

Tips for involving children and young people in Team Around the Family (TAF) meetings and completing CFAN's

It is important that as practitioners we gain the wishes and feelings of children and young people so that the decisions we make are informed by their views.

When we say the voice of the child, we mean talking to, listening to and engaging with what children and young people have to say about the service they receive, and using what they tell us to change and develop the way we work.

Collaboration between young people and the services they rely on (such as Children's Services, Health, Education, Police, Housing etc.) will raise the profile of the benefits of participation and increases children's trust with adults.

Here are some things that can be done to enable practitioners to gain the voice of the child:

- Set some time aside to meet with children and young people alone to get their wishes and feelings- decide as TAF team who is best placed to take on this role.
- For children who are too young to verbally express their wishes and feelings, practitioners can observe parent-child interactions to feedback during TAF meetings; this should also be reflected in the CFAN.
- Allow children and young people to attend at the end of the TAF meeting if appropriate.
- Include children and young people in the actions, by setting them tasks if appropriate.

It's not about always having the answers or being able to fix things for them, it's about supporting them in making informed decisions based of their wishes and feelings. It is about listening and being available.