

Participation Standards Liverpool's

The Standards

PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE ARE INTENDED AS A GUIDELINE AND SHOULD SUPPORT YOU IN YOUR WORK.

We have deliberately kept to four key areas for the sake of clarity - you can build on this basic model.

1. Agencies put a framework for planning, feedback, monitoring and evaluation of outcomes in place prior to undertaking any participation activity with children and young people.

Children and young people are:

- Informed of the reasons why they are being asked to participate, what is expected of them and what they can and cannot influence.
- Informed of the outcomes of participation activity that they have been involved in and how this has affected decision making in a way that is timely, clear and honest.
- Involved in planning their involvement in participation activities from the beginning.
- Involved in the evaluation processes and setting of outcomes.
- Children and young people's participation is not the responsibility of one person and is built into organisational values and reflected in planning, delivery and communications.

2. Agencies value the contribution of children and young people as partners.

Children and young people:

- Are empowered and feel able to contribute.
- Are rewarded for their contributions.
- Are supported to understand the nature of confidentiality within the context of each particular participation experience.
- Are protected through confidentiality at all stages in a manner appropriate to the nature and context of their participation, (taking account of such issues as, privacy, stigma, setting and times).
- Are made aware of the possibilities and potential for participation.
- Their contributions are recorded and acknowledged.
- Their contributions are given equal value and are respected alongside those of other participants.

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3. Agencies recognise the diversity of children and young people and promote their experiences, backgrounds and skills as positive.

Children and young people:

- Are enabled to participate in ways that are inclusive of their identity.
- Facing diverse barriers, are enabled to participate through a proactive and targeted approach.
- From diverse backgrounds, are representatively involved in participation activity.
- Are accommodated through the use of appropriate arenas and venues which meet their diverse needs.
- And their diversity is acknowledged through the use of appropriate information and communications methods.
- Are encouraged to choose a level of involvement, which accords with their individual needs.
- And their diversity is considered in relation to equality of opportunity.

4. Agencies demonstrate the capacity to resource children and young people's participation in an appropriate and meaningful manner.

Children and young people's participation is:

- Resourced by trained and supervised staff.
- Resourced through appropriate training and support which enables them to participate.
- Resourced as an ongoing process and not a one off activity.
- Resourced through the provision of a safe, protective and appropriate environment.
- Undertaken in a child and young person friendly way.
- Enabled by the use of methods, mechanisms and techniques that are based on the needs of the individuals who are participating.