

Public Document Pack

People Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 6th December, 2021
6.00 pm

Blackburn Library

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Apologies

To welcome those present to the meeting and to receive any apologies for absence.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 6th October 2021.

To approve as a correct record and to sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 6th October 2021.

6th October 2021

3 - 6

3. Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FORM

7

4. Youth Forum Update

To receive an update on the work of the Youth Forum

5. Young People Participation Strategy

To receive the Young People Strategy and a presentation from representatives of the Youth Forum.

Item 5 - 1 - Participation_Executive Summary - Participation Strategy 2021-2024

8 - 37

Item 5 - 2 - Participation CYP_Participation Strategy 2021-2024

Item 5 - 3 - Participation_CYP Voice Impact Tool - Completion Guidance V3 011021

6. Update on Public Health in Blackburn and Adult Social Care

To receive an update from the Director of Public Health on

the work in the Borough.

7. Reconfiguration of Health Services in the Region.

To receive an update on the reconfiguration of the delivery of services in the region and how these will deliver positive outcomes for residents of the Borough.

Date Published: 26th November 2021
Denise Park, Chief Executive

People Overview and Scrutiny

6th October 2021.

Present: Councillor Liddle, in the Chair, Akhtar, Humphrys, Kahn, Z. Smith, Irfan, Hussain, M., and Whittle.

Also Present: Joanne Siddle, Deputy Director, Education

Alison Ashworth-Taylor.

Paul Conlon, Democratic Services

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th September 2021.

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th September 2021 were submitted.

RESOLVED- that the minutes of the meeting held on 6th September 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

3. Declarations of interest.

There were no declarations made at the meeting.

4. SACRE

The Committee looked at the work of SACRE and its annual report. SACRE is the Standing advisory Committee on Religious Education and it is a statutory body which looks at-

- **Curriculum Design and Development-** Requiring the review of an agreed syllabus for religious education adopted by the Local Authority
- **Supporting Schools-** Providing advice on methods of teaching, choice of materials and provision of teacher training
- **Making Determinations-**Receiving and responding to requests for determinations on Collective Worship
- **Problem Solving-**Considering complaints about the provision and delivery of Religious Education and Collective Worship referred by the Local Authority
- **Monitoring-** Monitoring standards of Religious Education and Collective Worship

- **Advice-** Advising the Local Authority on matters connected with Religious Education and Collective Worship

SACRE had gone through a period of significant change in terms of leadership and membership over the last academic year. A firm commitment had been made by leadership within the education department to re-establish and invigorate a high quality SACRE, to ensure that the Local Authority was able to meet its statutory duties. This commitment was borne out of the desire to provide high quality support advice and guidance for RE and collective worship and to breathe new life into the curriculum for our young people. Ultimately the aim was to ensure that the learning offer from Blackburn with Darwen was vibrant, relevant, and inspiring for the young people.

The Blackburn with Darwen agreed syllabus for religious education 2017-2022 was adopted from RE Today. It is the syllabus to be used by all community schools and has been adopted by all non-faith based academies and free schools. SACRE had begun the review cycle and will set a full review timetable in its September meeting, 2021.

Questionnaires have been distributed to school and responses collated. The response rate was 98% from schools and there was a clear mandate for change. It was SACRE's intention in 2021-2022 to:

- Promote the achievement of the RE quality mark in our schools.
- Audit our school websites and share good practice regarding RE in schools.
- Commit to invite ITT representation to SACRE to engage in both partnership and dialogue. This will be pertinent as the agreed syllabus is redesigned and launched and will be a vehicle for delivery. Engagement will be with Teaching School Hubs, TEAMS School Direct and STAR RE PGCE together with our Universities, Edge Hill, and Cumbria.

The Committee were informed that the current collective worship policy and materials had been launched 2009 and it was intend to update the secondary collective worship guidance in 2021 and the primary in 2022.

The Committee looked at the positive changes that had been delivered in the recent years and the work that had been undertaken by the council and partners. The Committee asked about the provision for atheists and were informed of the way that these beliefs were accommodated in schools.

RESOLVED- The Committee noted the annual report and welcomed the progress of SACRE and hard work that had been undertaken.

5. Safeguarding Review

The Committee were updated on the progress of the review of safeguarding and the arrangements that were in place to carry this out. The Committee looked at what background to the process of the review and the involvement with partners and other Local Authorities in Lancashire. Members drew attention to the training that school governors received and how this could be simplified to ensure that it focused on the governor's role rather than the whole referral process.

RESOLVED- That the Committee continue to receive regular reports on progress and have opportunity to review the work undertaken by the partnership.

6. Peer Challenge – Neglect.

The Committee were updated on the peer challenge that had taken place to look at the Effective understanding, recognition and response to neglect. The review had been carried out between 21st and 25th June and had looked at leadership, management and culture of the authority and how the visions and strategy were incorporated. The Committee looked at the reporting arrangements for the monthly neglect champions sub group and how this reviewed progress.

The Committee were informed of the strengths highlighted in the review-

- Despite a “prolonged and extreme impact of the pandemic the council and partners have demonstrated a determined approach of ‘business as usual’ as far as possible in these extraordinary times.”
- “Leadership is impressive in Blackburn with Darwen – keep doing what you are doing”
- “consistent and very powerful messages about the strength of leadership and governance”
- “Strong and well embedded relationships across partner agencies is driving strategic ambition for children”
- “Strong bond of honesty in relationships with schools’
- BWD has “an integrated, creative & tenacious approach to building relationships and working with young people underpinned by the Adolescent Strategy”
- “The vision provides a golden thread that runs from frontline practice through to corporate governance arrangements and is underpinned by a systemic model of social work. Political leaders are highly informed.”
- Reduced caseloads are now enabling more direct work with children and families which is supported by effective supervision arrangements and strong management oversight.

The Committee looked at the key recommendations and how these would be implemented and progress measured. These included-

Strengthening systems to promote the timely progress of cases in PLO including:

- reviewing the number of trackers and role of Legal Gateway Meeting in oversight of all cases

Repeat & short-term child protection plans where neglect is a feature require further enquiry

- to enable a better understanding of the impact of the Neglect Strategy in decision-making.

Further develop a holistic approach to the child’s lived experience of neglect including evaluating evidence and capacity for sustained change beyond consideration of physical conditions

- Routinely feature and analyse the impact of poverty and the pandemic in children’s and young people’s care assessments and plans.

Members noted the findings of the review and the strengths that had been highlighted. The committee indicated that they would look at how the recommendations would be implemented and addressed at a future meeting.

RESOLVED- That the Committee note that the review did not highlight any areas that the council were not already working at improving and would continue to look at progress.

7. **Safe return to schools.**

The Committee looked at the progress in ensuring the safe return to schools and the issues that had been addressed to achieve this. The Committee were informed that as of 1st October 514 pupils had tested positive and 85 adults. The arrangements for tracking of cases was outlined and attendance monitoring that was carried out. The Committee were informed that the borough had attained the highest rates of attendance with over 90% in schools. Vaccination in schools was to commence from next week, 11th October which would be with the agreement of parents.

RESOLVED- That the Committee note that it was a positive start to the year and work was being undertaken to restructure curriculums to ensure that knowledge gaps could be filled where necessary and supported future learning. The Committee thanked those involved in the hard work that had ensured the safe return to schools.

Chair at the meeting where the minutes were signed.....

Date.....

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA

Members attending a Council, Committee, Board or other meeting with a personal interest in a matter on the Agenda must disclose the existence and nature of the interest and, if it is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or an Other Interest under paragraph 16.1 of the Code of Conduct, should leave the meeting during discussion and voting on the item.

Members declaring an interest(s) should complete this form and hand it to the Democratic Services Officer at the commencement of the meeting and declare such an interest at the appropriate point on the agenda.

MEETING:

DATE:

AGENDA ITEM NO.:

DESCRIPTION (BRIEF):

NATURE OF INTEREST:

DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY/OTHER (delete as appropriate)

SIGNED :

PRINT NAME:

(Paragraphs 8 to 17 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Council refer)

Children & Young People's Participation Strategy

2021–2024



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

WHAT DOES PARTICIPATION MEAN TO US?



“Participation is the involvement of people in the decisions and processes that affect their lives, including sharing information, consulting, managing, making decisions and taking action”.

– Quote by Tearfund


OUR ENGAGEMENT MODEL


How children and young people want us to work with them

Children and young people across the borough have told us how they would like to be engaged in participation work...


 **ADVOCACY**
To be provided with advocacy to assist children and young people in putting forward their views


 **SUPPORT**
To be provided with support so all children and young people can be fully supported in participation activities

 **VENUE**
To have a safe and fun environment to participate

 **INFORMATION & ENGAGEMENT**
To be informed about and involved in procedures, decisions, concerns and plans

 **EXPLANATION**
To be informed of the outcome when children and young people have been consulted with

 **RESPECT**
To be treated with dignity and respect

 **UNDERSTANDING**
To understand what is happening, to be heard and understood, and to have their views and thoughts acted on

HOW WE ARE GOING TO DO BETTER...



Values and attitudes

We will:

- Treat children and young people with respect and dignity
- Use a variety of communication methods to engage children and young people with differing learning styles
- Embed relationship based practice at the heart of our delivery strategy



Knowledge, skills and processes

We will:

- Recruit experienced staff with a passion for making things better
- Develop a bespoke Young Inspectors model to add further Quality Assurance value
- Develop the Investors in Children accreditation via a network of Participation Champions



The doing of what we think and feel

We will:

- Use social media to share information about things for children and young people to do
- Make sure the venues we use are comfortable, safe, friendly and welcoming
- Introduce a Young Inspectors scheme, so that young people can inspect the services they receive in Blackburn with Darwen

HOW WILL WE KNOW WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE?



Children and young people will see....

- improvements made as a result of their contributions
- an increase in children and young people taking part in participation activities
- people making healthy choices
- more young people enrolling in education or training when they leave school
- more young people with good jobs and high aspirations for their futures



Children and young people will say....

- how their thoughts and ideas have helped improve things
- they have lots of different things to do that they enjoy
- they feel confident in their abilities to make decisions and know where to go for help
- they are happy to go to school or college and learn lots when they are there
- they work in a job they wanted, or are confident they'll get the job they want when older



Children and young people will feel....

- they are listened to and their thoughts and opinions matter
- safe, welcome and included
- they get the right support
- they have lots of opportunities available to socialise, to learn, to achieve and to be healthy
- they are prepared for getting older and becoming an adult
- they are having fun
- they are learning

THE PARTICIPATION PATHWAY

We see participation as a journey that all children and young people should get to take, to help make their lives the very best they can be. The 'no entry' stops are often given as examples of participation and whilst there is always a need for good communication, communication alone is not participation. Stops 2 and 3 represent 'tick box' consultation.

Stops 4 to 7 are examples of genuine engagement moving from the bottom, 'consultation', to the very top, participation which is completely 'child and young person led'. In Blackburn with Darwen we want to deliver participation opportunities that fall between stops 4 to 7.



STOP 1: COMMUNICATION

Just sharing information with children and young people i.e. no input.



STOP 2: DIRECTION

Adult-led activities in which children and young people do as they are told without understanding the purpose of the activity.



STOP 3: TOKENISM

Adult-led activities in which children and young people may be consulted but with minimal opportunities for feedback, or feedback is not taken seriously.



STOP 4: CONSULTATION

The project is designed and run by adults, but children and young people understand the process and their opinions are gathered and treated seriously.



STOP 5: CO-PRODUCTION

Adults, children and young people working together to influence the support and services on offer during the design, delivery and review stages.



STOP 6: CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON INITIATED

Children and young people plan and select their own activities and adults participate rather than lead on them.



STOP 7: CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON LED

Children and young people lead on projects and events. Adults may observe and assist, but they do not interfere with the process or play a managerial role.

VIEW THE FULL STRATEGY ONLINE

To view the full version of the strategy, scan this QR code using a smartphone or simply visit www.blackburn.gov.uk/participation



SCAN ME



Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

Children & Young People's Participation Strategy

2021-2024

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Forewords



"It has been great that the Youth Forum, Children In Care and Children with SEND have co-designed this participation strategy. It is important that children and young people have their voices heard both in important documents and at meetings. In Blackburn with Darwen we are supported to gather as many views, wishes and feelings from young people across the borough. This enables us as Youth MPs to advocate on their behalf".

Blackburn with Darwen Youth MPs, 2021/22



"I am so proud that our Participation Strategy is driven by our young people, who better to influence the decision and policy making that will affect them and their peers for future years? This strategy sets out what meaningful participation is, whose responsibility it is and how we will know that we are getting participation right.

If you need a contribution that will lead to positive action and ideas for improving outcomes then look no further than the young people of Blackburn with Darwen".

Clr Julie Gunn

Executive Member for Children, Young People & Education



"I want to thank all of the children and young people who have worked alongside us to develop BwD's Participation Strategy. Your involvement and engagement with how we ensure that we listen, act and review the work that we do day in day out is crucially important. As such, I will ensure that our Participation Strategy becomes a part of my and every member of staff's guide to how you want us to work with you".

Jayne Ivory

Strategic Director for Children's Services & Education

What does participation mean to us?

“Participation is the involvement of people in the decisions and processes that affect their lives, including sharing information, consulting, managing, making decisions and taking action”.

– Quote by Tearfund

To us at Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, participation is the process by which individuals and groups of individuals can influence decision making and bring about change.

All children and young people have the right to have their views, wishes and feelings taken into account when decisions are being taken about their life.

These decisions could be about their family, school or life in the community.

This right is protected under Article 12 in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. This has been adopted into the United Kingdom legislation, such as the Children’s Act 2004, and all services and agencies have a duty to comply with this right.

“It’s important we get involved because adults don’t know how we feel or what we need, they just think they do!”

BwD Voice Forum



Greater levels of participation can result in a wide range of benefits for children and young people, service providers, and their local communities. This includes:

Children and young people

- Developing skills in decision-making, communication, confidence and resilience
- Opportunities to learn, to have fun and to achieve accreditation
- More chances to have a say in the things that matter in their lives

Service providers

- Improved, better targeted and more effective services for children, young people and their families
- Better use of financial resources
- Meets government objectives and inspection processes

Communities

- Develops more positive community relationships between children, young people and adults
- Improved sense of community and belonging
- Enhanced citizenship and political education



“Participation enables us to come together and make decisions that have a positive influence, by using our energy and experience to change the world into a better place”.

BwD Youth Forum

Our Engagement Model

Children and young people have told us how they would like to be engaged in participation work – this includes using the correct venue, language and mediums, and providing the right support.

HOW CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WANT US TO WORK WITH THEM....



INFORMATION & ENGAGEMENT

To be informed about and involved in procedures, decisions, concerns and plans



EXPLANATION

To be informed of the outcome when children and young people have been consulted with



VENUE

To have a safe and fun environment to participate



RESPECT

To be treated with dignity and respect



ADVOCACY

To be provided with advocacy to assist children and young people in putting forward their views



SUPPORT

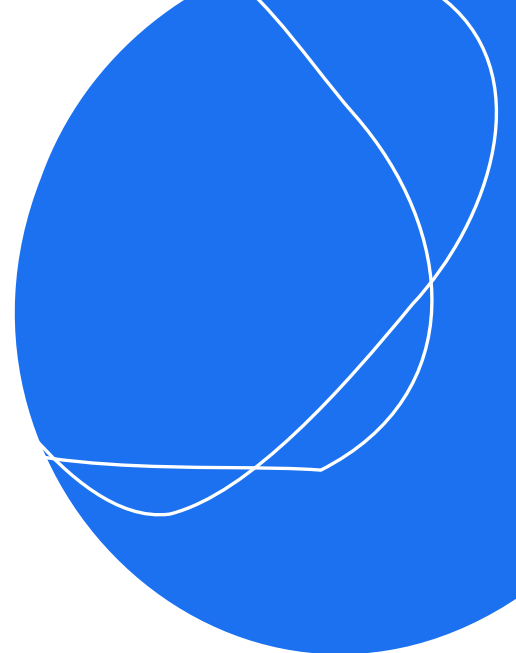
To be provided with support so all children and young people can be fully supported in participation activities



UNDERSTANDING

To understand what is happening, to be heard and understood, and to have their views and thoughts acted on

What is a participation strategy?



Any good strategy sets out shortly and simply:

- what is important and that needs to be done
- why it is important to do these things
- how it will be done
- how we will know if it is making a difference
- that everyone involved will try their best to get it done

A good strategy includes all the people it will affect, in:

- writing it in the first place
- making sure it is still relevant in the future
- checking if it is making anything better, and if it is, understanding by how much, and if not, deciding what needs to be done differently

A participation strategy shares how different groups of people (usually a business or organisation, others that they work with and, most importantly, their customers) will learn from each other and how they will use what they have learned to make and do things better.

This could include different people sharing information on:

- what is really important to them
- what helps them and what would help them
- what they like and do not like

This strategy is all about how the council will work together with children and young people in Blackburn with Darwen to improve what is available for them.

Children and young people have helped us to understand the best ways we can do this and have worked with us to write this strategy. They have told us what works well, what can work better and how they want to be worked with.

How will this strategy help children and young people in Blackburn with Darwen?



Blackburn with Darwen should be a place where all children and young people expect to live happy, healthy and fulfilled lives and where they have the chance to:



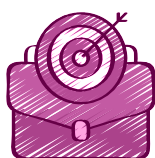
Enjoy learning and do well



Be healthy and happy



Be prepared for adult life



Have opportunities to get a rewarding job



Be and feel safe and listened to

To get there we will need to listen to children and young people to understand what really matters to them. We then need to make sure that we hear and act on their ideas for making improvements. This is sometimes called a '**doing with us, not to us**' approach.

To do this properly we need to make sure all children and young people have the chance to help us get better at what we do. Being able to take part is not always easy and this can be for lots of different reasons. As such, we need to make sure that it is easy for everyone to join in, if and when they want to.

It is important to provide a safe and enjoyable environment for children and young people to participate fully. Young people have told us they want to be engaged and participate in friendly and welcoming buildings, such as youth clubs, and have the chance to take part in positive activities and residential.



Example of listening to children and young people

Forum members told us that, when Covid-19 restrictions were relaxed, they wanted to meet up at a youth centre rather than online. We listened and the Forum and Voice groups now meet up face-to-face in Blackburn weekly.

Our priorities: what is important to us?

What is important to Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council?

It is really important to the council that we have the right services and support available, in the right place, and that these services are good services, which are delivered to high standards. To do this as best as we can we need to work in co-production.

What is co-production?

There will always be times when it is good to share information (communicate) and ask people's opinions on different options (consult), but wherever possible we should be co-producing.

Co-production recognises people who live in the community, our staff and other organisations all have important contributions to make when planning, developing, delivering and reviewing services. This is due to their different knowledge, skills and experience.

Put simply, co-production is '**doing something together**'.

Where services for children and young people are being considered, children and young people are central to co-production.

Working together to get it right

To get services for children and young people right we need to really listen to their views to understand what they need, and how we can best deliver this.

We will then need to act on what we have learned.

In many cases, this will involve working with our partners. This could include working with other organisations in the health, voluntary and private business sectors as well as other local councils.

Working together with children and young people will help us to better meet their needs, aspirations and ambitions, alongside the needs of their families.

It will also help us to make the best use of our resources. This includes things like money, staff time, buildings and equipment. Working in co-production will help us to make sure that our resources are used to improve the areas of the greatest value to children and young people locally.

What is important to children and young people in Blackburn with Darwen?

"Having regular group meetings with staff who understand our needs"

"Having the support from adults in meetings and through consultations"

"We want our opinions and suggestions to be listened to and acted upon"

"We want to have a two way conversation with adults - we don't want to be talked at"

"Being able to meet and work with a diverse group of young people to create positive change in our community"

Participation Pathway

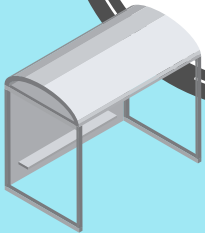
We see participation as a journey - or a pathway. It is a pathway where young people can feel comfortable contributing in all or just some aspects. It is also a journey that can have many wrong turns if not followed correctly! On the next page, we have illustrated what we mean by the participation pathway.



06

CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON INITIATED

Children and young people plan and select their own activities and adults participate rather than lead on them



04

CONSULTATION

The project is designed and run by adults, but children and young people understand the process and their opinions are gathered and treated seriously



02

DIRECTION

Adult-led activities in which children and young people do as they are told without understanding the purpose of the activity

NO ENTRY



PARTICIPATION PATHWAY

07

CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON LED

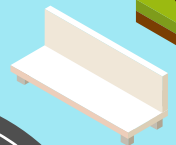
Children and young people lead on projects and events. Adults may observe and assist, but they do not interfere with the process or play a managerial role



05

CO-PRODUCTION

Adults, children and young people working together to influence the support and services on offer during the design, delivery and review stages

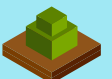


03

NO ENTRY

TOKENISM

Adult-led activities in which children and young people may be consulted but with minimal opportunities for feedback, or feedback is not taken seriously



01

NO ENTRY

COMMUNICATION

Just sharing information with children and young people i.e. no input



What are we doing well?

What we think we are doing well...

- Established voice groups for Universal and Targeted CIOC Children and Young People
- Established relationships with schools and Strategic Youth Alliance (SYA) partners - the SYA is a network of all the local youth organisations
- Children's Services have located all Adolescent services under one Senior Leader significantly improving collaborative working and extending reach to gather the voices of the many
- Developed training and support around Young People's Interview panels to ensure young people have a voice in recruitment and selection
- Youth MPs (or representatives) are supported to contribute and challenge at the Councils Key Strategic Meetings: Executive Board, Scrutiny Meetings, Children's Partnership Board
- Two care leavers have been recruited to the position of vice chair of the Corporate Parenting Executive Group
- Care Leaver vice chairs lead on developing and delivering annual corporate parent conference
- Support children and young people to co design projects by inviting organisations to young people's forums
- Monthly online leaving care forum to gather young people's thoughts, feelings and wishes. This information is then fed back to the corporate parenting boards through the leaving care vice chair
- Training and support for children and young people for recruitment in roles within Children's Services
- Children and young people have the opportunity to take part in local, regional and national consultations e.g. Make Your Mark, youth elections
- Training delivered for capturing the voice of the child
- Within our Early Years settings, we actively listen to children to enable children to plan and this promotes active participation from all children in what is important to them and their own decision making

What children and young people think we are doing well...



"We meet regularly and have new forum members joining all the time"



"We are supported in lots of meetings to have our voice heard"



"When we want to speak to key professionals in Education & Health, our workers ensure that they are invited to come and speak with us. Our workers also ensure that they feedback regarding any suggestions we make"

"We get fantastic opportunities to take part in regional meetings with other Youth Forums from across the North West"



"We take part in lots of meetings and consultations but we also get to do fun activities and go on residential"



How we are going to do better...

It is important that the council and our partners acknowledge the important and necessary role that children and young people can play in shaping the design and delivery of services.

To improve the way that we work with children and young people in future, we have developed a set of pledges and categorised them under these headings:



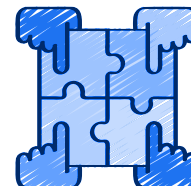
Heart

The values and attitudes we will display when we work with children and young people



Head

The knowledge, skills and processes we need to develop so we can make participation even better



Hands

Putting our values and skills into action - the key things we plan to do over the next three years

Heart



Values and attitudes

We will:

- Treat children and young people with respect and dignity
- Use a variety of communication methods to engage children and young people with differing learning styles
- Embed relationship based practice at the heart of our delivery strategy

Head



Knowledge, skills and processes

We will:

- Recruit experienced staff with a passion for making things better
- Develop a bespoke Young Inspectors model to add further Quality Assurance value
- Develop the Investors in Children accreditation via a network of Participation Champions

Hands



The doing of what we think and feel

We will:

- Use social media to share information about things for children and young people to do
This includes the chance to attend events and complete surveys. We will also use the council website to do this.
- Make sure the venues we use are comfortable, safe, friendly and welcoming
- Introduce a Young Inspectors scheme, so that young people can inspect the services they receive in Blackburn with Darwen

Participation Framework

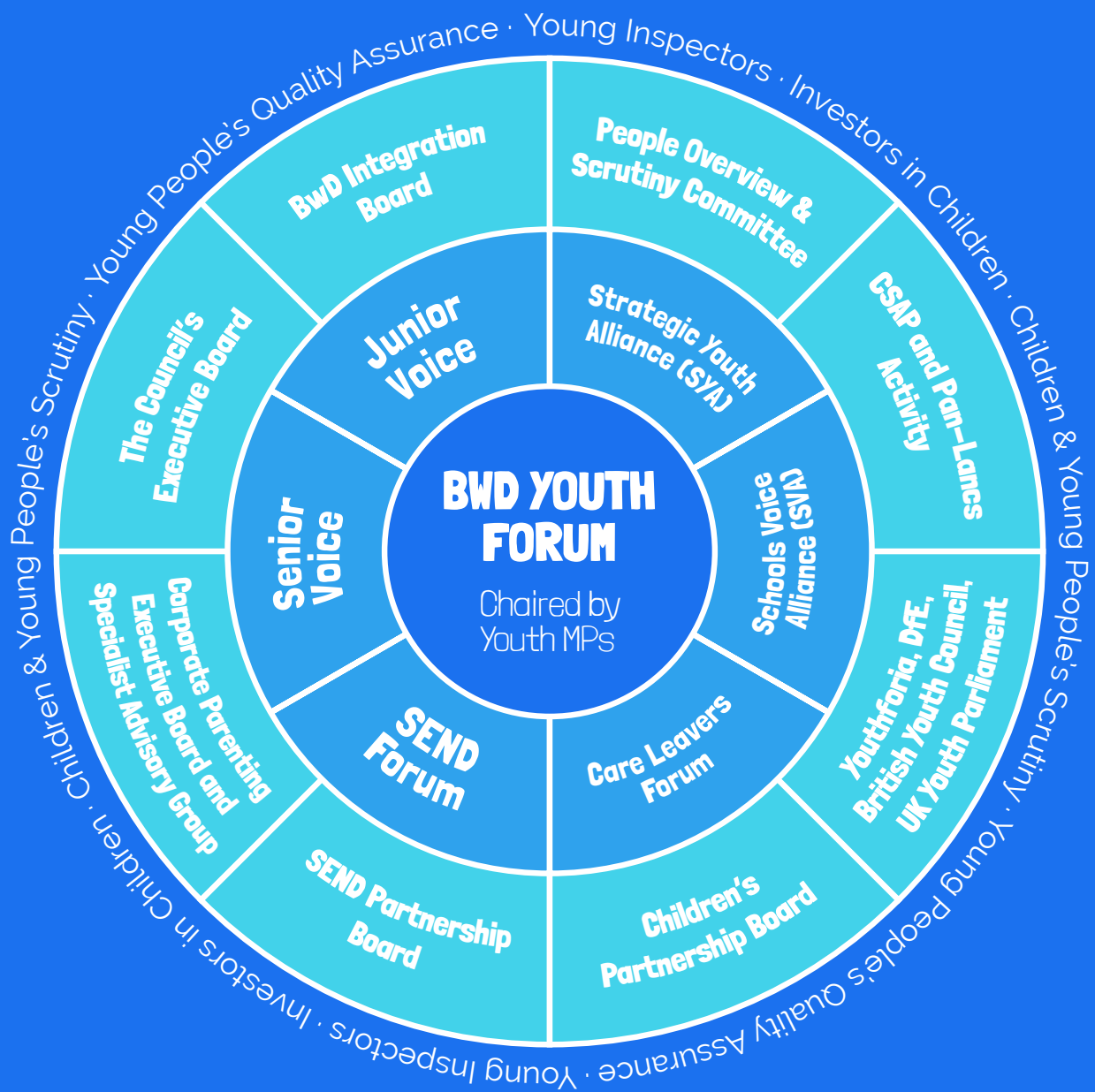
An important part of our plans for doing better is our Participation Framework.

This framework sets out the council's commitment and approach to involving children and young people in all areas of decision making, and in taking their views seriously.

Young people in the various Forums and groups will be supported in attending all important meetings, boards and committees to ensure that their voice, and the voices they represent, are taken seriously and acted upon by everyone.

Participation Framework

The framework below illustrates how each specific Forum fits into the wider framework and contributes equally to capturing, scrutinising, reporting and evaluating youth voice activity.



Blackburn with Darwen Youth Forum

Led by the elected Youth MPs, this is a universal opportunity to participate in youth voice activity. This means all children and young people can take part.

Targeted Forums

Forums for specific groups of children and young People – ranging from Children in Our Care, SEND and School Forums.

Strategic Youth Alliance

The Strategic Youth Alliance (SYA) forum includes a senior management representative of each of the local youth organisations that form the SYA.

Two young people have been nominated to attend monthly meetings from their youth organisations to discuss issues and campaigns. This forum is led by the Youth MPs who will then advocate for the SYA Forum on their behalf at important meetings.

Schools Voice Alliance

The Schools Voice Alliance (SVA) is a forum consisting of 2 young people from each school within the borough. Representatives from each school will collect views and opinions from the students and forward these to the Youth MPs at quarterly meetings across the year. This would be collected from general discussion and the wider schools thoughts on issues affecting Young People within the borough.

Executive Board and Committees

These are executive-led decision making and scrutiny boards. This is where your voice gets the ears of senior managers and leaders. We will ensure your voices are heard, understood and acted upon.

Quality Assurance

These are various internal and external accreditation, scrutiny committees and award bodies. This is where we ensure that participation activity is challenged and supported to ensure it is doing what it is meant to.

We will use the framework to ensure your voice is heard, captured, listened to and acted upon.

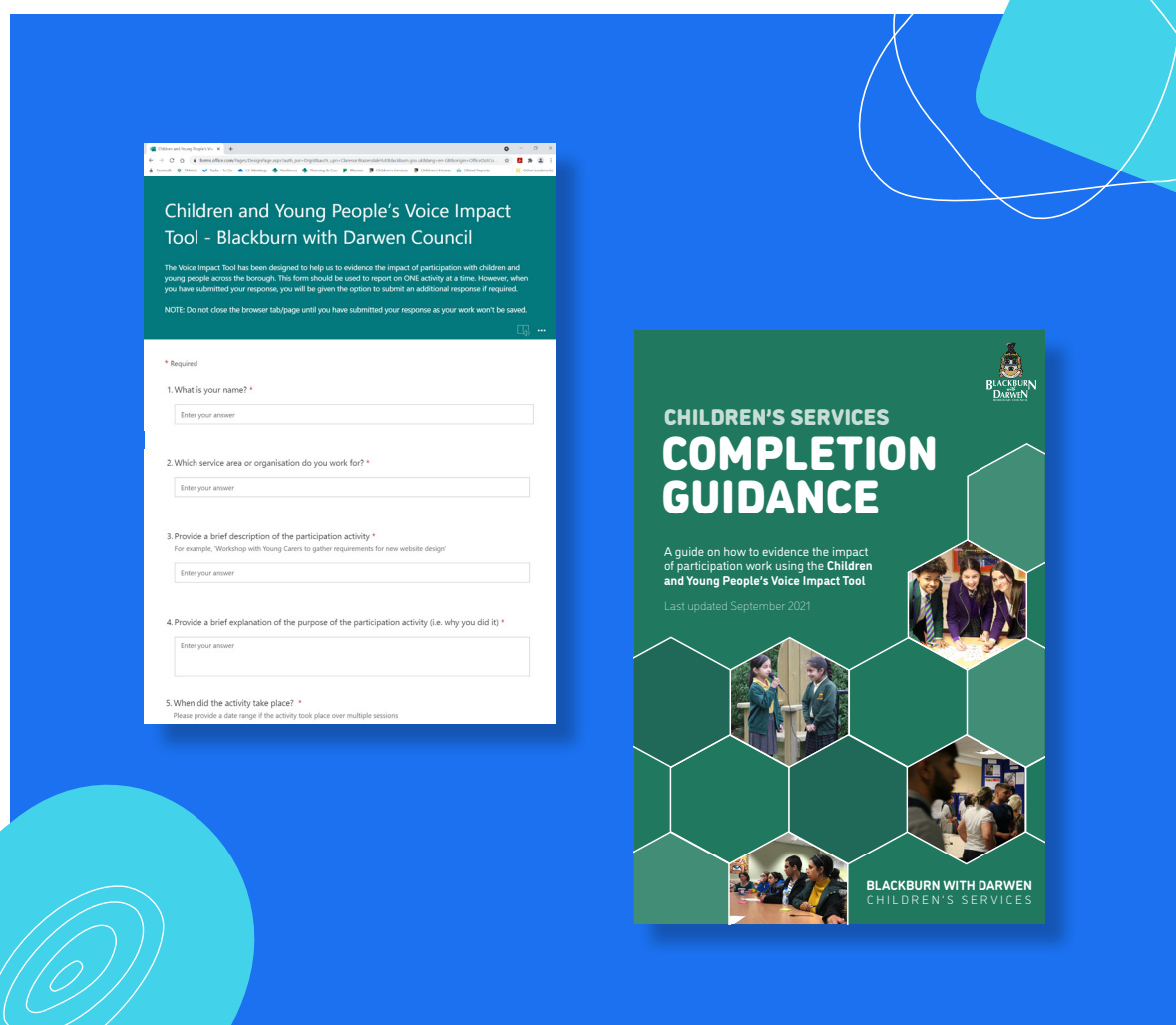
Children and Young People's Voice Impact Tool

To ensure we capture all youth voice activity accurately, we have developed a new Children and Young People's Voice Impact Tool that will be completed and submitted by the Participation Champion for each organisation or service area on a quarterly basis.

The evidence submitted is assessed on the following:

- The details of the activity
- The impact that participation activity has had
- The quality of the work and an honest evaluation and feedback

This information will be shared at strategic meetings both by professionals and children and young people.



The image displays two key components of the initiative. On the left is a screenshot of the 'Children and Young People's Voice Impact Tool - Blackburn with Darwen Council' form. The form is titled 'Children and Young People's Voice Impact Tool - Blackburn with Darwen Council' and includes a note: 'The Voice Impact Tool has been designed to help us to evidence the impact of participation with children and young people across the borough. This form should be used to report on ONE activity at a time. However, when you have submitted your response, you will be given the option to submit an additional response if required. NOTE: Do not close the browser tab/page until you have submitted your response as your work won't be saved.' The form contains five numbered questions, each with a text input field: 1. 'What is your name?' (Required), 2. 'Which service area or organisation do you work for?' (Required), 3. 'Provide a brief description of the participation activity' (Required, with an example: 'Workshop with young Carers to gather requirements for new website design'), 4. 'Provide a brief explanation of the purpose of the participation activity (i.e. why you did it)' (Required), and 5. 'When did the activity take place?' (Required, with a sub-note: 'Please provide a date range if the activity took place over multiple sessions'). On the right is a poster titled 'CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMPLETION GUIDANCE'. The poster features the Blackburn with Darwen Council logo at the top right and the text 'A guide on how to evidence the impact of participation work using the Children and Young People's Voice Impact Tool'. It also states 'Last updated September 2021'. The poster is decorated with several hexagonal images showing children and young people engaged in various activities, such as sitting at a table, standing in a line, and interacting with staff. The bottom right of the poster reads 'BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN CHILDREN'S SERVICES'. The entire content is set against a blue background with decorative white and teal abstract shapes.



**How will we know if
we are doing better and
making a difference?**

We will know when we are doing better and making a difference because children and young people in Blackburn with Darwen will see, say and feel the following things...

See



Children and young people in Blackburn with Darwen will see...

- improvements made as a result of their ideas
- more children and young people taking part in activities and enjoying what is on offer in the community
- people making healthy choices
- more young people enrolling in education or training when they leave school
- more young people with good jobs and high aspirations for their futures

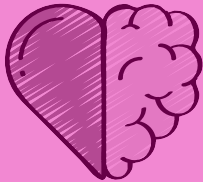
Say



Children and young people in Blackburn with Darwen will say...

- how their thoughts and ideas have helped to make positive changes
- they have lots of different things to do that they enjoy
- they feel confident in their abilities to make good decisions and know where to go and who to ask if they need help
- they are happy to go to school/college and when they're there they learn lots
- they work in a job they wanted, or are confident they will get the job they want

Feel



Children and young people in Blackburn with Darwen will feel...

- they are listened to and that their thoughts and opinions matter
- safe, welcome and included
- they get the right help and support, when and where they need it
- they have lots of opportunities available locally to help them socialise, learn, achieve and be healthy
- they are prepared and confident to move into adulthood
- that they are having fun and learning

How To Get Involved

If you are aged between 8 and 25 years, are in the care of the local authority and would like to have your voice heard, why not get involved in our Forums?

For more information about the Junior, Senior or Leaving Care Forums please contact Liz Clarkson on 01254 298630 or elizabeth.clarkson@blackburn.gov.uk

If you are aged between 11 and 18 years, you can also take part in the BwD Youth Forum or stand for election as Youth MP. To find out more, contact Liz Clarkson on 01254 298630 or email elizabeth.clarkson@blackburn.gov.uk

You can get up to date information via bwd-yps.co.uk or our social media sites:



facebook.com/BWDYoungPeoplesServices



twitter.com/bwd_yps



instagram.com/bwd_yps



Thank you to the children and young people of the Senior and Junior Voice forums, BwD Youth Forum, KND SEND group, Inclusion group and Leaving Care forum and who have produced this strategy in collaboration with us.



CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMPLETION GUIDANCE

A guide on how to evidence the impact of participation work using the **Children and Young People's Voice Impact Tool**

Last updated October 2021



WHY USE THE TOOL?

As a public body, local authorities have an obligation to capture the views of their local community to help shape and improve services, and to ensure commissioning decisions are informed by the experiences, ambitions and expectations of users. Our partners are expected to contribute to this too.

When services are redesigned or decisions are made that will have an impact on children and young people, we have a duty to consult with them. For some of the more vulnerable groups in our community, this duty is strengthened even further by our statutory obligation to coproduce services with them and involve them in strategic decision-making. Wherever possible, coproduction should be the participation approach adopted, regardless of which groups or 'categories' are involved ([click here to read our co-production handbook online](#)).

For organisations where participation and coproduction is not a statutory obligation, such as those in the Voluntary Community and Faith Sector, this approach is still considered to be best practice and is a great way to demonstrate your value to customers and funders.

The importance placed upon effective participation with children and young people has grown considerably in recent years and this is being reflected in inspections, where levels of engagement with children and young people is often a key line of enquiry. Whereas in the past, simply being able to verbalise progress was sufficient, this is no longer the case.

Instead, local authorities are now expected to provide a comprehensive bank of evidence that demonstrates their commitment to participation and, as a result, the new Children & Young People's Voice Impact Tool has been designed to help us capture this information.

This document will provide guidance on how to answer some of the questions included in the form. If you have any queries about any of the questions not mentioned within this guide, contact Elizabeth Clarkson by emailing elizabeth.clarkson@blackburn.gov.uk

How to find the Voice Impact Tool

To use the online Voice Impact Tool survey, scan this QR code using a smartphone or visit forms.office.com/r/eGW6hX61M5



QUESTIONS GUIDANCE

Question 8

How did you involve children and young people in the design, planning and/or delivery of this activity?

Examples of this would include children and young people having a role in:

- Deciding what, how, when, and/or where they would like to be engaged;
- Design or delivery of a participation programme, activity, content and/or its supporting resources;
- Presenting and feeding back on participation outcomes;
- Deciding and implementing next steps;
- Subsequent monitoring and evaluation activities.

The extent of involvement should be made clear - for example, did the children and young people inform, agree, direct, design, deliver or even quality assure as part of the activity?

Question 9

What did you consider or put in place to ensure the activity was attractive and accessible to children and young people?

Examples of this would include:

- Any training provided to children and young people/resources that were designed to help them to take part;
- Training provided to facilitators to support coordination and delivery;
- Venue selection e.g. based on availability of public transport links, familiarity and positive associations by the group of young people to engage, accessibility;
- Range of communication tools, assistive technology to ensure those with communication needs can fully participate;
- Incentives (examples below)

Tailoring the activity around a fun programme of activities or a particular topic or activity of interest to that group of young people, rewards, progression opportunities, free transport, instant wins – coming away with something tangible at the end.

Question 13

Who is, or will be, better off as a result of what you did?

This is the 'so what?' section of the submission. The participation activities listed in your submission will most likely have resulted in positive changes. This could include changes to an existing service or resource, the creation of a new service or resource and changes to your organisation's delivery of budget priorities. You may have also learned lessons which could contribute to the outcomes of another distinct project or wider programme of work.

Details of this will be included in question 11 of this submission. For question 13, you will need to consider how these changes have, or may, impact on children and young people.

Your response should outline the **actual difference this has made** to children and young people. What has been the benefit to the lived experience of children and young people as a result of this participation and the subsequent changes/decisions made? Who is better off and why? This could be from an individual, group or community perspective. For example:

What was learned?	What changed?	What was the impact?
Change and impact at the individual level E.g. feedback is used to influence the individual experience of a child or young person.		
Young person finds it awkward to socialise with friends due to their assistive technology	Assistive technology was upgraded to a more discreet and fully portable solution	Young person has now made lots of new friends and like taking part in activities
Change and impact at the group level E.g. feedback is used to influence the experiences of a particular age group or other cohort.		
Limited opportunities for younger children to socialise during the summer holidays	Number of activities and activity options for children aged 5-8 years increased	Increase in the number of younger children taking part in holiday club activities
Change and impact at the community level E.g. feedback is used to influence the experiences of all children and young people.		
Parks are no longer a popular place to meet friends due to anti-social behaviour	Regular patrols put in place to help reduce anti-social behaviour concerns	Increase in the number of children and young people visiting the borough's parks

Question 14

Please list evidence to be included with this submission that supports the above

Evidence is required that clearly demonstrates:

- Effective participation is taking place with children and young people (supportive, inclusive, informed by the views of children and young people);
- Information shared is acted upon (and where it can't be, the reason why is explained);
- Children and young people are kept informed on how their views are helping to instigate change and shape services;
- Benefits achieved as a result of participation are quantified;
- Children and young people are involved in the monitoring, evaluation and review of services that impact them.

Whilst there is often a place for reports and written case studies, the voices of children and young people often provide a more powerful message when evidencing participation, change and benefits realisation. As such, please consider creative evidence options such as videos, photographs and examples of art and design produced by children and young people during the course of the participation activities listed in your submission.

After submitting your response, please email any attachments you wish to be used as evidence to elizabeth.clarkson@blackburn.gov.uk

GENERAL INFORMATION

- The Children & Young People's Voice Impact Tool form should be used to report on **one** activity at a time. However, when you have submitted your response, you will be given the option to submit an additional response if required.
- Please remember not to close the browser tab/Forms page until you have submitted your response as your work will not be saved.
- If you would like a copy of your response, email elizabeth.clarkson@blackburn.gov.uk