



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

## **Report to Minority Communities Diversity Forum 27 March 2008**

### **Report on the Engagement of Children & Young People**

#### **Recommendations**

1. To note the contents of the report which describes a range of opportunities and access points for the engagement of children and young people from Minority Communities in Derby. These access points are at a strategic and neighbourhood level and from specific groups.

#### **Reason for Recommendations**

2. The report and supporting presentation at the forum meeting in March details aspects of the work undertaken by the Council and City for Children & Young People. The 'City' represents our Partnerships and Children's Trust Arrangements in Derby.

#### **Supporting Information**

3. There is a clear strategic framework of engagement of Children and Young People within the Partnership that supports our commissioning and governance arrangements at all levels.

3.1. Voices in Action, our Youth Shadow Board, are a representative group of young people aged 11 – 19 from across Derby. It is made up of young people from different schools, youth groups, specialist support groups, community groups and individuals who have an interest in issues and opportunities affecting young people. This is representative of minority communities from across Derby, although an identified gap would be representation from emergent communities of Eastern Europe.

3.2. Voices in Action shadows and are active members of the 'City for Children and Young Peoples' Executive Board and two different young people attend these meetings.

3.3. Voices in Action meet six weekly and this is one opportunity for young people to influence strategic decision makers in order to make positive changes for young people.

3.4. Young People set their own agenda and the City for Children and Young People's Executive Board also have an agenda item. During 2007-2008 young people's priorities were:-

- Activities
- Discrimination

- Teenage Pressures

An open event was held for decision makers to make a pledge of what they would do as a result of what they had heard from young people. This event also included three DVD's supporting the priorities of young people. Young People also requested a Children and Young Peoples Celebration Event and stated where, when and how it should look and feel. This event will take place on the 5 July 2008, 12pm – 7pm in the Market Place, Derby.

3.5 The City for Children and Young People's Executive priority was:- to create a positive image of young people in Derby. Young People have produced anti-stereotyping images and slogans which have been turned into seven posters that will go around the city on buses, highway boards and hoardings. These will be made available at the forum meeting for members to consider.

3.6 Voices in Action three key priorities for 2008 to 2009 are:

- Activities
- Public Transport
- Street Crime

3.7 A Participation Commissioning group sits below the City for Children and Young People and is responsible for the strategic co-ordination of participation across the Partnership. This is supported by a Partnership Network of practitioners that shares developments and information. These two groups in consultation with children and young people and parents/carers produced the Partnership Participation Strategy. This will be available for forum members to consider at the meeting and is included as appendices.

3.8 Sitting within Derby's Neighbourhoods are Youth Forums that feed into neighbourhood Boards. The Youth Service is currently responsible for developing the Arboretum Youth Forum. There are also school forums operating in the City that directly influence decision making within Derby's schools.

3.9 There are a range of other access points for the engagement of children and young people across the Partnership that reflects more specialist groups. These include the young persons steering group at the SPACE advice and information centre, youth service activities, KICK group for children in care and Derby Kidz talk web based resource, where children and young people can individually engage with others.

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Background paper: None

List of appendices: Participation Strategy

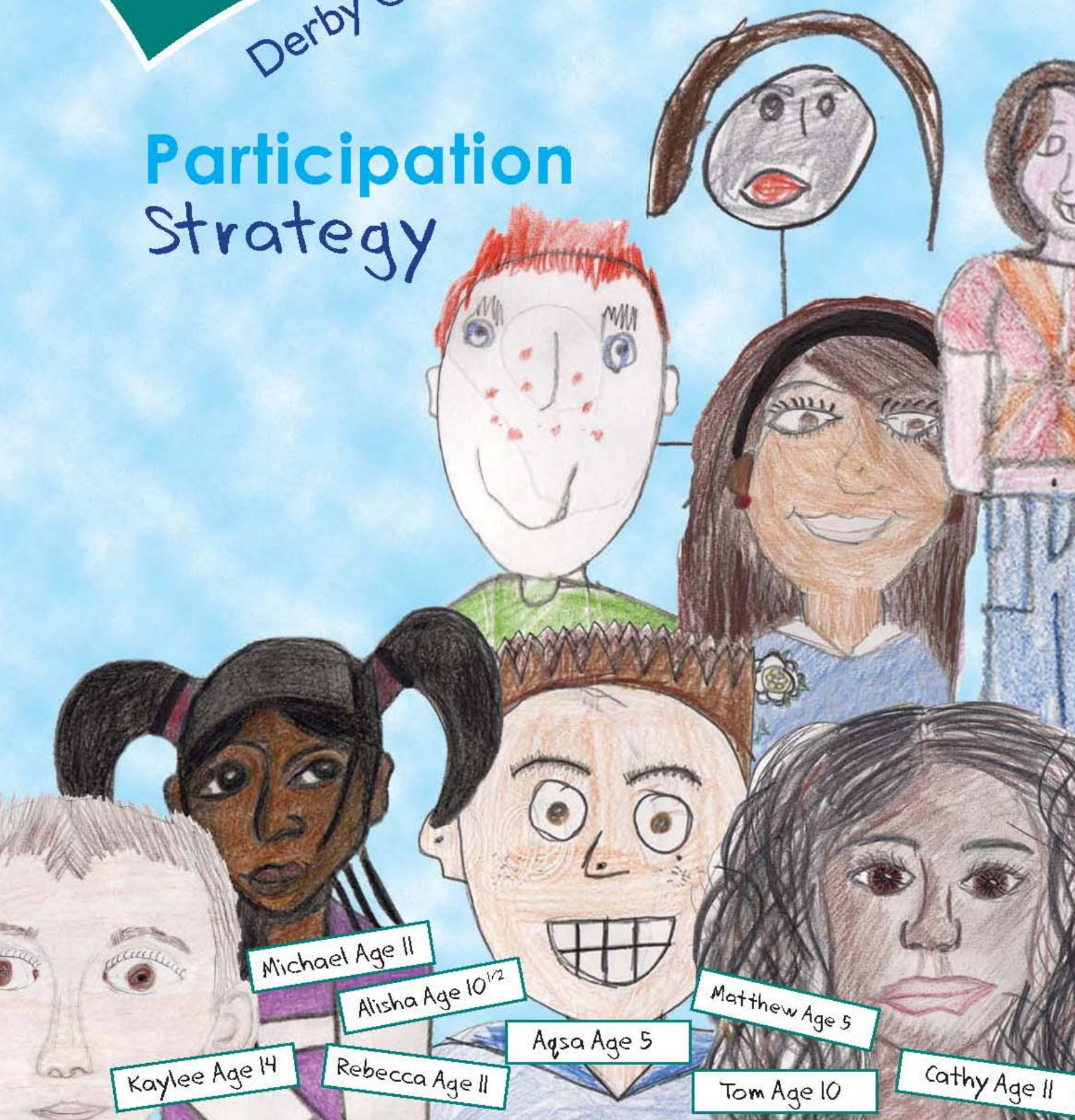




DERBY CITY COUNCIL

Derby Children's and Young People's...

# Participation Strategy



Michael Age 11

Alisha Age 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>

Matthew Age 5

Aqsa Age 5

Kaylee Age 14

Rebecca Age 11

Tom Age 10

Cathy Age 11



Integrating Children and  
Young People's Services  
Building for a brighter future





## Derby Children and Young People's Participation Strategy

**Vision:** All children and young people in Derby know how to be involved in the decisions that affect their lives and are given the opportunity to do so

### Aims and Objectives

This is the strategy produced by the Children's Participation Network after consultation with children, young people and staff in Derby. The aims of the strategy are:

- To establish a vision for participation for children and young people in Derby
- To encourage the involvement of children and young people in the decision making processes that effect their lives or the lives of other young people
- To clarify the legal expectations for participation
- To define participation and consultation
- To set out some principles when working with children and young people
- To set out an action plan for the development of participation across the Derby

### Definitions

**Participation:** happens when people are given enough time, information and support to be fully involved in a decision-making process. There is a clear explanation about the purpose of the involvement and an opportunity for all parties to influence the process. A child who is capable of forming his or her opinions should have the right to express their views in all matters that affect them (Ref. 1)

**Consultation:** The term consultation has been defined as "a process of dialogue that leads to a decision"(Ref 2). The public may be asked for feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions. Consultation may be a one-off activity or an on-going process by a committed individual or group.

### Models of Participation

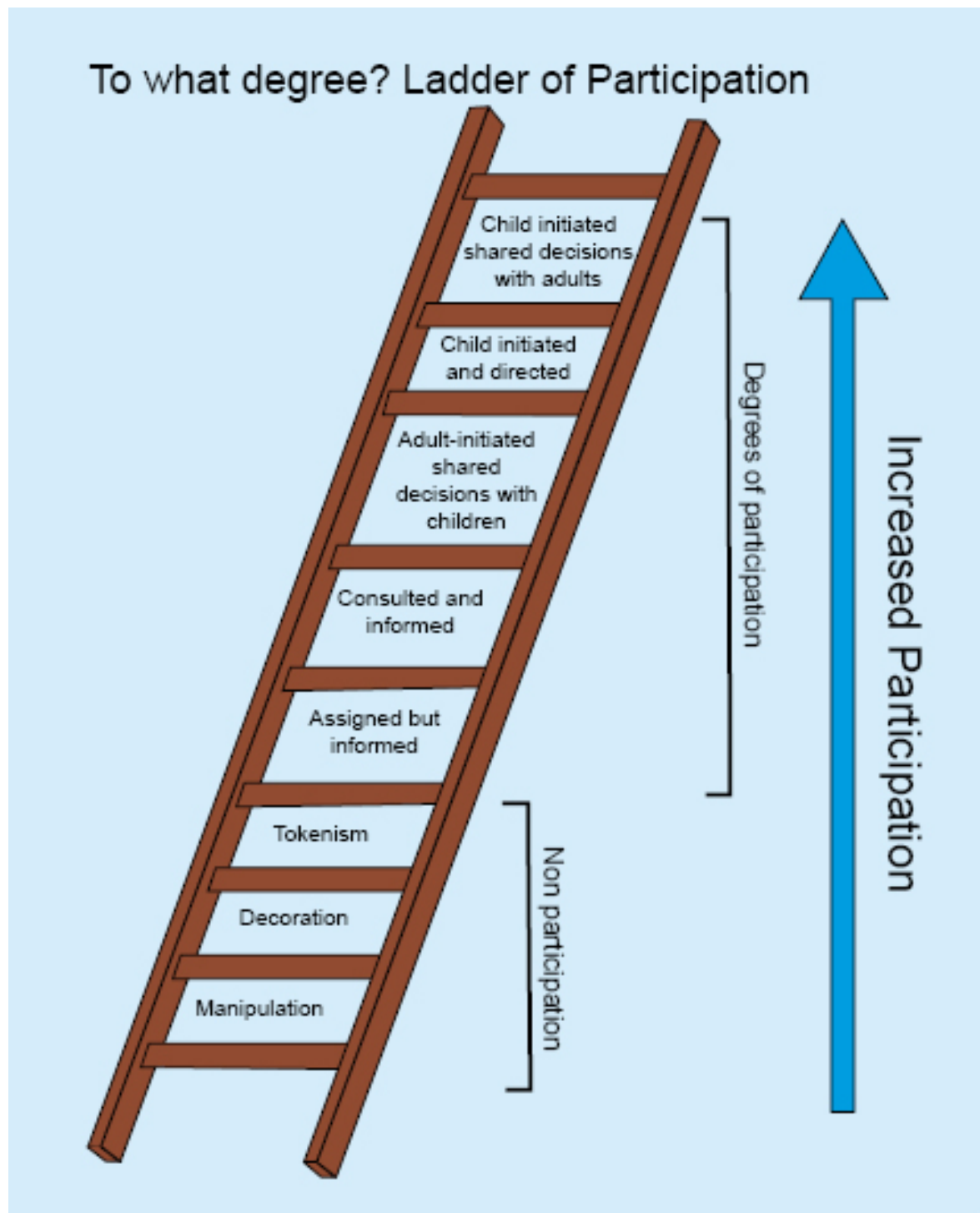
There are a number of different models of participation, some models take a hierarchal view of an ideal level of participation whilst others see participation as a process that offers a choice from a range of involvement. All models need to

recognise the importance of reaching a constructive and safe balance between the principle of listening to a child's wishes and feelings alongside the principle of promoting the best interests of the child. Children and young people have a right to be listened to, responded to, take risks and be safe.

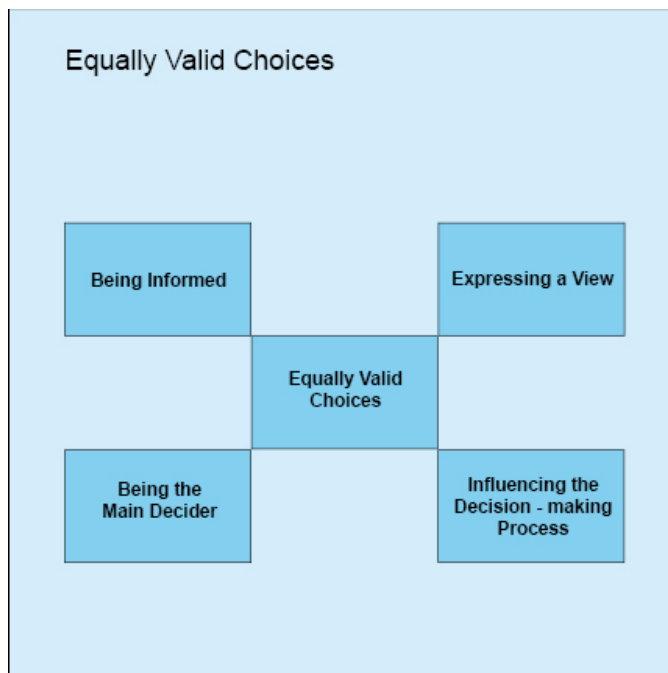
Ref. 1 Article 12 of the U.N Convention of the Rights of the Child 1989

Ref. 2 Listen Up – Effective Community Consultation 1999.

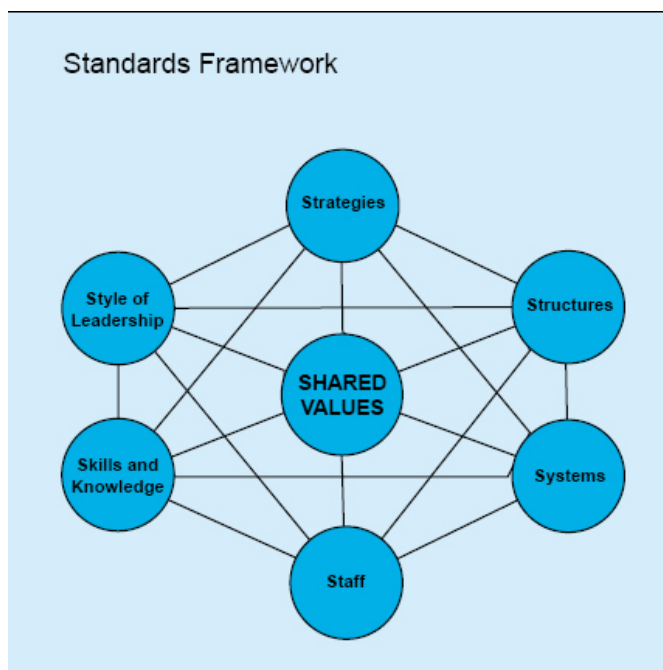
- **Model 1: A Ladder of Participation** (Ref. 1)



- **Model 2: Participation as a range of equally valid choices: being informed, expressing a view, influencing the decision-making process and being the main decider.** (Ref 2)



- **Model 3: Participation as a Framework** (Ref 3)



Ref 1. Sherry Arnstein 1969, developed by Roger Hart for UNICEF in 1992

Ref 2. Alderson and Montgomery 1996

Ref. 3 Harry Wade and Bill Badham, NYA

# Structure for Participation

## Structure

### Everyone's Job

Customer care and quality assurance is an integral element to the work for all staff working with children, young people and families. For this reason participation is part of all employees role at work. All agencies will have a different history of involving children and young people. For some staff participation and quality assurance may be a more explicit part of their remit. Working towards a co-ordinated consultation plan saves time, money and nurtures good will amongst current and potential service users. Staff should take every opportunity to work directly with service users to keep in touch with the issues important for children, young people and their families

### Dedicated Posts

Across Derby there are employees for whom participation work is the sole purpose or a significant part of their employment. This covers a wide range of agencies including Sure Start, Children's Fund, the Children and Young Peoples Department, Corporate Services and Quad. The Children and Young Peoples Participation Network serves to encourage a co-ordinated approach to disseminating information and good practice. To provide a structure for the implementation of this strategy it is suggested that the network:

- Meets on a monthly basis
- Maintains an open membership and agenda
- Is chaired by the Participation Lead employed by the Children and Young Peoples Department
- Publicises conferences, activities and tools that promote participation with children and young people
- Co-ordinates a time-table of consultation and participation events
- Disseminates consultation findings via the DerbyKidzTalk website and Your City Your Say

### Children and Young People's Involvement

To be inclusive this strategy defines children and young people as being from birth to twenty-five years.

Children and young people can become involved in decision making through specialist groups, locality groups, the Shadow Board or by logging onto or contributing to the young people's website [www.derbykidztalk.co.uk](http://www.derbykidztalk.co.uk) and young people should be the main contributors at their meetings, setting the agenda and having the bulk of the discussion time. The number of adults at these events should be kept to the minimum necessary to ensure support and safety for the meeting. It is essential that young people receive summaries of their work and feedback about what impact their involvement has had. Feedback may be via reports, verbal feedback, meetings, celebratory events or by young people being given copies of materials produced.

**Vision:** All children and young people in Derby know how to be involved in the decisions that affect their lives and are given the opportunity to do so

**Derby Children and young people are citizens now, not citizens in waiting**

**Principles of Participation for all those who work with children and Young people**

### **10 Rules of Participation**

- 1) Create a way so that children, young people and families can feel comfortable to say what they want
- 2) Everyone will be valued equally and not excluded because of their appearance, race, religion, culture, sexuality, gender, background, disability or because they have a quieter voice
- 3) Recognise that sometimes children, young people and families need help to be heard, participation takes time
- 4) Check children, young people and families understand the information and what happens to the information
- 5) Be honest and clear about what can and can't be done
- 6) Be prepared to involve children, young people and families at all stages
- 7) Choose activities that are flexible, fun and creative and young people friendly
- 8) Ask children, young people and families what is important to them and what they want to do
- 9) Listen and respond to views and opinions whether positive or negative and feedback the results
- 10) Thank children, young people and families for their time, knowledge, skills and feelings and reward them in some way.





# LISTEN

Let children and young people set the agenda

Include all children and young people

Show that you're listening-give feedback

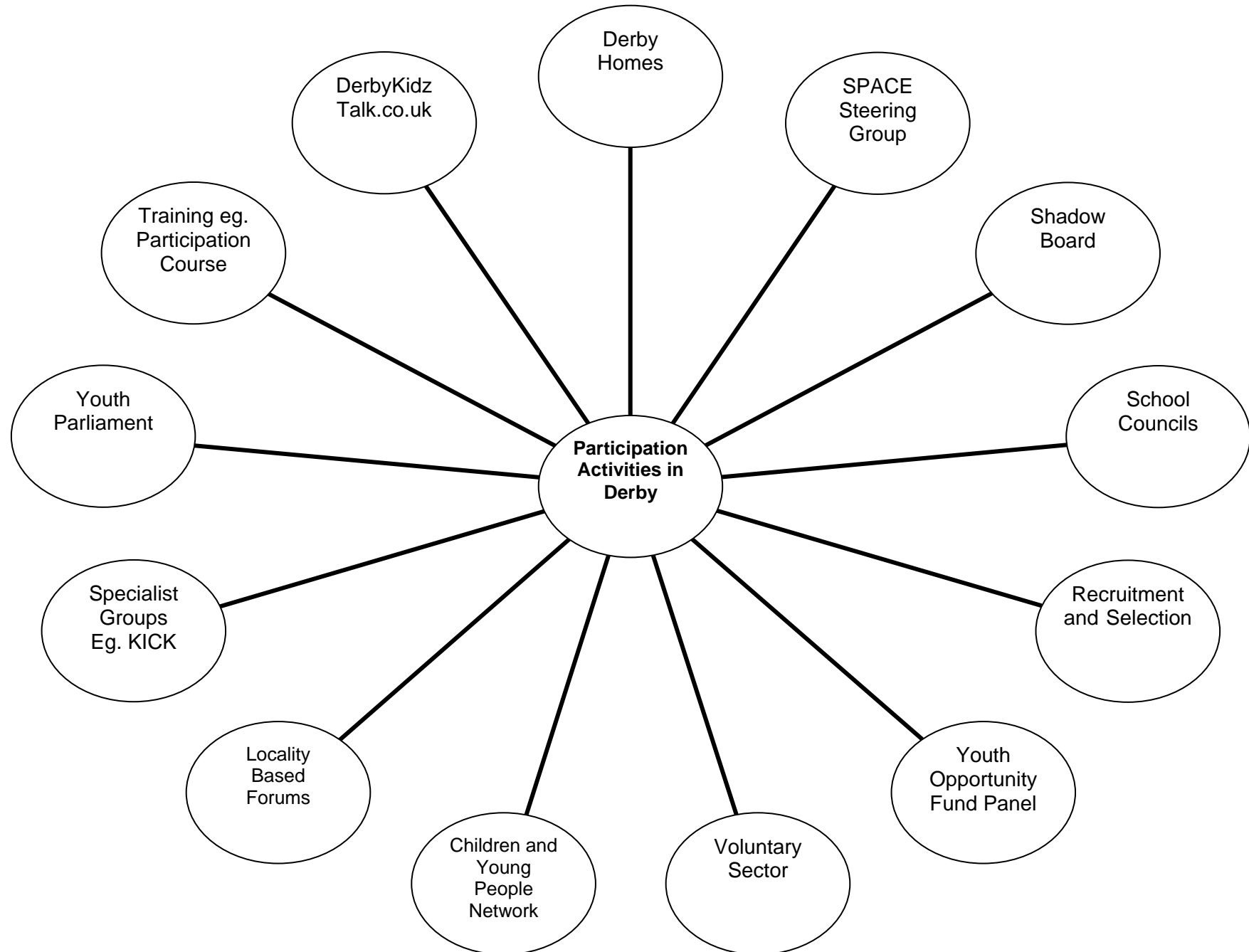
Take the time to listen to children and young people

Encourage views, ideas and feelings

Note suggestions, complaints and compliments



# What's happening in Derby?



### Practice Issues

#### Consent/Data Protection

- All information sharing/referrals for children should have the consent of the parents except in the case of referrals about significant harm where it is judged that discussions with parents will increase the risk to the child
- Disclosure of confidential information can be justified if: the person to who the duty is owed (the child) has given permission, or there is an overwhelming public interest in disclosure, or disclosure is required by a court order or other legal obligation What do you do if you think your child is being abused 2003
- Some children will be able to give clear consent for any consultation they participate in. For some children staff may need to rely on observation of the child's demeanour and behaviour for example a child who approaches someone carrying out a questionnaire or a child who wants to show some work they have produced.
- Before children or young people are photographed or involved in making a video written consent needs to be obtained from the adult with parental responsibility for the child. The consent form needs to specify where the images may be used and when the images will be destroyed. Be mindful of web-based images that are not in the control of the agency or the young person once they have been posted on the net.
- A young person under the age of 18 is able to give independent consent so long as they are able to understand what they are consenting to. Gillick vs Gillick 1980, Fraser Guidelines
- Wherever possible use a member of staff (with a CRB check) to photograph or video a child or young person because the agency then owns the images.

#### Rewards for children and young people

When children or young people give their time, ideas or feedback their generosity should be acknowledged. Consideration needs to be given to the demands and frequency of the task as well as the budget available. Appreciation may take the form of a verbal thank you, a letter or thank you card, a certificate, public acknowledgement, vouchers, re-imbursement of expenses reference, a gift, an award, use of a cheque requisition form.

Care must be taken to:

- Show equal or equivalent reward to all participants
- Be mindful about any income tax or welfare benefit implication of the gift
- Consider any risk to the young person from bullying, access to harmful substances as a result of the gift
- Respect the wishes and the privacy of the individual child or young person
- Give choice wherever possible for example where vouchers are from

## Participation Action Plan

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Resources</b>
Developing a culture of participation	Disseminate participation strategy  Produce a participation poster to be display by all C & YP service providers	July 2007	All members of the commissioning group and all participation network members	Production and printing costs
Multi-agency training in participation	Develop training materials  Run a training the trainer course for young people and staff  Provide a series of one day participation courses	April 2007  May 2007  July 2007 - ongoing	Naomi Feldman Liz Morris David Hunter Adele Styles Young People	Venue Administrative support Young trainers Rewards for young trainers
Young people involved in recruitment and selection of staff	Liaise with Personnel Section  Train young people as panel members  Facilitate organisations involving young people as panel members	September 2007  October 2007  November 2007 onwards	All partners, young people	Training materials Venue Administrative support Database of young people Rewards for young panel members



<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Resources</b>
To identify all consultation and participation activities with C & YP in Derby	Publicise need for the information  Identify and share good practice	February 2007 and ongoing	All partners	Information
Develop a consistent rewards practice for recognising C & YP's contributions	Write and agree a rewards strategy	July 07	Naomi Feldman with consultation	Information Budget for payments/rewards
Adopt the 'Hear by Right' standards	Disseminate standards and ask for agencies sign up	September 2007 ongoing	Commissioning Group	'Hear by Right' materials ( <a href="http://www.nya.org.uk">www.nya.org.uk</a> ) Information
Develop quality assurance standards for C & YP's services	Define minimum standards for services Train young people to assess standards  Develop a practice of 'mystery shoppers'	January 2008	Participation network members, young people	Information Time Training materials Budget for rewards
Implementation and evaluation of strategy and action plan	Develop performance management framework	July 2007	Commissioning Group	



- The record of the young people's views must be written down in a language that the child or young person understands.
- Human Rights Act 1988 requires all public bodies to respect the rights in the European Convention on Human Rights including the right to a fair trial, the right to privacy and the right to practice your own religion and beliefs (so long as you respect Others). If children and young people think their rights are not being upheld they can get help from a solicitor to bring a human rights case'
- Local Government Act 1999/2000 says that councils must make a special effort to involve children and young people in Local Strategic Partnerships to find out what can be done to improve local areas
- The UK Youth Parliament 1999 was not set up by law but there are over 400 MYP's across the UK between the age of 11-17 working to get children's and young people's voices heard locally and nationally
- Children Act 1989/2004 states that social workers must always consult a child or young person who is in care or might come into care before making any decision about them. This includes all assessments regarding child protection and children in need
- Children Act 2004 – Children's services authorities are required by law to prepare Children and Young People's Plans setting out how they will improve their lives in the area. Children and young people must be consulted about the plan and have a right to a copy.
- The Disability Equality Duty is part of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 and requires all public authorities to encourage participation by disabled people (including disabled children and young people) in public life.



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style or language that will help you access it.

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#### Hindi

हम आपको यह जानकारी किसी दूसरे तरह और ढंग से या दूसरी भाषा में भी दे सकते हैं जिससे आपको इसे प्राप्त करने में मदद मिल सकेगी. कृपया हमसे इन नंबरों द्वारा संपर्क कीजिए 01332 572412

मिनीकॉम 01332 716709

#### Punjabi

ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਅਸੀਂ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਹੋਰ ਤਰੀਕੇ ਨਾਲ, ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਬੋਲੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਦੇ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਾਂ, ਜਿਹੜੀ ਇਸ ਤੱਕ ਪਹੁੰਚ ਕਰਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੋਵੇ। ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ 01332 572412 ਮਿਨੀਕਾਮ 01332 716709 ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

#### Urdu

یہ معلومات ہم آپ کو کسی دیگر ایسے طریقے، انداز اور زبان میں مہیا کر سکتے ہیں جو اس تک رسائی میں آپ کی مدد کرے۔ براہ کرم 01332 572412 منی کام 01332 716709 پر ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔

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