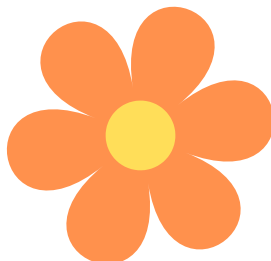
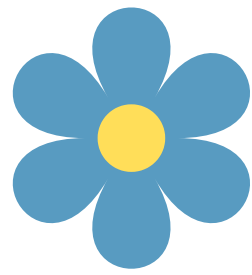


Children and Young People’s Participation Strategy



What is Participation?

“Being included”

“Taking part or joining in”

“Hearing the views of young people”

“Having a voice on the things that matter to you”

‘Participation means giving you a **voice** and considering your **opinions** when decisions are made about you!’



We are guided by

Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

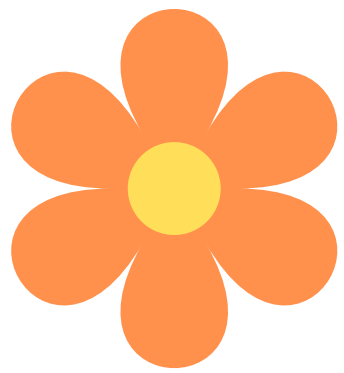
which says you have a legal right to be involved in decisions that affect you and that you should be told about this right.

All children and young people have this right. It doesn’t matter how old you are or if you have any additional needs.

Why is Children and Young People’s Participation Important?

Benefits for Children and Young People:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| ★ You feel valued and cared for | ★ You can meet other young people and try new things | ★ It helps you develop new skills and make you feel more confident and empowered |
| ★ You feel more in control of decisions that affect your life | ★ It helps you build positive relationships with workers | ★ It helps you understand your own and other people’s needs and rights |



Benefits for Kent County Council:



✦ Working with you helps us understand what young people want and need

✦ It can lead to positive changes for large groups of young people

✦ We can learn from your experiences to improve services

✦ It helps us stay accountable as we need to explain decisions affecting you

How Will We Help You Participate?

- Share your views with decision makers
- Provide support, information and resources
- Ensure you feel safe to challenge anything about your care
- Always tell you how your feedback has had an impact
- Celebrate and reward your contributions and achievements

How Can You Participate?

Speak to a trusted adult

Complete any forms you are given

Come to fun events and activities organised by the Participation Team

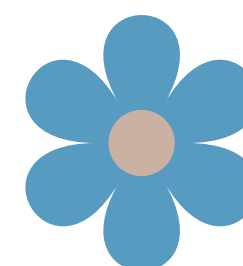
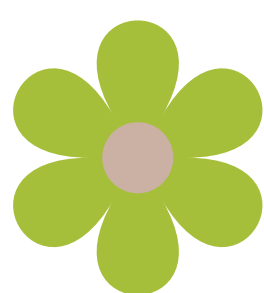
Participate in meetings about you

If you are in care, ask your Social Worker for a copy of the Kent Pledge

Join one of the Kent's Young People's Councils to have your say

Take part in the Speak Up Project with the Participation Team

Join the Recruit Crew to take part in interview panels for roles in Children's Services



**Contact the Participation Team at:
VSK_Participation@kent.gov.uk**

Follow us on

 participation_team

 VSK Participation Team



<http://kentcarestown.lea.kent.sch.uk>

