

NEL LSCB Voice and Influence Plan

Background

A key Strategic Objective of the LSCB Business Plan is to place the *Voice and Influence of the Child* at the centre of all LSCB work. To achieve this, we must have effective processes in place to capture the voice of Children and make sure we have ways of evidencing how children's voices influence, inform and improve service provision. The LSCB is committed to promoting partnership challenge to ensure we provide real opportunities and clear processes to allow and encourage children, whatever their age, to be involved in decisions and services that affect them. This will enable us to evidence that the *Child's Voice* is making a difference and that as a result, outcomes for children are improving.

Locally there are various mechanisms and indicators for identifying children's 'Voice and Influence' and measuring children's experiences. The LSCB have established a Voice and Influence Sub Group which will ensure that current reporting and monitoring mechanisms include evidence and impact of children's voice and influence in all activities undertaken by the LSCB and its partners, to safeguard and protect the welfare of children. The group will meet from January 2017.

Voice and Influence Sub Group Terms of Reference

Aims

- To consider the voice of children/young people throughout whole spectrum of intervention and across all agencies
- Seek to hear and enhance the input of children and young people into service delivery and planning by providing appropriate forums for children and translating their views into meaningful action.
- Ensure Voice and Influence is captured at an **individual level** (The Single Assessment and the Child's plan), at a **service level** (involved in decisions that affect service development and on a **strategic level** (contributing to partnership and corporate strategy and policy).

Outcomes

Both service provision and practice are improved through the Voice and Influence of Children and Young People.

Meeting arrangements

The Voice and Influence Group will initially meet on a monthly basis with frequency and activity reviewed after a six month period. The meeting will be supported by the LSCB Administrator and Business Specialist.

Membership

Key agencies working with children, with clear links to young people's groups and to the NEL Strategic Communication group. Member agency representation to include:

- Family Hubs
- Integrated family Services
- Children's Social Care
- NLAG
- Young People Support Service

- Voice and Influence Practitioner
- Foundations
- Children's Health Provision
- NSPCC
- Education and training
- Disability Services
- CAMHS & Future in Mind

Reporting

The Voice and Influence Group will report directly to both the LSCB Operational Board and to the Children's Partnership Board.