

# Participation through the Pandemic

## Information Sheet



### What is the project?

Children and young people have a right to access support and to be involved in decisions that affect them. The Coronavirus lockdown has had a big impact on how they do this because people were not able to work together face to face.

The Participation through the Pandemic project will explore how coronavirus has changed the ways in which children and young people get involved in projects or access services.

On the project a group of six young people aged 14-18 years will work together to do a research project exploring how not being able to work together face to face has changed the way children and young people share their views and access clubs, projects and services.

### What will I have to do?

You will come to online sessions with other young people and with members of staff from Children in Scotland. We will talk about projects that you have been involved in before and use your experiences to design your own research project. You will decide how we do the research.

Once we have decided how we want to do the research, we will go out and speak to other young people and to adults who work with them. You will decide what sorts of activities we will do to gather information and you will then work together to explore what people tell us.

Your work will help find out what has worked well and what hasn't. This will help adults who work with children and young people to make sure they do things well in the future.

You don't need to have any experience of doing research before. We will work together to develop our skills and we will support you the whole time.

### Who else will be involved?

There will be six peer researchers working on the project. You will also work with Chris and Parisa from Children in Scotland.

Children in Scotland is a Scottish charity that works with children and young people. We think it is really important to listen to children and act on what they tell us.

### Meet the team



**Chris Ross**

**Chris says:**

I've broken my arm ten times!

**Parisa Shirazi**

**Parisa says:**

I love reading and patting dogs.





## What will I get from being involved?

You will have the chance to meet new people and learn new skills. You will also get to share your views and use your experiences to work on a research project.

Most importantly, you will have fun!!


To give you an idea, this is what young people who have been part of Children in Scotland participation projects have told us about their experience:

 “Even though Covid was going on, we still managed to highlight all these issues that are so important. We brought those issues to people’s attention – which I thought was great.”

“I really liked it because it made me forget about everything that’s going on with Covid and it was nice to have a project to focus on and just distract myself. Which I really liked, just doing that every week. That was really helpful.” 

## How to apply?

Please email [pshirazi@childreninscotland.org.uk](mailto:pshirazi@childreninscotland.org.uk) with your answers to the following questions:

-  1. Why do you want to get involved?
2. What projects have you been involved in during the pandemic? (Tell us about the organisations you worked with, who else was involved and what the project was all about).

Please feel free to answer these in a way that works for you, such as typing out your answers, filming a video or drawing a poster.

You need to send us your application by Friday 11 June.

You will also need to send us a consent form saying you are happy to take part.

## Why do you need all the information on the consent form?

We ask for your date of birth because some projects have age ranges and we don’t want to offer you opportunities that you can’t take part in. If you would prefer to just tell us the month and year of birth, that’s fine.

We ask for **2 contact details** so that we can get in touch with you quickly by phone if we need to. You can put a parent or carer’s contact details down, it doesn’t have to be yours, just whichever way is best to get in touch.

We ask for your **address** in case we need to send materials out to you. If you don’t want to give us your address, you don’t have to.

## How will what I tell Children in Scotland be used?

What you tell us will be used to develop our research project. We will then put this in a report at the end of the project. Quotes from the report might be used in other ways, like in magazine articles or on social media but it will always link back to the original report.

Sometimes, photos from projects will be used in other Children in Scotland materials, like on our website. This won’t always be linked to the piece of work that you were involved in. If you don’t want your photo to be used if it is not directly linked to the work you were doing, please let us know.

## What if I change my mind?

Every young person has the right to easily edit and delete all content they create. If you see your photo or something you said somewhere that you don't like, we will try to get it removed for you. Here's how you can get in touch:

[beheard@childreninscotland.org.uk](mailto:beheard@childreninscotland.org.uk)

## How long will Children in Scotland hold my personal information for?

Children in Scotland will keep this information for 6 months after the project has finished. We will keep your information safe and will never share it with anyone who wasn't involved in the project.

## What if I don't want Children in Scotland to hold my information anymore?

That is absolutely fine! If you change your mind at any point you can contact Chris Ross ([cross@childreninscotland.org.uk](mailto:cross@childreninscotland.org.uk)) or [dataprotection@childreninscotland.org.uk](mailto:dataprotection@childreninscotland.org.uk) and we will remove your information permanently.

You can find out more about your data protection rights and how to use these in [our privacy policy, here](#). (You might need an adult to help you read through this)

## Who can I contact if I have questions?

If you (or your parent/carer) want to know a bit more about why we need to keep this information you can contact Chris Ross ([cross@childreninscotland.org.uk](mailto:cross@childreninscotland.org.uk)).

