



## Information sheet

# Involving children and young people in our work

### **Our vision**

Children in Scotland's vision is that all children in Scotland have an equal chance to flourish. We cannot achieve this without actively listening to children and young people's voices and responding to what they tell us. The participation of children and young people is at the heart of our work and shapes our core policy positions.

### **A rights-based approach**

In line with how rights are described by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, our goal is to:

- engage children and young people in meaningful, ongoing dialogue
- enable them to have fulfilling participation in all areas of our work.

To support our work, we have developed Principles and Guidelines for meaningful participation and engagement with young people.



## Specific areas of expertise

- We work with all ages of children and young people, but have a particular interest in ensuring those whose voices are seldom heard are included. This often means younger children or those with additional support needs
- We use a variety of creative participative methods with an emphasis on inclusive approaches
- We often work in partnership with others, including third sector organisations, schools, community groups and youth agencies
- We bring topic knowledge across a diverse range of policy areas including education, additional support for learning, poverty, health and wellbeing, childcare and the built environment
- We use robust, reliable research methods and analysis
- We are also experienced in evidence reviews – reviewing and reporting on existing evidence of children's views.



## Partnership projects

We work closely with partner organisations to ensure a wide range of voices are included within our work. We are currently working to support Young Ambassadors as part of the Year of Young People 2018, along with Young Scot and Scottish Youth Parliament. We previously worked closely with both organisations on the Leaders of Learning project where we explored the themes of *Emotional wellbeing and Planning our learning* within the classroom.

## **Engaging with children and young people to influence the design of services**

We have an excellent track record of engaging with children and young people, allowing their voices to shape the design and delivery of services. Recent projects include exploring the views of under-12s in relation to mental health to influence the Scottish Government's new Mental Health Strategy and work on engagement around the Education Governance Review on behalf of the Scottish Government.

## **Peer research methodology**

We supported a group of youth community peer researchers in Glasgow during the Beyond4Walls housing project, for Wheatley Housing Association, and worked with another group on Making Space 2016, an international architecture and design programme.

## **Training events and commissioned training**

Our Participation and Engagement team can offer CPD workshops and in-house training sessions for practitioners, to explore the principles and guidelines that support meaningful, inclusive participation.



### **Get in touch!**

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