

## Vision

West Berkshire Children & Young People's Trust aims to ensure that all children & young people are given the opportunity, skills and support needed to actively participate in the design, delivery and evaluation of the services that they receive,



*Children & young people are citizens living in the same areas, using the same services, with similar rights & responsibilities as other people. They have the right to be heard and involved in shaping and evaluating services that affect them.*

If you would like a copy of West Berkshire's Participation Toolkit or would like further information please contact:

**Tanya Honor**  
Participation Worker at BACYP  
working on behalf of the Children and Young People's Trust

Tanya.honor@bacyp.co.uk  
01635 500858 /  
07787419196



West Berkshire Children  
& Young People's Trust

# Children & Young People's Participation



## Are you getting it right?

## What is Participation?

Participation is actively and effectively involving Children and young people in the decision making process. Children & young people are asked what works, what doesn't and what could work better in the design delivery and evaluation of the services that they receive.

Children & young people have the right to be involved in decisions that affect their lives. This is promoted in legislation, policy and guidance documents.

## Why should we involve children & young people in participation?

- UNCR Article 12
- Every Child Matters
- Children's Act 2004
- Aiming High - Youth matters
- West Berkshire Children & Young People's Plan 2009-2011

Legislation, policy and guidance documents require organisations to actively involve children & young people in the services that they provide. Actively involving children & young people enables them to make positive contributions to their communities and ensures that policies and services are designed around their needs.

## Positive Benefits

### Children & Young People

- Develop new skills
- Increase confidence & self esteem
- Better services
- Empowerment

### Organisations/ services

- Services are better targeted
- Save money
- Fulfil legal responsibilities
- Happy customers

### Communities

- Can reduce anti-social behaviour & crime
- Build stronger, cohesive communities
- Enhance democratic processes
- Break down barriers



## How do I involve children & young people?

There are many ways to involve children & young people in different types of decisions. The appropriate activities and level of participation are dependent on a number of factors. A Participation Toolkit for West Berkshire has been designed to help provide information, guidance and examples for professionals and organisations to develop their knowledge and understanding. The toolkit supports organisations to progress through the participation standards framework **Hear by Right**.

## Who should be involving children & young people?

Any organisation who works directly or indirectly with children & young people in West Berkshire could be playing an active role to integrate participation into daily practice, for example:

**Education**  
**Health**  
**Local Authorities**  
**Youth Work**  
**Play services**  
**Social care**