



Cumbria Family Support

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

Cumbria Family Support Ltd,
The Office,
Mardale Road,
Penrith,
CA11 9EH

Tel: 01768 593102

www.cumbriafamilysupport.org.uk

(1) Policy Statement

Cumbria Family Support believes that hearing children's voices is crucial in the work we do. We will involve children and young people in decisions affecting their future, service delivery and planning so that they inform the direction of support we are providing them at the time we are delivering it and tell us how they felt the support was delivered. This will be done through regular reviews and inclusion at decision making meetings, if appropriate. It is essential that staff employed by 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.

(2) Principles

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

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

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. To this end we will use the Signs of Safety tool 'Three Houses' which is adaptable for all ages. All staff will attend Signs of Safety training. To ensure we listening to children's voices about how we have delivered support to them, we will consistently encourage children and young people to complete the Final Review form.

All staff who have worked directly with children will ensure the child or young person is supported to complete the Cumbria Family Support Feedback Form.

(3) 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. The way we will demonstrate this is through use of:

- Outcomes Star (MyStar)
- Signs of Safety "3 Houses"
- Use of ad hoc surveys such as Survey Monkey
- Other consultation methods as identified and agreed as appropriate

(4) Legislation and guidance

The UN Convention of Human Rights of the Child Article 12 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

The Children Act 2004