

Engaging with Children and Young People

Wales Audit Office
Children in Wales

Listening Exercise



Article 12- the 'gateway' right

1. States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.

2. For this purpose, the child shall in particular be provided the opportunity to be heard in any judicial and administrative proceedings affecting the child, either directly, or through a representative or an appropriate body, in a manner consistent with the procedural rules of national law.

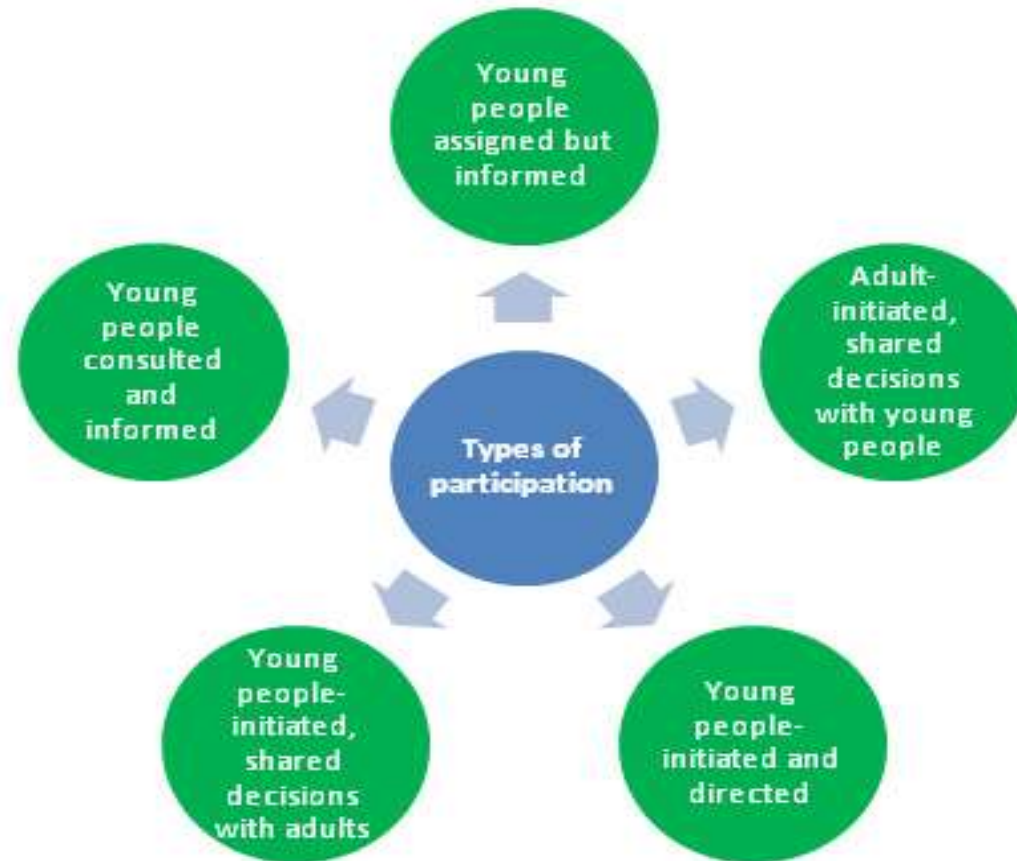


A Young Person's interpretation

“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”
(Funky Dragon)



The Treseader Model



7 Participation Standards for Wales

Information -

It's Your Choice -

No Discrimination -

Respect -

You get something out of it -

Feedback -

Working better for you -



Participation Protocol Form



Children in Wales
Plant yng Nghymru

Barriers to Participation?



Barriers and solutions

They're unrealistic and will ask for things that we can't deliver

They can't focus on the topic for long enough

They don't understand what we're asking them

They lack the confidence to express an opinion

Young children aren't old enough to form a proper opinion

They only think in black and white



Benefits for children, young people and their families:

- They feel respected and listened to; and learn to listen respectfully to others, helping everyone to get on better;
- Can build their self-confidence and self esteem;
- They feel that they have an opportunity to play an active part in their community; and can make a difference to their own lives and others;
- They feel more motivated and achieve more;
- Less bullying;
- They can gain new skills such as problem-solving, decision-making, negotiation, listening, communication and feedback;
- They are likely to feel more involved in group and democratic processes, and will have a better understanding of the society in which they live;
- Improved services that meet their needs.



Benefits for Organisations:

- Services and policies designed, delivered and evaluated based on identified needs of children, young people and their families;
- Improved behaviour and enhanced relationships;
- Better targeting of resources;
- More effective services and improved outcomes;
- Enhanced credibility and reputation;
- Better safeguarding;
- Better quality and more inclusive decision-making;
- Increased capacity and sustainability.



Benefits to the Community:

- Enhanced relationships between children and young people and other community members;
- Healthier children and young people;
- Better designed facilities for children, young people and their families;
- Less vandalism;
- Less bullying;
- Reduced anti-social behaviour and crime-levels;
- Improves social networks and increases community cooperation.



Jargon Busting

In English, please!



Helping Young People at meetings



Active Listening

1. Physical Attention
2. Paraphrasing
3. Reflecting
4. Clarifying
5. Encouraging



What needs to be in place?

Recruitment

Purpose

Parameters of the Forum

Role Descriptions

Members

Training

Equalities Work

Support



	Individual complaints or feedback	Surveys & consultations	One-off events or annual participation events	Participation projects - often using arts or media	Peer-led activities such as training, research & evaluation	Youth forum, youth grant-making etc.	Young people involved in governance
Youth initiated - shared decisions with adults							
Youth initiated and directed							
Adult initiated - shared decisions with youth			{ Degrees of participation				
Young people are consulted & kept informed							
Young people are assigned tasks & activities							
Tokenism							
Decoration		{ Levels of non involvement					
Manipulation							



Action Plan

ACTION PLAN			
WHO	WHAT	WHEN	HOW



Top Tips for Participation

Remember they are children and keep them safe

They are in your care

They will form friendship groups and fall in and out of love

Help them flourish into full human beings

Be fair to everyone

Let them be themselves

Give them praise

Build their confidence

Follow the Standards

Give them a voice

