



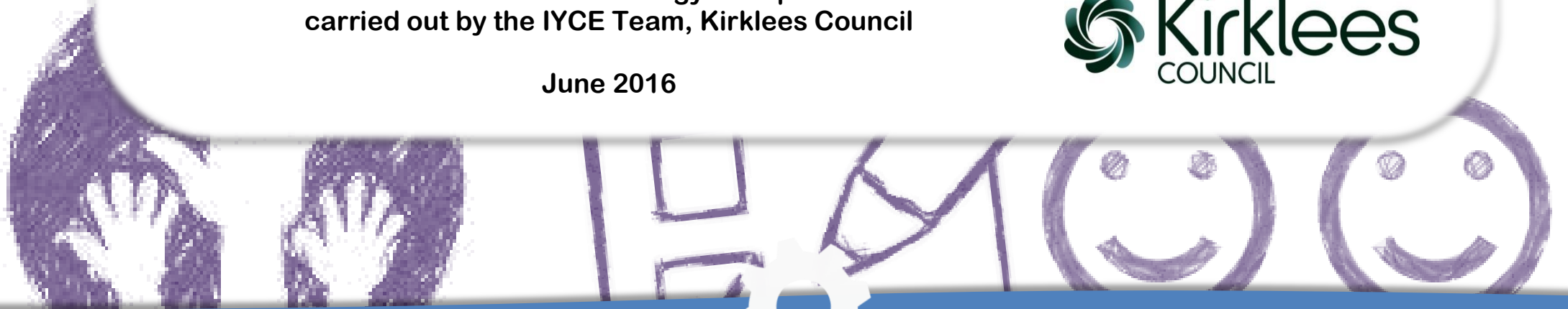
# You have the Right:

## Standards for Participation

Developing Children & Young People's Voice in the  
Kirklees Joint Strategy for Disabled Children & Young People, and  
Children & Young People with Special Educational Needs

An engagement project commissioned by the  
SEND Children's Strategy Group and  
carried out by the IYCE Team, Kirklees Council

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# 1. What Did We Want To Do?

## PROJECT AIMS:

The Voice & Influence team (IYCE) were commissioned by the SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disability) Children's Strategy Group to develop a set of standards and practical toolkit to support organisations and services to engage directly with disabled children and young people.

In meeting the above aims, the project sought to:

- Research existing young people participation/ engagement standards – locally and nationally
- Take particular account of those developed for young people with a disability
- Develop a set of standards which are:
  - Young people friendly and make sense to the young people within the setting
  - Short and simple
  - Accompanied by a toolkit which will enable settings to evaluate easily against the standards
- Include the opportunity for young people themselves to use the standards to evaluate a setting



## BACKGROUND:

Kirklees Disabled Children and Young People's Joint Strategy (2015-18) outlines a vision for the transformation of health, education and social care services for disabled children and young people and those with Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND), and their families from birth to 19 and up to 25 years of age, where their education needs require this.

The SEND Children's Strategy Group is driving the need for changes in the way that services are delivered across the partnership. The Strategy Group is committed to ensuring the views of children and young people are taken into account as part of the review and redesign of services in Kirklees.

An integral part of this redesign is to engage directly with disabled children and young people living in Kirklees giving them the opportunity to help shape and influence the Kirklees Joint Strategy for Disabled Children and Young people and Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs.

Children and young people have the RIGHT to get involved in decisions that are being made about the services that are provided for them. This set of standards sets out a commitment to helping children and young people to exercise that right.

## 2. The Participation Standards

Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account.

Right 12,  
UN Convention on the  
Rights of the Child

There are four  
participation standards  
outlined here:



### **Standard 1: When making decisions that affect you**

When making decisions that affect you, we will always ask for your views and listen to what you have to say

### **Standard 2: We will provide information and opportunities**

We will provide information and opportunities for you to express your views about things that matter to you in order for you to influence decisions made in your school, club or community

### **Standard 3: We will create a safe environment**

We will create a safe environment in which everyone is valued and respected and where all young people feel free to express their views and to take part

### **Standard 4: We will be friendly**

We will be friendly and approachable and will respect your views

# Participation Standard 1: When making decisions that affect you

When making decisions that affect you, we will always ask for your views and listen to what you have to say.

*Listen to us – listen to me, no one else, it's my body, it's my life*

*Involve us from the start – don't guess what we want*

*Make sure we get something out of it – give us new skills, empower us*

## How to meet this standard

The organisation has a vision statement and everyone connected to the organisation knows that children and young people's participation is central to that vision.

There are policies in place and systems that support children and young people's participation.

References to children and young people's participation are everywhere that children and young people look across the setting.

Children and young people are given opportunities to develop their voice and decision making skills

Children and young people contribute to the recruitment, selection and induction of staff.

Participation is celebrated, rewards are given regularly for good participation.

## How this can be evidenced

Prospectus

Website

Displays

School Council and SLT meeting minutes

School development plan

Questionnaires

Class Council

Working Party

*Support us to make our own decisions – I want more choice*



## Participation Standard 2: We will provide information and opportunities

We will provide information and opportunities for you to express your views about things that matter to you in order for you to influence decisions made in your school, club or community.

*Be open and honest with us – its frustrating when you don't tell us stuff*

*We want opportunities to be involved in groups and as individuals*

### How to meet this standard

Opportunities for participation are enjoyable, creative, flexible and open to negotiation

Children and young people have opportunities to influence and control the agenda

Children and young people have opportunities to meet with staff and other decision makers

Children and young people's views, suggestions, likes and dislikes are established and recorded so that they know these have been taken seriously.

Record keeping and mapping of participation activity takes place.

### How this can be evidenced

Curriculum plans

Enrichment plans

Displays

Website

Newsletters

Pupil questionnaire

Suggestion box

*Give us feedback – let us know what happens as a result of the things we say*

## Participation Standard 3: We will create a safe environment

We will create a safe environment in which everyone is valued and respected and where all young people feel free to express their views and to take part.

*Give us time – give me time to get my message ready*

*If we are unhappy or something doesn't feel right we have the right to complain but may need help*

### How to meet this standard

There are policies in place to make sure children and young people's participation is safe, sound and effective. These policies cover consent, protection, safety, access, transport, complaints, incentives and rewards.

Staff have appropriate attitudes, understanding and skills.

There are regular and frequent opportunities for children and young people to be consulted and to share their views and opinions.

Children and young people are encouraged and supported to practice their decision making skills. Ensuring children and young people are meaningfully involved in decision making is a skill that requires dedication and practice.

It takes time to plan, involve and feedback to children and young people. A variety of approaches and methods are used to meet individual needs.

### How this can be evidenced

School calendar of events eg Voting Day

Website

Curriculum planning

*Involve all of us – I may not have speech but I have a voice and can give my opinions*

*Show an interest in us, make it more than just a job*



## Participation Standard 4: We will be friendly

We will be friendly and approachable and will respect your views.

*Respect us –  
trust us, we need  
to trust you*

*Make it fun!  
We're young, we want  
to learn*

*Offer me support and  
encouragement to say  
what I think*

### How to meet this standard

Children and young people are aware of what they are being asked to do, it's purpose and that they have the right to say no.

Children and young people have a say about the methods and activities used

Children and young receive feedback about how their views have influenced decisions, whether their ideas and suggestions have been taken up and why.

### How this can be evidenced

Visual environment  
- eg displays

Student Voice policy

Website

Student Council minutes

*Give us the option not to  
participate*

*Prove you're listening  
to us –  
tell us what's changed*



## Acknowledgements

# THANK YOU to

All the children, young people and adults who have been involved in the process of creating these standards as well as those who will use them in the future.

If you would like further details about this project and the content of this report, please contact Susan Adams, IYCE (Voice & Influence) Team, Kirklees Council

