



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Children and Young People's Participation in Wales ... Good Practice 2016

Information

It's Your Choice

No Discrimination

Respect

You Get Something Out Of It

Feedback

Working Better For You



Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Who is this guide for?

This guide is for anyone who works with or for children and young people including local authorities, schools, national, local and voluntary organisations; who are concerned with children and young people's policy and provision, families and the community.

1.2 What do we mean by Participation?

The literal definition of participation is 'taking part'. In the context of children and young people's rights, however, participation is about children and young people having their voices heard when decisions are being made that affect their lives, and being actively involved in decision-making processes. Participation is listening to and collaborating with children and young people.

Participation is one of the guiding principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Article 12 of the UNCRC sets out the right of children and young people to express an opinion and to have their opinion taken into account when decisions are being made on any matter that affects them. This Article is seen as particularly important, in that it is an enabling right, empowering and supporting children and young people to access broader rights under the UNCRC, within the family, the school and the larger community context.

The principle affirms that children are active citizens with an important contribution to make to their families, schools, communities and nation. They have the right to express their views in all matters affecting them and for their views to be heard and given due weight in accordance with the child's age and maturity. It recognises the potential of children to enrich decision-making processes, to share perspectives and to participate as citizens and facilitators of change.

1.3 What do we mean by rights?

The UNCRC is an international agreement that protects the human rights of children under the age of 18. Wales is the first country in the United Kingdom to embed the principles of the UNCRC into legislation. The 'Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure, which became law in May 2012, strengthens and builds on the rights-based approach of the Welsh Government by placing a duty on Welsh Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers to have due regard to the rights and obligations within the UNCRC.

Welsh Government has adopted the UNCRC as the basis of all its work for children and young people in Wales and has summarised the articles of the UNCRC in the Seven Core Aims for children and young people. Core Aim 5 requires that all children and young people are listened to, treated with respect and have their race and cultural identity recognised.

Several provisions in the UNCRC reflect children's right to participation:

- **Adoption** - as one of "the persons concerned," the child should be heard in any judicial or administrative adoption proceedings. Article 21(a) refers to the informed consent of persons concerned, including the child.

- **Separation from parents** - in decisions to be taken on the need to separate a child from his or her parents (for example, on the basis of abuse or neglect) - the child, as an "interested party", must be given an opportunity to participate and make his or her views known.
- **Name change** - in a decision to be taken on the changing of a child's name, the views of the child should be taken into consideration.
- **Right to health** - children are entitled to be informed, have access to information and be supported in the use of basic knowledge of child health and nutrition (Article 24(2)e) so that they may enjoy their right to health.
- **Education** - children's participation takes on a special dimension in the area of education. Education should give children the opportunity to develop their talents and abilities to full. Several articles of the UNCRC are particularly relevant to educational settings.
- **Information** - Articles 13 and 17 set out the right of children and young people to access and share reliable information.

A full list of the UNCRC Articles, including a young-person-friendly version can be found at www.childrensrights.wales.

The Welsh Government wants all children and young people to have opportunities to actively participate in decision-making at local, regional and national levels in Wales. Opportunities are presently provided through mechanisms such as school councils, youth forums and Cymru Ifanc Young Wales.



The Welsh Government provides funding for the Young Wales project, facilitated by Children in Wales, an umbrella organisation for children's organisations.

Young Wales works with existing youth groups, forums and councils to gather the collective voice of children and young people to influence legislation, policies and programmes. It also uses social media in order to reach children and young people who are marginalised, shy, disadvantaged, unconfident, or secluded, enabling them to also have a voice.

1.4 The National Context

Under Section 12 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010, the Welsh Government issued statutory guidance to Local Authorities to promote and facilitate participation by children and young people in decisions that might affect them. In 2015 this statutory guidance was updated to take account of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

The Act puts the effective involvement of people and communities at the heart of improving well-being, in addition to being one of the five ways of working set out in the Act.

The Welsh Government is clear that the expectation is that the statutory guidance is to be implemented across Wales and the participation of children and young people in decision making is to be embedded into mainstream delivery. Since 2014 officials from the Welsh Government have regularly visited each Local Authority to get a 'picture of participation' by understanding how this duty is being delivered locally.

1.5 National Children and Young People's Participation Standards

Children in Wales are funded by Welsh Government to be a centre of excellence for children's rights and recently they have refreshed the National Standards for Participation to reflect the rights based ethos that is integral to working with children and young people. [The National Participation Standards](#) are a guide on the best and most meaningful ways of listening and responding to the voices of children and young people, in line with Article 12 of the UNCRC.

<p>Cael llais Cael dewis Having a voice Having a choice</p> <p>Safonau Cyfranogiad Cenedlaethol dros Blant a Phobl ifanc Children and Young People's National Participation Standards</p> <p><i>"Mae gan blant hawl i roi eu barn ynghyd beth ddylai ddigwydd, gan fydd oedolion yn gweud penderfyniadau sy'n effeithio arny'n nhw, ac i gael sylw i'w barn"</i> Article 12: Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)</p> <p><i>"Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account"</i> Article 12: The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)</p>			
Mae hyn yn golygu:	Byddwn ni:	This means:	We will:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mae gennych chi hawl i wybodaeth sy'n hysbysu i chi ddaeth i'r afael ac yn eiddo i chi i'w gweld penderfyniad gwybodus. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yn darparu gwybodaeth o safon da, yn glir ac yn haws i'w mynho. Yn rhoi gwybodaeth i chi i'w mynho i'w wneud i'w gwybodaeth i chi i'w mynho. 	<p>1 Gwybodaeth Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have the right to information that is easy to understand and allows you to make an informed decision. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information that is good quality, clear and accessible. Inform you about what's going to happen and let you know what difference your involvement could make.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mae gennych chi hawl i ddewis cymryd man a gweithio i'w pethau sy'n bwysgu chi. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yn rhoi digon o gwybodaeth ac amser i chi ddechrau i'w gwybodaeth i chi i'w mynho. 	<p>2 Chi biau'r dewis It's your choice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have the right to choose to be involved and work on things that are important to you. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give you enough support and time to choose if you want to get involved.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mae plant a phobl ifanc i gyd yn wahanol ac mae ganddyn nhw'r hawl i'w gwybodaeth i'w mynho. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yn hysbysu i chi ddechrau i'w gwybodaeth i chi i'w mynho. 	<p>3 Dim gwahaniaeth No discrimination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and young people are all different and have the right to be treated fairly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenge discrimination. Provide a range of opportunities and support to meet the needs of children and young people.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mae gennych chi hawl i'w mynho i'w gwybodaeth i chi i'w mynho. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yn darparu i chi ddechrau i'w gwybodaeth i chi i'w mynho. 	<p>4 Parch Respect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have the right to have a say. Your opinions are important and will be respected. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen to your views, experiences and ideas and take you seriously. Work with you on things you say are important. Value what you have to offer.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mae gennych chi hawl i'w mynho i'w gwybodaeth i chi i'w mynho. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yn darparu i chi ddechrau i'w gwybodaeth i chi i'w mynho. 	<p>5 Bod ar eich ennill You get something out of it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have the right to learn and be the best you can be. You will have opportunities to work with others and make a difference. We want you to be involved in positive experiences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with you in safe, fun and enjoyable ways. Make the most of what you know and do things that build your confidence and skills.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mae gennych chi hawl i'w mynho i'w gwybodaeth i chi i'w mynho. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yn darparu i chi ddechrau i'w gwybodaeth i chi i'w mynho. 	<p>6 Adrodd Feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have the right to know what differences you have made and how your ideas have been listened to. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Always ensure you have feedback in an agreed time. Tell you how your ideas have been used and why. Tell you what happens next.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dylai bod sy'n gweud penderfyniadau sy'n effeithio ar blant a phobl ifanc i'w mynho i'w gwybodaeth i chi i'w mynho. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yn darparu i chi ddechrau i'w gwybodaeth i chi i'w mynho. 	<p>7 Gweithio'n well drosodd chi Working better for you</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Those who make decisions that affect children and young people should put children's rights at the centre of everything they do. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with you and learn how we can do things better. Ensure your views make a difference to the way we make plans and decisions.
<p>Y Safonau hyn sy'n cynnal tair colofn CCUHP – Diogelu, Darparu a Chyfranogiad The Standards underpin the three pillars of the UNCRC – Protection, Provision & Participation</p> <p>Cymru Ifanc Young Wales</p> <p>Yn gweithio'n well drosodd chi Working better for you</p>			

In 2016 the Participation Standards were refreshed by a partnership between Youth Forum workers and Young Wales, informed by consultations with young people. The Standards have been developed for and with young people, setting out how children and young people can be involved in decision-making in meaningful and effective ways. These can be viewed at: <http://www.youngwales.wales/index.php/young-wales-cafe/news/215-participation-standards>

The Standards identify the key issues that all professionals should be aware of when working with children and young people in Wales. The partnership reviewed each of the seven standards and ensured that each one reflected the rights based ethos that is integral to working with children and young people.

The refreshed standards will be followed up with revised guidance on the kite-marking process and the self-assessment tools, for use in Local Authorities, who have an inspection team.

Organisations who work with children and young people will be encouraged to undertake the self assessment process to demonstrate they the meet the Participation Standards in all their work with children and young people.

2. Children and Young People's National Participation Standards

2.1 Information

<p>This standard means:</p> <p>You have a right to information that is easy to understand and allows you to make an informed decision</p>	<p>We will all:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information that is good quality, clear and accessible • Inform you about who's going to listen and let you know what difference your involvement could make
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Examples of good practice found in Local Authorities

Blaenau Gwent

Blaenau Gwent has created a Youth Information Officer post to ensure that youth information is not lost within the Family Information Service (FIS). The Youth Information Service works alongside the FIS and many other youth based organisations to provide knowledge, so that young people can make their own informed decisions on the key issues that concern them.

Bridgend



Through the development of a Participation Strategy Network, a comprehensive action plan is in a process of ongoing development, which is in place to reflect the objectives highlighted in the Bridgend Wide Participation Strategy. Both the Strategy and the action plan are characterised by the National Participation Standards and set out how the agreed actions will meet the Standards. Each of the priorities highlighted within the action plan will be monitored against the relevant standard.

Mobile friendly consultations have been introduced in Bridgend, for example, the '446 project' consultation which aims to understand why some communities feel disengaged from services, and what can be done to respond to these issues. In phase one, young people were consulted through a large scale consultation exercise carried out in both mainstream and special secondary schools, community groups and forums across Bridgend via 'The Big Youth Survey' on community satisfaction – 2800 responses were received.

Caerphilly

Caerphilly supports other organisations to develop commitment to participation by providing training on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and participation. An example of this is a 2 1/2 hour training session delivered in schools, which includes training on the UNCRC and the Well-being of Future Generations Act.



Carmarthenshire

The authority holds a database of home educated children and young people and ensure that all UNCRC information and participation opportunities are disseminated to their home education co-ordinators, who then share with individuals.

Ceredigion

UNCRC literature produced and published by the Welsh Government is distributed and shared with all local authority councillors.

Conwy

As part of Conwy's Healthy Schools Programme, a peer led Personal and Social Education training programme is delivered by sixth form students, which includes issues such as Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) and religion. This also supports school councils to get involved at a strategic level.

Denbighshire

Senior members of staff and councillors hold "An Evening with..." events where children and young people get an opportunity to share their views and ask questions on the issues they are concerned about.

Flintshire

Representatives on the Flintshire Youth Forum learn about the UNCRC to deliver awareness raising sessions to groups of adults through the 'Young People Say' programme. The National Participation Standards form part of this training.

Monmouthshire

A member of the Youth Council is also a Future Generations Ambassador for the authority and delivers talks to children and young people in schools about the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Pembrokeshire

Annual Student Voice conferences are held for all school councils in the county. There have been 250 attendees over the last 2 years, with a focus on children's rights, a chance for the young people to take part in workshops, meet the Children's Commissioner for Wales and carry out a mission to deliver children's rights training when they return to school. These conferences have been very successful, with more than 50 of the authority's 70 schools sending delegates.

Swansea

[Best Start Swansea](#) is the Healthy Cities campaign to help parents get their children ready for school and for life. The campaign is fronted by 'The Jacks' family who live in Swansea. The Best Start messages outline practices that can offer children the best possible start in their first 1000 days and support them to enjoy their rights in their day to day lives.



Torfaen



Torfaen Play Service provides community play opportunities for children and young people aged 5-15 years in the form of after school clubs and holiday play schemes. Torfaen are using these play settings to start engaging with younger children regarding rights and participation.

Vale of Glamorgan

The Vale of Glamorgan conducts a [biannual school council audit](#). The purpose of this is to identify the current position of each school council, to ensure compliance with the Schools Councils (Wales) Regulations 2005 and to establish and share good practice.

Wrexham

School Councils at a primary level are monitored by Wrexham's Healthy Schools Team. The team asks schools to complete an evaluation form on their current practice prior to a visit when they observe a meeting. The team observe 15 school councils every year and provide a written report back to the schools with feedback and recommendations.

The Healthy Schools Team provided 2 training sessions to primary teachers based on the Welsh Government school council guidance document. They also produced a resource booklet for teaching staff which includes guidance on running a successful school council, involving pupils in their own learning, policy development and staff recruitment.

2.2 It's Your Choice

This standard means: You have the right to choose to be involved and work on things that are important to you	We will all: Give you enough support and time to choose if you want to get involved
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Examples of good practice found in Local Authorities

Caerphilly



Caerphilly has a Junior and a Senior Youth Forum. The Junior Forum is for 7-11 years and young people are able to develop skills and confidence before transitioning to the Senior Forum.

Cardiff

A digital hustings event was held by Cardiff Youth Council (CYC) in the run up to the Welsh Government elections, to bring politics to the young people of Cardiff.

After the enormous success of the General Election Shout-out, CYC decided to hold another hustings event through a special edition shout-out to question the Welsh Assembly candidates of Cardiff on issues raised by young people.

Using these issues highlighted by young people, a series of questions were devised for each of Cardiff's 28 Assembly Candidates representing 7 different parties, across four different constituencies, and their responses were recorded in a Special 2016 Welsh Assembly Election Edition Shout-out.



Conwy

The Authority issues 18th birthday cards to its residents which includes information about voting, with the aim of engaging young people in the democratic process.

Denbighshire



Denbighshire Youth Council holds its meetings across the county to increase accessibility for those young people who are not based in the main towns.

Torfaen

All services and organisations working with the local authority, wishing to engage with children and young people, are required to complete a 'participation protocol form'. This sets out the intention behind the activity, intended methods of consultation with children and young people, the proposed outcome or benefit of the activity and how the results will be fed back. This information is maintained by the Participation Officer and reported to the Strategic Engagement Group. The form allows the authority to evidence how children and young people's rights have been considered in relation to activities.

Wrexham

The Senedd Yr Ifanc Wrecsam is Wrexham's Youth Parliament. The Senedd is made up of 70 young people aged 11- 25 who are elected to represent a group or project.



The Senedd works on county wide issues that affect the young people of Wrexham. The Senedd meets four times a year in Council Chambers in the Guildhall. The Senedd meetings are structured meetings with formal and informal sections.

During a meeting, professionals come to speak to the Senedd to gather the views and opinions on specific issues. Senedd meetings can also include debates, issue based work groups and presentations.

2.3 No Discrimination

<p>This standard means:</p> <p>Children and young people are all different and have the right to be treated fairly</p>	<p>We will all:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Challenge discrimination• Provide a range of opportunities and support to meet the needs of children and young people
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Examples of good practice found in Local Authorities

Blaenau Gwent

An anti-bullying kite mark has been developed in partnership with Stonewall. A peer group has been trained to inspect schools against the anti-bullying policy. The inspection includes pupils and teachers being interviewed to establish how effective their policy is. Successful schools are awarded the anti-bullying kite mark.

Bridgend



Bridgend has developed a young carers ID card scheme. Young carers are able to show the card to their teachers if they are having problems. For example, if young carers have difficulty staying on after school without any notice, need to leave their mobile phone on silent in class or have difficulty finishing home work, this may be due to their caring responsibilities - having a card that is designed to offset any embarrassing situations within a school setting for the young carers makes a huge difference.

Cardiff

The Hearing Impairment (HI) Team works with children and young people of all ages, from birth until they finish schooling. The team works in close partnership with health professionals to provide:

- extra support for individual pupils and pre-school children;
- training to schools to help them understand the needs of hearing impaired pupils and to make reasonable adjustments to meet their needs; and
- schools with training, equipment and materials to support hearing impaired pupils, such as radio aids.

It teaches HI pupils to become independent in their HI needs, for example, the Transition Clinic at University Hospital Wales has up-dated its Text Service so that children and young people can take control of their care plan directly. Links with Cardiff Peoples First forum have also enabled young people with a disability to represent their 'community' on the city-wide youth forum.

Monmouthshire

Monmouthshire's first Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender conference - LGBT+ was held in Feb 2016 and organised by the authority's youth service. The conference provided an opportunity for young people in Monmouthshire to have a voice and share their experiences.



Torfaen

The role of the Participation Officer for the local authority includes supporting promotion of the UNCRC and children's rights. Training and awareness raising sessions are offered to members of the Strategic Engagement Group, partner agencies, children and young people and community groups. These sessions are used to support and promote participation and to identify 'participation champions' within all service areas.

The Participation Officer has also arranged to visit all new school councils in September 2016 to deliver UNCRC awareness training with a focus on Article 12.

2.4 Respect

<p>This standard means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You have the right to say• Your opinions are important and will be respected	<p>We will all:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listen to your views, experiences and ideas and take you seriously• Work with you on things you say are important• Value what you have to offer
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Examples of good practice found in Local Authorities

Bridgend

The '446 Project' was developed from a consultation on community satisfaction to which there were over 2800 responses. Consultations were completed by children and young people during their IT lessons at school, as well as out at community based services, open access universal services, and by other frontline professionals.

Further consultation was also carried out with those who are considered to be disenfranchised or disengaged. Resources are then targeted at the specific areas that were identified as having issues. As a result action groups have developed short, medium and long term plans.

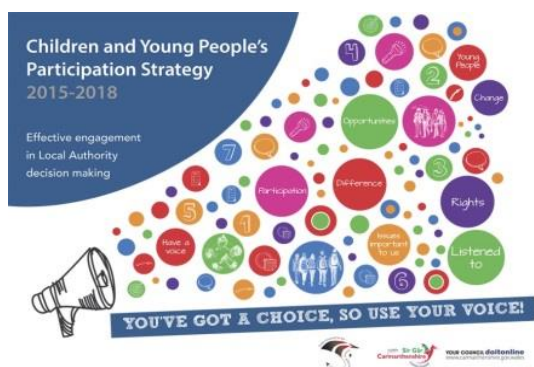
Cardiff



The 'Tools 4 Life' website is an online media resource for teachers and youth workers specifically looking at Personal and Social Education (PSE). It has been developed by Cardiff Youth Council, taking as its baseline, the information gathered from surveys run with young people in Cardiff. It reflects the areas identified by young people as those they would like to see taught.

www.cardiffyouthcouncil.wix.com/tools4life

Carmarthenshire



Carmarthen Council have committed to a Children's Rights promise for the children and young people in their area. In addition they have also developed and Children and Young Persons Strategy for 2015-2018.

Denbighshire

Primary school children have opportunities to meet with the Chair of the Council, the Lead Member for Education and local representatives, for a Q&A session in the Council Chamber.

Flintshire

The Healthy Schools Team and Flintshire Integrated Youth Provision (FIYP) lead on the development of annual school council conferences, where members of school councils can discuss different issues and speak directly to Elected Members through a 'question time' event.



Monmouthshire

The Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members attend a youth forum residential annually to hear about the issues concerning children and young people in their local authority.

Schools in the authority have worked together to ensure a smooth transition for Syrian refugees and conversational Arabic classes are held during lunchtime for those students wishing to attend.

Pembrokeshire

The Pembrokeshire Single Integrated Plan is reviewed annually and the Youth Assembly are given the opportunity to comment on the review. The Youth Assembly has had an opportunity to meet with Council members to discuss priorities for young people in light of the local authority's spending cuts.

Young people are also involved in the recruitment process for all Children and Schools Directorate key staff, including Heads of Service and Directors.



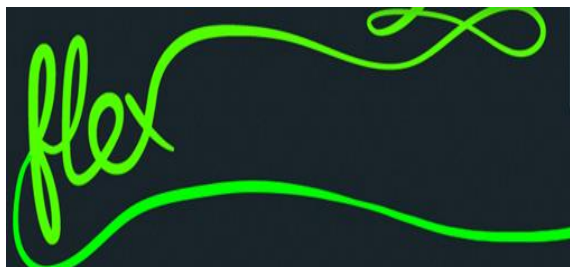
Pembrokeshire Youth's new website <http://www.pembrokeshireyouth.co.uk> contains a specific section on rights and participation, along with details of all Youth Services projects, including youth clubs in the county, youth forums, and where young people can access support and advice.

Swansea

The Children's Rights Team regularly works in collaboration with colleagues, organisations and partners to support the appropriate participation and engagement of children and young people. This includes co-ordinating activity relevant to the UNCRC and participation of children and young people, ensuring work is joined up in relation to provision and provides opportunities for early years, hard to reach groups and school councils.

This work has included the development of UNCRC objectives in the Strategic Equality Plan, links and representation at the Third Sector CYP Forum, re-establishment of the Children's Rights Network and support to schools in the furthering of their Rights Respecting Schools work.

Torfaen



Torfaen has introduced Flex – an online web based consultation tool. In addition to being available remotely, every secondary school pupil in Torfaen is able to access Flex via a tab on their school desktop PC.

<https://telflex.torfaen.gov.uk/consult.ti>

Vale of Glamorgan

Penarth Town Council has launched the Young Citizen Award in recognition of the accomplishments of children and young people in the area.

Run in conjunction with the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Youth Service team and Penarth Youth Action, the award aims to demonstrate the community's appreciation for these outstanding children and young people and encourage others to follow in their footsteps.

2.5 You Get Something Out of It

<p>This standard means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You have the right to learn and be the best you can be• You will have opportunities to work with others and make a difference• We want you to be involved in positive experiences	<p>We will all:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with you in safe, fun and enjoyable ways• Make the most of what you know and do things that build your confidence and skills
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Examples of good practice found in Local Authorities

Blaenau Gwent

NYAS provide universal advocacy for all young people up to 25 years and ensure that all of their service users are made aware of the UNCRC.

The Children's Grand Council includes two members from every primary school across the local authority.

The Byg website has been designed by young people for young people aged between 11-25 living in the Blaenau Gwent area to provide them with information about events, news, activities, services and opportunities. It is a fully interactive website that encourages creativity and direct involvement. www.thebyg.co.uk



The Youth Service Ambassador's Scheme (YAM) helps direct the work of the Youth Service, and be a voice for young people. YAMs are expected to represent their chosen area and provide guidance to the staff on issues affecting young people, help with future ideas and be the voice for other young people. Through the Scheme, young people are involved in the recruitment of staff, to ensure that the workforce is aware of the importance of involving young people in making decisions at all levels. The authority has also introduced a Youth Mayor position.

Caerphilly

The Local Authority funds sessional staff to develop the participation agenda in youth club settings.

The Local Participation Action Plan (LPAP) supports organisations to develop children and young people's participation, promotes children's right to be heard and listened to, and supports organisations to develop a commitment to the National Participation Standards.

Cardiff



MindHub has been created by young people for young people; it provides information and links to services in relation to emotional health and wellbeing. Young people secured funding for MindHub which also includes a feed back section for comments.

<http://www.mindhub.wales/>

Carmarthenshire

A well-established Youth Council is a representative body of young people in Carmarthenshire and meets with head teachers to discuss and resolve issues around bullying.

Young people are involved in the training of new foster carers, offering a young people's perspective and experience of being in care.

Flintshire

In 2016, staff training was offered to school council link teachers on the requirements of the school council guidance document, the UNCRC and participatory techniques that can be utilised in school council meetings and work with the wider school community.

Monmouthshire

Young people run a youth café in Chepstow, Central Kaff, which offers a place to meet with internet access, computer facilities, study and job seeking activities and life skills workshops. The young people manage all areas of the business including the paperwork, ordering supplies and maintaining hygiene standards.



Pembrokeshire

Young people get an opportunity to be a trainee member of staff with the Children & Young People's Rights (CYPR) office at the local authority. The post is under the supervision and direction of the CYPR Officer and supports children and young people to actively engage within their communities and with democratic processes, to ensure their voices are heard in shaping services and resources to have a positive impact on their experiences and outcomes. The post also promotes and encourages opportunities for Pembrokeshire's children and young people to understand their rights under the UNCRC.

The Children and Young People's Rights office has produced 3 model policies for schools (together with governor briefings) on pupil participation, involvement of pupils in staff recruitment, and involvement of pupils in evaluating teaching and learning. The aim of developing these policies is to formalise children's voices within the policy context for schools and ensure greater consistency of practice.

Powys

The local authority provides 4 placements every year on a Traineeship programme for looked after children and care leavers, as part of their corporate parenting commitment. The Traineeship lasts for 2 years and provides the opportunity to gain an NVQ qualification.

Swansea

In January 2016, a county-wide Pupil Voice Forum was developed to enable elected pupil representatives from each secondary school to directly engage with Swansea's Chief Education Officer and have a voice in decisions that affect them, particularly around education.

Torfaen

The Torfaen Strategic Engagement Group is a key partnership group driving participation in the local authority. Current Participation Officer partnership projects include working with Torfaen Plays to deliver UNCRC awareness sessions to play workers, and designing and delivering games to allow children to participate in well-being assessment questions.

Vale of Glamorgan

Vale of Glamorgan Youth Action Groups are partnership projects between the Vale of Glamorgan Youth Service and town councils across the county.



Youth Action Groups are youth councils that work with local decision-makers in their towns to make sure young people's views and ideas are taken seriously. They also get involved in projects and activities which help improve things for young people in the town. Members are aged 11-18 and are known as youth councillors. Youth councillors are primarily elected by young people from schools and youth organisations within the town to represent their views, ideas and interests and to take action on their behalf.

Wrexham

Since Wrexham's first Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA) in 2013, six academic research studies have been completed that have a direct link to the play sufficiency agenda in Wrexham. More than 1450 individuals have been involved in the 2016 PSA, including 1133 Year 5 children and 175 parents completing a satisfaction survey.

Wrexham's latest PSA completed in March 2016 identifies that a particularly positive development has been the inclusion of children and young people as a distinct consideration within the local authority's Equalities Impact Assessment process. There is now an opportunity to improve guidance to professionals when completing these statutory assessments to ensure sufficient consideration is given to impacts upon the rights of these people.

As a consequence the Play Sufficiency Action Plan 2016/17 includes a priority to 'Support the Equalities Impact Assessment process by developing guidance that encourages consideration of children's ability to access time and space for play, especially those with protected characteristics'.



An animated video has been produced to help explain the findings and priorities identified from the in-depth research with children. This video is used by the Play Development Team to show to children and young people when talking to them about their opportunities for play.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ftxo054jCfE>

2.6 Feedback

This standard means: You have the right to know what differences you have made and how your ideas have been listened to	We will all: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Always ensure you have feedback in an agreed time• Tell you how your ideas have been listened to
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Examples of good practice found in Local Authorities

Caerphilly



The authority's bi-annual household survey is replicated by the Youth Forum to gather the views of young people about services and facilities within the local authority.

Pembrokeshire

The Strategy for Participation and Rights of CYP in Pembrokeshire 2013/16 committed the authority to support and improve school councils and develop more effective practice within schools. Every school in Pembrokeshire receives a Student Voice Evaluation Visit (SVEV), which has resulted in a report highlighting areas of good practice and areas for development under the National Participation Standards. The SVEV looks in depth at the schools mechanisms for listening to children and young people.

Powys

Powys has developed a feedback template which sets out the key information needed to deliver effective feedback. It requires lead officers to consider who, what, where, when, how and why during the process. It includes log entries for "what did we find out" and records what the next action will be and how it will be delivered. This template is promoted via websites, social media and email.

Swansea

The City and County's Housing Teams are being supported to work with young people to develop mechanisms for those affected by housing issues, to have their voices heard in the development of its housing services. Young people from Action for Children, Swansea Young Single Homeless Project, BAYS and the Fi-Forum have come together to work with decision makers to identify issues relevant to young people in Swansea and to seek a way forward for change. As a result, a group of young people are now working with officers within the authority to develop an advisory group which will consider how housing support for young people can be more widely publicised.

Vale of Glamorgan



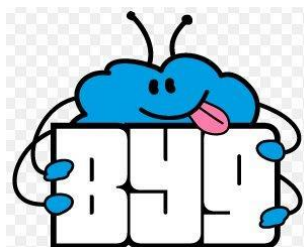
The Vale of Glamorgan Youth Cabinet (VOGYC) meets with the full Vale of Glamorgan Council (VOGC) once per school term. The Youth Mayor meets with the leader of VOGC separately from the VOGYC. The VOGYC jointly agrees with the VOGC Cabinet on areas of mutual work and policies that they wish to be consulted on or engaged with as jointly deemed appropriate.

2.7 Working Better For You

<p>This standard means:</p> <p>Those who make decisions that affect children and young people should put children's rights at the centre of everything they do</p>	<p>We will all:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with you and learn how we can do things better• Ensure your views make a difference to the way we make plans and decisions
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Examples of good practice found in Local Authorities

Blaenau Gwent



Participation work sits at the heart of the authority within the Corporate Strategy Division which enables the team to link right across all departments. Participation is fully reflected in the current strategic plans of the authority and will continue to do so moving forward with the work of the Public Service Board (PSB). In Blaenau Gwent the PSB Terms of Reference make specific mention of the National Participation Standards.

Caerphilly

The Local Participation Action Plan sets out the arrangements for promoting and facilitating children and young people's participation, building on well established mechanisms that meet the requirements of legislation. It aims to develop a shared direction and understanding of participation amongst service providers in order to develop Caerphilly as a rights respecting authority.

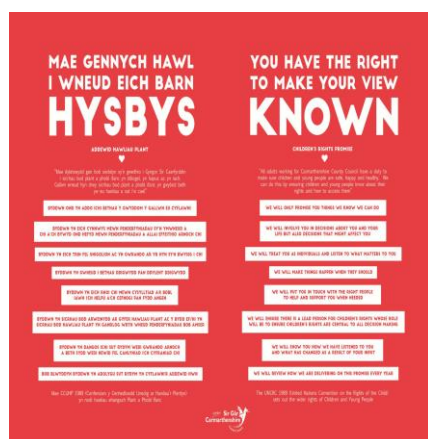


Cardiff

Cardiff's commitment in the Corporate Plan 2016-18 to use a child rights approach to work towards attaining Child Friendly City status. A lead Director and Cabinet Member have been allocated and dialogue with UNICEF has commenced.

An annual challenge session takes place where children and young people have the opportunity to meet with the Director of Social Services, members of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee and senior Children's Services Managers to challenge the content of the Annual Director's Report.

Carmarthenshire



Children and Young People's Participation Strategy places participation as a top priority in the authority's business plan. The Vision over the next three years is to embed a culture of participation across the Council, which gives all children and young people a voice, and ensures that their opinions can influence decisions that affect them and their daily lives. Elected Members and senior officers routinely attend the Youth Council AGM and the Authority has also developed a Children's Rights Promise.

Conwy

Conwy has adopted a Children's Rights Scheme. In doing so they have also developed interactive tools and guidance to ensure officials can comply with the Scheme in their day to day delivery. Adopting the Scheme will mean that when a change or decision is being made on a policy, project, plan, strategy or service, the authority will consider whether this will have an impact (positive or negative) on children and young people.

Flintshire

There has been a significant and noticeable shift in the change management arena, towards the engagement of our young people in a meaningful way. Officers at all levels now request support to engage with the public and specifically with young people as a part of that. The culture has shifted and senior officers have driven this change, welcoming robust young people led challenge.

The Youth Forum Worker has facilitated the involvement of School Council members in their local Town Council.

Gwynedd

A Workforce Plan database is being developed around those who work with children and young people in Gwynedd. The database will identify skills and gaps in qualifications of those involved and enable the authority to build appropriate training programmes.

Monmouthshire

Young people and health professionals in Monmouthshire have developed a valuable website offering support and advice for those living with self-harm. **Buddy** meets a need for an online outlet offering information, guidance and therapeutic tools which young people can access at all times. It provides confidential support and techniques to help deal with negative thoughts and feelings associated with



self-harm, reassuring those experiencing difficult times, they are not alone.

<http://buddyapp.monmouthshire.gov.uk/>

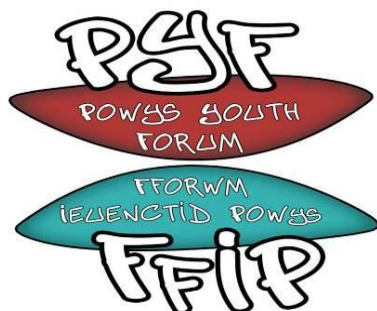
A Regional Youth Forum has been established in conjunction with Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Torfaen and Newport – this forum meets on a quarterly basis.

Pembrokeshire

Pembrokeshire has a lead member for the rights of the child, who also chairs the Corporate Parenting Board. A number of people across the authority have responsibility for ensuring the voice of the child and young person is central to Pembrokeshire's work.

The National Participation Standards (NPS) are used in a growing number of settings when evaluating services. Currently, all Families First commissioned projects are undergoing self-assessment and there will be a clear requirement for these to achieve the NPS kite mark by the end of 2017, in the next round of commissioning projects.

Powys



Powys local authority has appointed a Cabinet Member as a Youth Champion (the role is separate from the portfolio role). The Youth Forum members were involved in drafting the job specification for the role.

Rhonddfa Cynnon Taf (RCT)

As part of their action plan, RCT's Youth Engagement and Participation (YEP) Service has developed an innovative approach using education and training programmes. The approach aims to use vulnerability profiling mechanisms to effectively target YEP Service provision and deploy resources.

Vulnerability profiling is RCT's agreed single approach to the early identification of those individuals at risk of disengaging from learning as a result of socio-economic barriers they face outside of the school environment. It provides the YEP Service with the means to target and allocate resources, plan provision and evaluate its impact, to ensure that young people are receiving the support they need.

Swansea

The UNCRC has been embedded within the existing Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) process. The EIA is a legal document and provides a robust framework for screening service and/or policy decisions against the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act (2010), one of which is age. To support work relating to the UNCRC, the EIA has been extended so that age is now categorised as below and above 18 years.

This means that it is possible to identify decisions that are being made that specifically impact children.

A section of the EIA specifically addresses how the proposal might impact specific articles within the UNCRC; if the proposal has been designed or planned in the best interests of children and young people; and any actions that might be taken to mitigate any negative impact on children's rights or address gaps in knowledge.

All service providers contracted within the Flying Start and Families First programmes are required to give consideration to children's rights when making policy or service decisions that affect children and young people as defined in the Children & Young People's Rights Scheme.

Torfaen

Torfaen Children and Young People's Improvement Board (CYPIB) brings together representatives of all agencies which contribute to the well-being of children, young people and their families in Torfaen. The vision of the Torfaen Children and Young People's Improvement Board is that all children and young people in Torfaen will be Healthy, Safe and Successful.

The Board is committed to and endorses the UNCRC.

Torfaen's Participation Officer visits all new school councils at the start of the educational year to deliver UNCRC awareness training with a focus on Article 12: Participation. Visits to other linked youth groups happen throughout the year.



3. Youth Work Excellence Awards 2016

Award	Project / Local Authority
Outstanding Contribution to Youth Work in Wales 2016	Jonathan Evans Miskin Project, Children's Services, Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council
Young person led youth work project 2016	Vale of Glamorgan Youth Cabinet School Transport Report
Youth work project that promotes employability skills 2016	Employer Engagement project-Pembrokeshire Youth Services
Outstanding youth work project promoting cultures in Wales 2016	Pysgota yn ardal wledig Conwy – Conwy County Borough Council
Outstanding youth work project which supports young people engagement with formal education 2016	Personal Social Education – Level 2 Qualification, RCT Youth Engagement and Participation Service

Quality Mark for Youth Work in Wales 2016

The following were awarded the Welsh Government's Quality Mark for Youth Work in Wales Bronze Award in 2016:

- Conwy Youth Service
- Rhondda Cynnon Taff's Youth Engagement and Participation (YEP) Service
- The Cwmbran Centre



4. Conclusion

The Children, Young People and Families Division, within Welsh Government visited all 22 local authorities during 2016 to understand how children and young people are enabled to participate at a local level and to share good practice.

This guide has been produced to highlight some of the good practice and innovation seen at the time of these visits. However, it is not the sum total of the good practice happening across Wales.

In addition to the innovation and opportunities for children and young people to participate at a local level, a number of the Local Authorities have, or are in the process of, developing a Children's Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) process – some have incorporated children's rights into their existing Equality Impact Assessment processes.

We would like to thank all of those involved in organising and contributing to the visits, which enabled us to highlight the good practice taking place across Wales.

We look forward to visiting all local authorities again in 2017!

Annex A: Local Authority Directory

Local Authority	Pages
Blaenau Gwent	6,11,16,22
Bridgend	6, 11,13
Caerphilly	7,9,16,20,22
Cardiff	9,11,13,17,22
Carmarthenshire	7,14,17,23
Ceredigion	7
Conwy	7,10,23,26
Denbighshire	7,10,14
Flintshire	7,14,17,23
Gwynedd	23
Monmouthshire	7,12,14,17,23
Pembrokeshire	8,14,17,20,24,26
Powys	18,20,24
Rhondda Cynnon Taf (RCT)	24,26
Swansea	8,15,18,20,24
Torfaen	8,10,12,15,18,25,26
Vale of Glamorgan	8,15,18,21,26
Wrexham	8,10,18

Annex B: National Participation Standards

Safonau Cyfranogiad Cenedlaethol dros Blant a Phobl ifanc

Children and Young People's National Participation Standards

"Mae gan blant hawl i roi eu barn ynghyd â bath ddydd i ddigwydd, pan fydd oedolion yn gwneud penderfyniadau sy'n effeithio arny'n rhwng, ac i gael sylw i'w barn."

Art 12.2 Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

Mae hyn yn golygu:

Byddwn ni:

This means:

We will:

1	<p>Gwybodaeth Information</p>	<p>1</p> <p>You have the right to information that is easy to understand and allows you to make an informed decision.</p> <p>2</p> <p>You have the right to choose to be involved and work on things that are important to you.</p> <p>3</p> <p>Children and young people are all different and have the right to be treated fairly.</p> <p>4</p> <p>You have the right to know what differences you have and how your ideas have been listened to.</p> <p>5</p> <p>You have the right to learn and be the best you can be.</p> <p>6</p> <p>You will have opportunities to work with others and make a difference.</p> <p>7</p> <p>We want you to be involved in positive experiences.</p>
2	<p>Chi blaŵr dewis It's your choice</p>	<p>2</p> <p>You have the right to have a say. Your opinions are important and will be respected.</p> <p>3</p> <p>Challenge discrimination.</p> <p>4</p> <p>Provide a range of opportunities and support to meet the needs of children and young people.</p> <p>5</p> <p>Listen to your views, experiences and ideas and take you seriously.</p> <p>6</p> <p>Work with you on things you say are important.</p> <p>7</p> <p>Value what you have to offer.</p>
3	<p>Dim gwahaniaethu No discrimination</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Work with you in safe, fun and enjoyable ways.</p> <p>4</p> <p>Make the most of what you know and do things that build your confidence and skills.</p> <p>5</p> <p>Always ensure you have feedback in an agreed time.</p> <p>6</p> <p>Tell you how your ideas have been used and why.</p> <p>7</p> <p>Tell you what happens next.</p>
4	<p>Parch Respect</p>	<p>4</p> <p>You have the right to know what differences you have and how your ideas have been listened to.</p> <p>5</p> <p>Work with you and learn how we can do things better.</p> <p>6</p> <p>Ensure your views make a difference to the way we make plans and decisions.</p>
5	<p>Bod ar eich emill You get something out of it</p>	
6	<p>Adroeth Feedback</p>	
7	<p>Gweithio well dros och chi Working better for you</p>	

Y Safonau hyn sy'n cynnal tair colofn CCUHP - Diogelu, Darparu aeth a Chyfranogol

The Standards underpin the three pillars of the UNCRC – Protection, Provision & Participation

Cymru Ifanc
Young Wales

afonau gyfrangrdd
afonau gyfrangrdd