

# CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING JOINT DELIVERY BOARD



Scottish Government  
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## Principles for Participation & Engagement

The voices and experiences of children, young people and their families are key to the development of all aspects of work relating to the Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Joint Delivery Board. This includes decision making, service design, delivery and evaluation.

**WHAT DOES THIS MEAN & WHY?**  
We want to hear from YOU as children and young people to help work with US - to make sure we are doing the right thing for this and future generations to come.



**WHY HAVE WE DONE THIS?**  
We have developed principles as a commitment to children and young people, so that our engagement will be supportive and meaningful, at the right times, places and spaces for you.

## : Principles :

### 1 CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN OUR WORK

**THIS MEANS?** The Joint Delivery Board needs children and young people's help! Effective participation can take the form of surveys, research consultations, listening and engagement sessions, representation on groups and decision making. However, the most important thing is that we make sure engagement for children and young people is not tokenistic so that YOU feel valued and heard.



### 2 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ARE SAFE & SUPPORTED

**THIS MEANS?** Children and young people's wellbeing is very important. The Board will make sure all engagement is supported, so children and young people feel able to engage and have ways to raise any concerns or improvements that may be needed in a sensitive and confidential way. This can include being supported or represented by an external organisation, being supported by the Board's Youth Engagement Officer and having regular check-ins to ensure YOU don't feel overwhelmed, undertsnad what is being discussed and feel confident in contributing.



### 3 ENGAGEMENT IS STRUCTURED TO BEST MEET THE NEEDS OF ALL INVOLVED

**THIS MEANS?** Children and young people might be asked to join a variety of meeting types. The Board will work to provide the best environment possible for them to participate and ensure that engagement is designed to meet their needs. This means providing youth-friendly documents, using plain English, providing alternative methods for engagement, and where possible ensuring the timing of the meeting is suitable for YOU.



### 4 TIME COMMITMENT IS CLEAR & RIGHT FOR THOSE TAKING PART

**THIS MEANS?** The work of the Board will be completed by December 2022. We recognise that in some areas of our work, long-term youth engagement will be beneficial for the Board's work and for the child/young person. We also recognise that meaningful one off or short-term engagement sessions with groups of young people may be equally as valuable, and are committed to make opportunities possible that can best suit YOUR needs.



### 5 ENGAGEMENT IS MEANINGFUL & A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE

**THIS MEANS?** The Board places a high value on the voices of children and young people and following engagement, they will be kept up to date on the progress of the Board's work. We will let YOU know what work YOU are helping us with, how your input and experiences are being used and the positive difference you have made.



### 6 WE WILL INVOLVE A DIVERSE GROUP OF CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

**THIS MEANS?** We know all youth experiences are different and the Board is committed to ensure engagement is representative of the diverse population of Scotland's children and young people. We will work to ensure we have representation across geographical regions, age, gender, sexuality, disability groups, ethnicity, religion, those with lived mental health experience and seldom heard groups.



### 7 WE ARE OPEN & COMMUNICATE OUR PROCESSES & DECISION MAKING

**THIS MEANS?** Children and young people who have directly engaged with the Board will be kept up to date on its progress and their impact upon our work. Any children or young person interested, can access information on the Board's work, with youth friendly updates. The involvement and valued contributions of the children and young people are recognised and celebrated with YOU.



"There is immense power when a group of people with similar interests gets together to work towards the same goals" - Idowu Koyenikan.