . . .

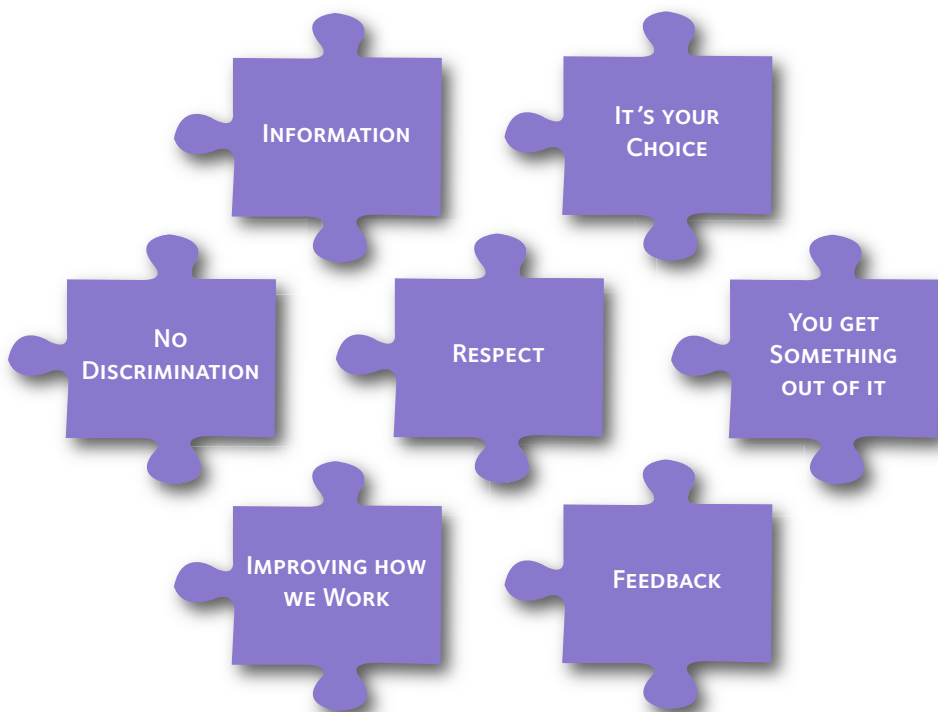
“What are the promises? The promises are things that organisations have to do when involving you. ”

- We promise that we will give you clear information, and support you to decide on whether or not you want to get involved.
- We promise to ensure that you will have opportunities to be involved regardless of your age, where you come from or any other circumstance.
- We promise to respect and value what you say.
- We promise we will always keep you informed of how your ideas and opinions have been used.
- We promise the way we work with you will get better as a result of using your views to change our services.
- We will, when appropriate take account of the views of your parents/carers about the services that you receive.
- We will do our best to make getting involved enjoyable for you.



THE NATIONAL STANDARDS...

These are like targets that organisations have to try and meet to improve the way they involve you in their services. The standards are divided into seven themes. They are:



WHAT WILL THE PARTNERSHIP DO?

- We will make sure that there is enough money to be able to help organisations to involve you in a meaningful way.
- We will raise awareness of the benefits of involving you to as many organisations and individuals as possible.
- We will improve the way your views are able to be heard at different levels.
- We will help organisations to gain the skills they may need to meet the standards and properly involve you in a way that you feel comfortable.
- We will send you good quality information in a range of ways, e.g., text or e-mail, so that you can be aware of your right to have your voice heard in decisions that affect you.
- We will make sure that you are safe when you decide to become involved.



WHAT WILL WE WANT ORGANISATIONS TO DO?

- We want them to work towards meeting the standards by involving you in a meaningful way.
- We want them to sign up to the promises and work with us to improve and encourage your involvement.
- We want them to raise awareness of the benefits of participation to the people who work for them, to you, your family and other members of the community.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN?



We have a Participation Officer, who will work with children and young people and organisations to inform them about the Participation Strategy. They will help organisations meet the Participation Standards and train them on ways of using participation. They will be looking to focus on children and young people from special groups such as black and ethnic minorities, young carers, those who do not attend school and other groups.

WE WANT YOU TO BE INVOLVED!!

This document is available in large print, brail and audio on request from the Children and Young People's Partnership Unit:

**Ffrwydwyllt House, Commercial Road
Taibach, Port Talbot
SA13 1PZ
Tel: 01639 873016**

