

Children and Young People at the Heart:

Our participation strategy

2023 – 26

NSPCC

Participation team



“If you don’t actually listen to us, how do you know you’re getting it right?”

Young People's Board for Change Member



What is participation?

Participation means **'taking part'** At the NSPCC, this means we will listen to and work with children and young people, so they are involved in the decisions that affect them.

Why is it important for young people?

- To share what they think about the things that matter to them.
- To be more in control of the decisions that affect their lives.
- To develop skills like decision-making, influencing and communication.
- To build confidence.
- To gain a better understanding of their own and other people's needs and rights.
- To meet new people, make new friends and experience new things.

Why is it important for us?

- Young people's thoughts and experiences help us to make better decisions and spend the money we have in better ways.
- Working with young people gives us a better understanding of what they want and need, rather than what we think is important to them.
- To make sure that all children and young people can use our services.

Children and young people have a right to participate in decisions that affect their lives.



What is a strategy?

A strategy is a plan which explains how we will achieve our goals.

The aim of our strategy

- This Participation Strategy will last for 3 years. It explains how and why we need to improve the way we work with children and young people.
- We want to make sure that children and young people shape and influence everything that we do, and we will make sure this happens by including their thoughts and opinions when we make decisions.
- When young people work with the NSPCC it is important that they feel safe and that they are making a difference.

Goals

1

Make sure that all staff and volunteers in the NSPCC know what participation is and why it is important.

2

Give different ways for children and young people to get involved that are interesting and important to them.

3

Give different ways for children and young people to get involved that are interesting and important to them.

4

Give us a way to show children and young people how they make a difference.

Who will be involved?

The NSPCC Participation Team will work with:

- Young People's Board for Change
- Other groups of children and young people
- Participation Forum (a group of NSPCC Staff).



We will help other teams with

- Training
- Ways of working with children and young people that are safe and interesting
- Giving advice and support
- Sharing what works well.



Our priorities

All children and young people can get involved in our work.

We will make sure staff and volunteers have the right training they need to support children and young people.

All children and young people feel safe when working with us.

We will create a space where staff and young people can celebrate their differences and be their true, authentic selves.

There are different ways for children and young people to get involved.

We will create new opportunities to work with and listen to children and young people that we don't already work with.

We can show how we make a difference.

We will ask young people if they felt listened to and share what works and what could be better.

Children and young people are treated like volunteers.

We will find new ways to celebrate and reward our young volunteers for the time they offer to us.

