

# 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.

# Participation Standards Liverpool's

### 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.