

YOUR PARTICIPATION STRATEGY

“Central to the work of Kent Specialist Children’s Services is the opportunity for children and young people in care and leaving care to express their views, wishes and feelings about the care they receive”

(Section 6 KCC Participation Strategy)

Recently we held a county wide meeting for the ‘Our Children and Young People’s Council’ (OCYPC) and the Young Adult’s Council (YAC). At this meeting members of the council took part in an activity to consider the important points of the Kent County Council (KCC) Participation Opportunities for Children and Young People in Care or Care Leavers document. Using the feedback and suggestions from this activity as well as further consultation with young people we have developed and implemented this young person friendly version of the participation strategy.

KCC wants children in care & care leavers to contribute to shaping our services to meet your needs because we think this makes a real difference to how we do things and hopefully for the better!

So, how can you do get involved?

Well there are many different ways... here are some of them.....

- ◆ By talking with your social worker or personal adviser when she or he visits you
- ◆ By showing up at your review and making sure you fill out the consultation booklet beforehand
- ◆ By filling our your section in your ePEP
- ◆ By telling your social worker how you feel living with your foster carer and if you think she or he would benefit from some more training
- ◆ By showing up and speaking out in your pathway planning meeting
- ◆ By joining Kent’s Children in Care Council (OCYPC) or Young Adult Council (YAC) and speaking directly to senior managers in KCC. To join simply contact them at VSK_Participation@kent.gov.uk, or phone 03000 412128 and ask to speak to a Participation Worker
- ◆ By making sure you respond to the surveys or consultations about ‘what it’s like to be in care’



- ◆ By logging on to the Kent Cares Town website regularly to check out new articles, see what's been happening and what's coming up; plus send a message to the Participation Team in VSK
- ◆ By joining in the activities that are arranged such as participation activity days, and of course just to remind you again, the OCYPC and YAC groups
- ◆ By joining in these events you will have the opportunity to make sure your voice is heard by speaking with very important people in KCC such as politicians and very senior managers
- ◆ By helping to train staff who do all sorts of different jobs such as social workers, foster carers, adopters, teachers, college lecturers & health workers
- ◆ By being part of interview panels
- ◆ By giving your views when new services are being considered
- ◆ By attending local, area and even national events and speaking & listening to other children and young people who either are in care, or have been in care and making sure new ideas are brought back to Kent
- ◆ By writing articles, poems, or contributing in other ways to the children in care newsletter and letting others know what you're up to
- ◆ By becoming an apprentice in VSK when you leave school or college and helping to support other children in care or by becoming an apprentice in some other team within KCC
- ◆ By attending the annual VSK award ceremony and other local award days so you can join in the fun, but also tell the adults there what is going well and what you think could be done differently to make things better for all children in care and care leavers

So, go on, what are you waiting for? Make a difference by joining in and get your voice heard!

