



East Cumbria Family Support Association

Policy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision Making

Policy Statement

East Cumbria Family Support has an ongoing commitment to ensuring that they will involve children and young people in decisions affecting their future, service delivery and planning. This will be done through regular reviews and inclusion at decision making meetings, if appropriate. It is essential that staff employed by East Cumbria Family Support who are making decisions about a child or young person have a clear understanding of the views and wishes of the child or young person to inform decision making, policy and service delivery.

Principles

East Cumbria Family Support recognises the vital importance of involving children and young people in making decisions which affect their future.

East Cumbria Family Support recognises the importance of the views of children and young people in the shaping of services.

East Cumbria Family Support understands that children may express their views or wishes in a variety of ways, and is open to those views being expressed in the most appropriate and meaningful way for that child or young person.

It is recognised that it may not always be possible for the child or young person to attend meetings or be consulted about their views, but every effort will be made to enable those views to be expressed and heard.

Outcomes of this policy

It is expected that this policy will lead to an increase in the levels of Children's Consultation. Children and young people will feel included and satisfied that their views are being listened to and taken into consideration when decisions are made that affect their lives.

Involving children and young people in decision making will also contribute to the outcomes of the Every Child Matters Agenda in ensuring the health and welfare of children and young people who work with East Cumbria Family Support particularly in areas of:

- ***Making a positive contribution***

Develop self confidence and successfully deal with significant life changes and challenges

- ***Stay Safe***

Safe from maltreatment, neglect, violence and sexual exploitation

Have security, stability and be cared for

- ***Be Healthy***

Physically healthy

Mentally and emotionally healthy

Participation will be monitored through the review process questionnaires and supervision.

Legislation and guidance

The UN Convention of Human rights of the child says that;

Parties shall assure the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those freely in all matters affecting the child, either directly or through an appropriate body.

Other relevant Acts are:

Human Rights Act 1989

East Cumbria Family Support Association – Participation Policy adopted November 2012

The Children Act 2004