

Our Hearings, Our Voice



ar n-èisteachdan, ar guth
our hearings, our voice

An Independent Board for children and young people, **aged 8-18** who are committed to improving the Children's Hearings System through their experiences.



Plan for today

- Our Hearings, Our Voice- a wee bit about us
- (further) Embedding rights in the Hearings System
- Calls to Action
- Your response
- What will you do?



Our Voices



- Let's hear a short, anonymised clip from one of our ducks about a child's rights, information, decision-making and hearings
- This can be found on page 2 of our Zine [The Zine | Our Hearings, Our Voice \(ohov.co.uk\)](https://ohov.co.uk)



ar n-èisteachdan, **ar guth**
our hearings, **our voice**

Aims and Functions:

Our Hearings, Our Voice is an independent Board for children and young people in Scotland who have experience of the Children's Hearings System. The Board is for children and young people aged 8-18.

Aim: To provide children and young people with the opportunity to effect positive, meaningful change and improvement by influencing decision-makers and service providers involved in the Children's Hearings System.

Focus: To help create shared understanding and long term improvements in the Hearings System based on children and young people's experiences.

Key functions:



- To identify and recommend improvements across the system.
- To scrutinise and support the work of partners across the Children's Hearings System.
- To hold the Children's Hearings System to account.

Some of our Top Tips:



ar n-èisteachdan, **ar guth**
our hearings, **our voice**



-  Respect us
-  Get to know us & don't judge us
-  **Listen to us** and **believe** us
-  Help us understand our rights
-  **Include us in all decisions**
-  **Prepare and support us to be fully included**
-  Use language we understand
-  Have less people in Hearings (and other CP meetings)
-  Give us warm, safe and welcoming spaces with snacks
-  **Let us help improve what you do!**

YOU can use these top tips to improve the Children's Hearings System....

Power Up!



If 1 is **falling asleep** and
5 is **can't sit still**, where
are you now?

Pop a number in the
chat please 😊

OUR CALLS TO ACTION



ALL ADULTS AND HEARING CENTRES MUST BE TRAUMA INFORMED TO MAKE SURE I AM SAFE AND COMFORTABLE (ARTICLE 39)

Ask me what I need to be safe and comfortable to be able to take part in my Hearing, e.g. "If I hate lifts don't just expect me to use them!"

Make Pre-Hearing visits more available to me.

Make sure all Hearings Centres have good window and door coverings so my privacy and confidentiality is protected. (Article 16)

There should be less professionals in the room.

I should have the power to decide where everyone sits in my Hearing.

Hearings are stressful! Support me to relax by having sensory and digital things in the Waiting Rooms that will entertain and help keep me calm. (Article 31)

Hearings should be kept as short as possible.

All Hearings Rooms and Waiting Rooms need to be updated to the new designs urgently. All big tables need to go.... "they're scary!" (and children and young people have been saying this for years!)

Hearings could be more spaced out (maybe over more days) so there is time if they need to run over.

Permanency must not be held up due to shortages of staff in court.

When Panel Members make decisions (recommendations) at my Hearing, they must happen.

Make it quicker to be in permanency.

Panel Members should tell me their names and why they decided to become a Panel Member.

Get rid of chronologies...they are traumatising! Meet me and get to know me.

Social Workers must spend time with me to explain the things they write in my reports.

Make sure I am always able to spend time with my family members when I am able and allowed to do so. (Articles 8,9)

Do not judge me. Get to know me. Try to step into my shoes and understand what my life is like and what is important to me.

ALL ADULTS IN THE CHILDREN'S HEARINGS SYSTEM MUST KNOW ABOUT CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND RESPECT, PROTECT AND FULFIL THEM (ARTICLE 42)

All your communications with me (letters and legal papers) should be written in a way that gives me the facts in a way that I can understand.

When you send me letters, make sure you tell me who has a right to be at my Hearing and who has been invited.

You should get rid of the All About Me forms and instead have lots of different ways for me to tell you what is important to me.

Leaflets should be re-designed to be more engaging and interesting. These should be co-designed with Hearings experienced children and young people.

Involve us in all aspects of recruiting and training Panel Members.

Have lots of different ways for me to share my views and make sure my voice is at the centre of my Hearing.

Always ask me about my experience of my Hearing and use this feedback to make things better.

I must be supported and be able to speak freely in my Hearing.

Respect my Voice by listening, believing, valuing and including me when deciding what happens in my life.

Give me information about how to get a Children's Rights/ Advocacy Worker and/or Lawyer to support me.

Make sure I know how to claim back travel costs for attending my Hearing.

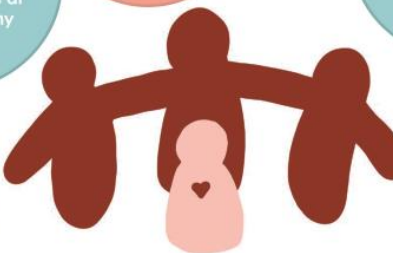
Have clear and easy to understand information about my right to ask for a review after 3 months.

There is a lot of information leaflets about Hearings. Could these be condensed into something like films?

Make sure I understand what Panel Members decisions mean for me and my family.

The Hearings and Courts should respect my views about which family members I want to spend time with.

Use my and other infants, children and young people's feedback about our experiences to sort out any local or national issues.



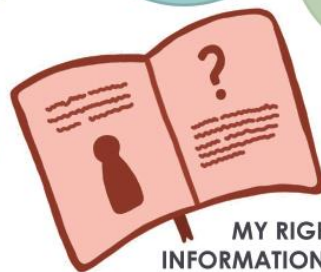
MY PARTICIPATION RIGHTS (ARTICLE 12)

There should be more care experienced Panel Members as they understand what it's like to go to Hearings and can empathise.

Speak to me using words and explain things in ways that I will understand.

The times of Hearings should be more flexible to fit around my life. I should have a choice about the date/time and location of my Hearing.

I should have the choice to have some of the same Panel Members at my Hearings who get to know me over time.



MY RIGHTS TO INFORMATION THAT I CAN UNDERSTAND (ARTICLE 13)

All your communications with me (letters and legal papers) should be written in a way that gives me the facts in a way that I can understand.

When you send me letters, make sure you tell me who has a right to be at my Hearing and who has been invited.

You should get rid of the All About Me forms and instead have lots of different ways for me to tell you what is important to me.

Leaflets should be re-designed to be more engaging and interesting. These should be co-designed with Hearings experienced children and young people.

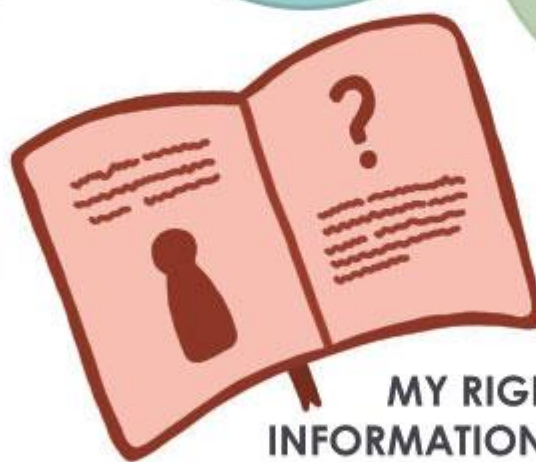
Make sure I understand what Panel Members decisions mean for me and my family.

There is a lot of information leaflets about Hearings. Could these be condensed into something like films?

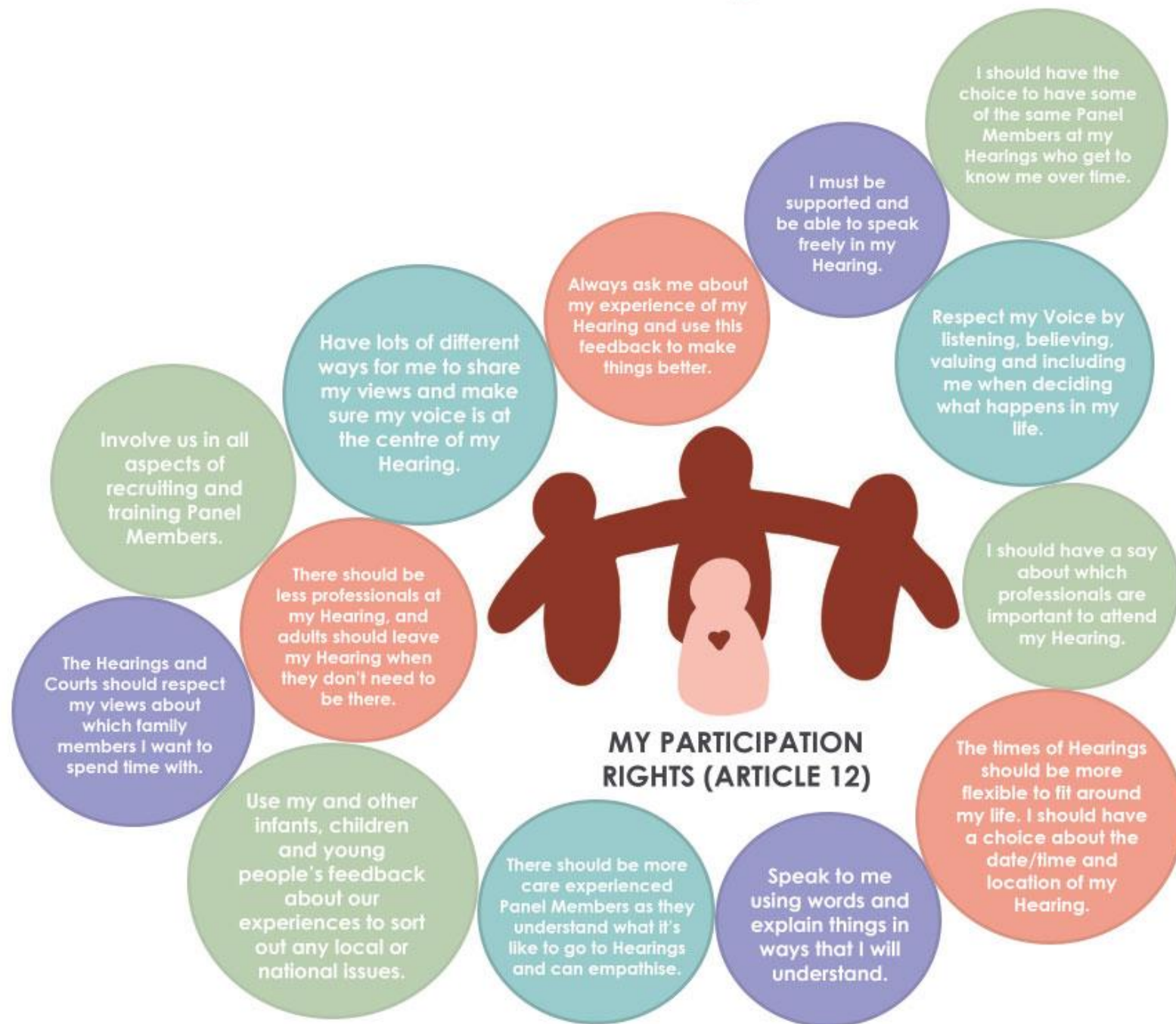
Have clear and easy to understand information about my right to ask for a review after 3 months.

Make sure I know how to claim back travel costs for attending my Hearing.

Give me information about how to get a Children's Rights/ Advocacy Worker and/or Lawyer to support me.



MY RIGHTS TO INFORMATION THAT I CAN UNDERSTAND (ARTICLE 13)



Our Voices



- Let's hear another short, anonymised clip from one of our ducks about conflicting rights, representation, safety and the experience of hearings
- This can be found on page 9 of our Zine [The Zine | Our Hearings, Our Voice \(ohov.co.uk\)](https://ohov.co.uk)

Let's talk...

- How do these Calls to Action fit with your own experience of adult decision making for children?
- What are the consequences of not doing what is asked?



Moving forward →



- What can you do to ensure these Calls to Action are fulfilled?
- What help do you need?

The last word (almost)

- ***“I hope that children and young people can start to have more positive experiences when attending their Hearings. Even the thought of them, so they can see them more positively and actually find them useful and want to go.” Sharpay***



The last word (for defo)



“I think using our own experiences can help us influence adults and will help us achieve our Calls to Action for change within the Children’s Hearings System. I want to see the adults putting what we are saying in our Zine into actions. This is not just about saying oh that’s great, well done, we want to see action.” Bennie



ar n-èisteachdan, **ar guth**
our hearings, **our voice**

Find out more at...
www.ohov.co.uk

 @OHOV_Scotland

Gordon.Main@scra.gov.uk

