



Leicester Safeguarding Children's Board

Children and Young People's Engagement and Participation Strategy

What is the Local Safeguarding Children Board?

The Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) makes sure that all organisations work together to promote the safety of children and young people in Leicester. The Board is made up of very senior people (people in charge) from housing, social care, schools, education, the police, health and a few others.



We check that all these people are thinking about whether or not children and young people;



Feel safe



Are happy



Are healthy



Have a home



Have an education



Have a support network

Vision

All children and young people in the safeguarding system have a say about:



Their lives now and for the future.



The services and support they and other children and young people receive.



Have a right to have a say about; their own life.

This is not limited by;



Ability



Personal circumstances



Age



Behaviour

Objectives



To make sure that all organisations value the views of children and young people and actively promote the opportunity for young people to have a say.



To make sure that the number of children who use our services report that they have been involved in decisions and that they have had their voice heard.



To take an organised role and make sure that all the work carried out by the LSCB actively involves young people and that they influence outcomes.



To make services are quick to respond to issues affecting children and young people.



To promote and ensure all partner organisations are working together.



To check and evaluate how well agencies involve young people when planning services that affect their lives.

What is participation?

The LSCB have agreed the following definition:

“Participation is a process where someone influences decisions about their lives and this leads to change.”
(Treseder, 1997)

So it is not just about listening to your views, it is about you influencing what is decided and how things are done.

There are different ways that you can be involved in decisions. The way you are involved and the types of decisions you should be involved in, depends on your age, ability and experience.

Decisions may be about what is happening to you on a personal level and also about what is happening to groups of children and young people and the services they receive.

Participation (having a say) is an ongoing process of engagement and involvement (working together) and not only 1meeting or event.

Trust and positive relationships between adults and children and young people are important to effective participation (having a say).

Source: Treseder, P. (1997)
Empowering children and young people training manual: promoting involvement in decision-making. Save the Children.

How does it help me?



Benefits for organisations



Improves relationships



Increases the organisation's importance to children



Children and young people bring a fresh viewpoint and innovative (new) ideas



Improves the organisation's ability to achieve outcomes



Assists organisations to identify target funds and services



Increases an organisation's credibility and reputation (people have a better understanding of what they do and how good they are)



Offers organisations a wider variety of perspectives or viewpoints



Improves organisational systems (how something works)



Helps build capacity and sustainability (how they can continue to do something long term) within an organisation.

Benefits for families and the community



Improved parenting and relationship skills



Children are able to introduce new ideas within the community and not just use the services



Communities (where you live) become more aware of how valuable (good) its children and young people are, and of their needs



Children and young people enjoy living in their community (where they live) and they have a sense of ownership (a reason to be proud) and involvement



Children become more aware of local democracy

What are the barriers to participation?

The reasons that bring children into contact with the safeguarding system can mean that children and young people's are over protected which results in their voices not being heard, this may mean;



Children develop poor self-esteem and lack confidence



There are poor relationships between children and young people and people involved in making the decisions about them including the support they are given;



Structures and processes used by adults for decision-making??



Staff, Children and young people don't understand what participation (having a say) means because there is not enough information



There is no co-ordinated approach - (everyone doesn't work together or in the same way)



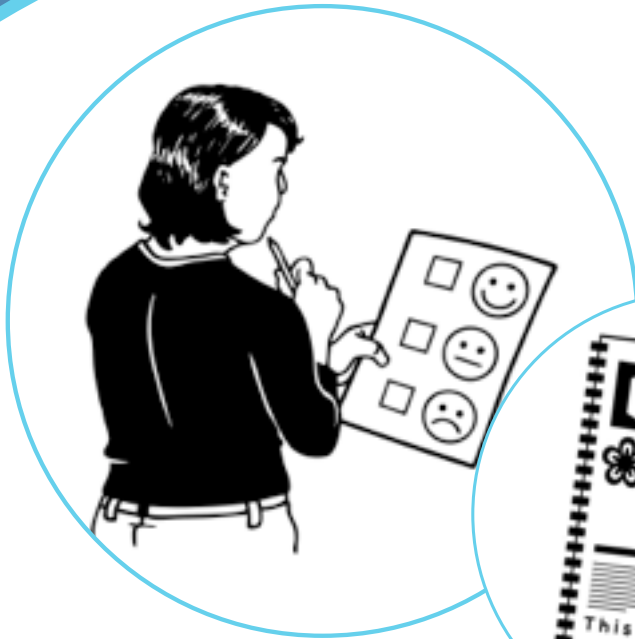
Staff don't have time to do all the things they need to do because they don't have the things they need i.e. money, equipment necessary

Links



Children Board (LSCB) working together and communications (i.e. talking) plans and alongside the work to make sure families can also have a say.

Reporting mechanism/ review of strategy



This plan has been developed in agreement with the LSCB Business Plan and will be reviewed and evaluated yearly.



Every 3 months the results on how well the plan is doing will be given to the LSCB Executive (Lead people in charge).

