

Engaging with children and young people with care experience
Respected, included and valued.



All children and young people have a right to be involved and listened to!

Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child



In 2023 the Government of Jersey launched the **Participation Standards** to make sure children and young people can get involved and have a say in decision making and have their views respected.



It's important that children and young people in care and care leavers are included, listened to and respected.



So, Children's Social Care Services developed this Strategy with the help of:

- care experienced children and young people
- foster carers and parents
- staff from Children's Social care services
- organisations and other partners.

We also have a **Participation Standards Toolkit**.



Both are available from:
gov.je/Caring/ChildrensRights/Pages/ParticipationStandardsChildrenYoungPeople.aspx



About this Strategy: How to engage with children and young people in care and care leavers

Everyone should use the Lundy Model and Jersey's Participation Standards.

Space

Children must be given safe and inclusive opportunities to express their views.

We will:

- create opportunities for children and young people to give their views
- set up a Children in Care Council that can meet with senior leaders and be part of projects, activities, events and more
- hold an annual participation week
- make sure children and young people who need additional support can take part and have everything they need to feel welcome, valued, included and safe
- make sure staff and teams have everything they need to involve and work "with" children and young people in a meaningful way.

Voice

Children must be facilitated to express their view.

We will:

- reach out to children and young people, including those who don't often get involved, so everyone has opportunities to be heard
- support and guide people through each step of the process in ways that meet their needs.

Article 12

The right to have views given due weight.

Influence

Children's views must be acted upon, in the right way.

We will:

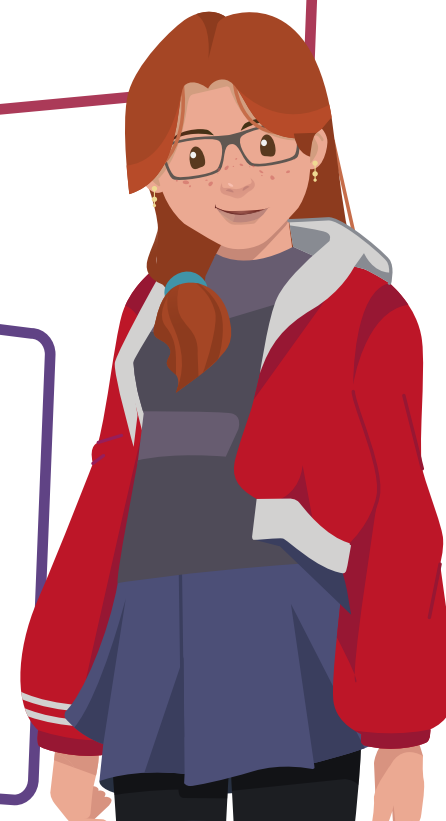
- make sure the views of children and young people are heard and respected when decisions are being made about laws, policies and how services are delivered
- use our connections to make sure this happens across all areas of Government.

Audience

Children's views must be listened to.

We will:

- make sure children and young people have opportunities to be heard by leaders, managers and other government departments, and that their views are respected and listened to.



Other things to focus on

Being aware of trauma

Trauma is any experience that causes someone harm, distress and anxiety. Everyone must be aware of the impacts of trauma, how it can affect behaviour and not cause children and young people any further harm.

We will:

- consider the challenges that children and young people have experienced
- make sure we're working to build trust and support
- make sure everyone taking part feels safe, valued and respected
- be clear about how information is being used
- make sure any information shared about personal experiences is kept confidential, unless we get consent or believe someone is at risk
- make sure everyone has the right support before, during and after the activity
- make sure children and young people have opportunities to get involved even if they've not been interested or taken part before.

Removing barriers to accessibility

We will:

- make sure everyone has opportunities to take part
- look at ways to use social media and online spaces to engage
- make sure reports and guides are available in youth friendly versions
- reach out to children and young people who don't often get involved so they have opportunities to be heard
- work with advocacy services like Jersey Cares and Barnados
- reduce any barriers that children face because of disability, ethnicity, sexuality, communication impairments, mental health problems, homelessness or other issues.

Making sure everyone can get involved

We will proactively look at ways to include the views of all children and young people.

Valuing people

We will make sure everyone feels valued for their time and effort.

Being honest, open and clear

We will:

- be open and honest
- be clear about what can or can't be done from the start
- give feedback on the impact children and young people's views have had.

Thanks for reading this

You can find out more contact:

[gov.je/Caring/Children/
SocialCareService/pages/index.aspx](https://gov.je/Caring/Children/SocialCareService/pages/index.aspx)

