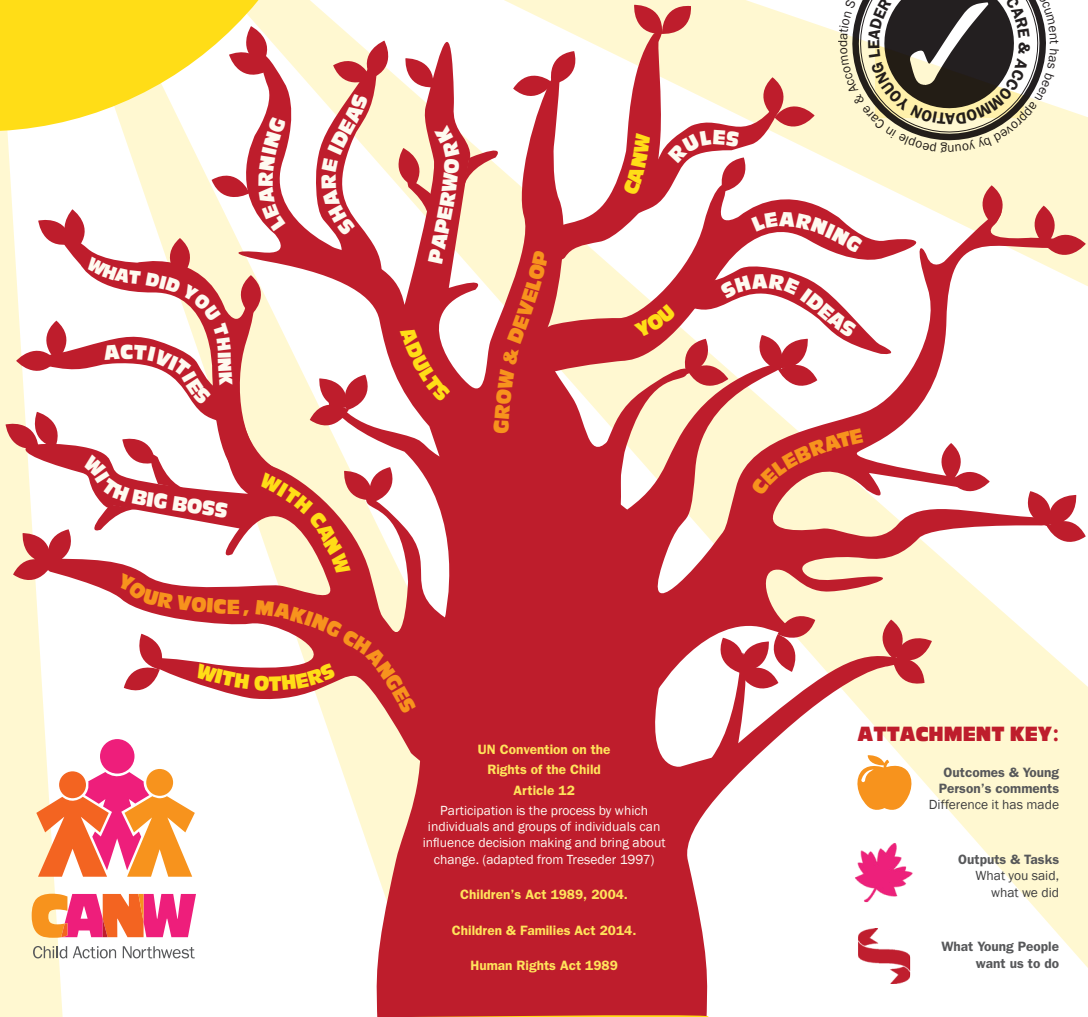


**INSPIRING
LIVES,
CHANGING
FUTURES**

**CANW PARTICIPATION STRATEGY
FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE**



UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
Article 12

Participation is the process by which individuals and groups of individuals can influence decision making and bring about change. (adapted from Treseder 1997)

Children's Act 1989, 2004.

Children & Families Act 2014.

Human Rights Act 1989

ATTACHMENT KEY:



Outcomes & Young Person's comments
Difference it has made



Outputs & Tasks
What you said, what we did



What Young People want us to do



RESPONSIBILITY
EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

RESPECT

FAIRNESS

COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIP
EXCELLENCE

Rationale

To illustrate the creative and organic nature of participation activity within CANW, the organisational Participation Strategy is depicted as a visual metaphor.

The 'Tree' provides clarity about the legislative framework supporting this agenda and overarching objectives for the organisation, which at operational level can be personalised and developed to meet the needs of each CANW service. As a visual representation, the strategy will also be accessible to the children, young people and adults that access CANW services. They will be able to contribute towards the development and evaluation of service level plans, which will feed back into the overarching organisational strategy.

Components

- **Tree roots** - CANW core values
- **Tree trunk** - The legislation that supports the organisation to achieve its core values, starting with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child definition of participation.
- **Branches** - CANW strategic objectives (read in the following order Orange, Yellow, White)
- **Sun** - CANW Mission & Vision

How it will work

The organisational Participation strategy will be reproduced on large scale posters for each service area within CANW and should be displayed in public areas. Due to the non-prescriptive nature of the framework, services will have the opportunity to develop their own creative responses to each strategic objective. This will enable participation activity to evolve organically to meet the unique needs of each service and the children, young people and adults within it.

In addition to the organic development of participation activity, each service area will collaboratively develop an action plan that will drive forwards the development and delivery of strategic objectives. This action plan will be produced annually and reported on quarterly.

Staff will be able to record both organic and strategic participation activity and positive outcomes directly onto the tree:

- **Leaves** - Outputs / tasks - You Said / We Did
- **Apples** - Outcomes / What difference has this work made? Services can include feedback from children, young people and adults ('fruits of our labour') We did – You Thought

The participation strategy creates opportunities for children, young people and adults to influence the development of any participation activity.

- A 'child friendly' version has been created which translates any adult language into an accessible format for children and young people. The terminology has been approved by young people and will include the 'youth proofed' logo.
- Children and young people will be involved annually in the action planning within each service area to ensure they have opportunities to influence the objectives.
- **Ribbons** - Children and young people will also have on-going opportunities to influence participation activity. They can achieve this by writing what they want to happen at CANW on wish ribbons and these can be attached to the tree as a child-initiated development. Wish ribbons will be stored alongside the participation strategy and accessible at all times.

Reporting arrangements

The Participation Strategy will be displayed in communal areas and visible to staff and service users accessing each service within CANW. This will provide a continuous reminder about the importance of this agenda and encourage its development. All staff are expected to contribute towards the participation agenda and involve their service users in consultation, decision making processes and service development. Participation Champions are also available to support their colleagues and collate the information about participation activity for the quarterly report.

Staff will record any participation activity and evidence outcomes directly onto the tree, which will provide a visual prompt to aid quarterly reporting to commissioners and external assessors.

Resources for participation

A wide variety of consultation tools and good practice information can be found in the following locations:

- CANW intranet
- CANW Learning & Development
- www.leapfrogtools

Participation Champions are also available to support colleagues with advice and guidance regarding any participatory related activity. They are representatives from a variety of CANW services and meet bi-monthly at the participation steering group; chaired by the CEO.