

Your Voice Matters Strategy

WHAT WE WILL DO?

Our priority and focus for this plan is to make sure that:

- ✓ The children's safeguarding partnership is strong and effective
- ✓ Children are safe and feel safe

We want to have a particular focus on issues including:

- ✓ Neglect
- ✓ Familial sexual harm
- ✓ Keeping children and young people safe online and on the streets

HOW WE WILL DO IT?

- ✓ By providing you **with a wide range of opportunities** for you to share your views in a way you are comfortable, such as surveys, and meeting you one-to-one or through organised groups.
- ✓ By the services you use, **listening to and understanding** your individual needs but also identifying themes from children and young people across the area. This will improve what service offer based on your experiences
- ✓ By making sure that there is **feedback** for you so you know what is happening as a result of the experiences and ideas that you have shared.

WHO IS IT FOR?

- ✓ Children and young people, including children who are cared for outside of our area.
- ✓ Parents, carers, and family members.
- ✓ All organisations working with children, young people and families.

THE WAY WE WORK:

- ✓ **Children and young people are at the centre of all we do** – we value your voice and ideas
- ✓ **Understanding** – we will take time to understand each other.
- ✓ **Honesty and building trust** – being honest and communicating when we can make changes and if we can't make all ideas a reality then it's important that we explain why.
- ✓ **Good communication** – using active listening and understanding, and agreeing what can happen together.
- ✓ **Valuing people** - valuing your views, ideas and contributions.
- ✓ **Making it happen** – making sure all children and young people can get involved how they want to and when they feel ready.
- ✓ **Working together** – empowering you to express what can be improved, to be involved in making improvements and keeping you informed about what has happened as a result.

HOW WE KNOW IF IT IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE?

- ✓ We will **ask children and young people** how it feels for them when they are heard and their experiences are at the centre of decision making.
- ✓ We will **share examples** of when things change called 'you said, we did, what difference did it make'
- ✓ Young people called '**Young Inspectors**' will carry out reviews and tell the Safeguarding Children Partnership what works well and what could improve from a young person's perspective.
- ✓ The Safeguarding Children Partnership will make sure that services are making improvements based on understanding what you and other children and young people tell them.