

Children and Young People's Participation Strategy

Being listened to and getting heard in Wrexham



Hello

This is the new **Participation Strategy** (plan) for Wrexham County Borough Council. It makes sure all children and young people are listened to and heard. We want you to have a say in decisions about;



services that support you and your family



your education



your community and where you live



and lots of other things too.

You are important – what you think matters. Your ideas, opinions and experiences should be listened to.

Your rights

The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child** (UNCRC) has 54 articles on the rights of children and young people across the world. These rights are about making sure you:

- are safe
- are treated fairly
- have the things you need to survive and develop
- have a say in decisions that affect your life.

Wales has put children's rights into law. You can read more about your rights here: gov.wales/childrens-rights-information-children



This strategy is about making sure you have your rights and can take part.

Our Vision

Wrexham is a place where all children and young people have the support they need to participate, be listened to, and be heard.

Our aims

- 1 We want to respect children's rights and make sure everyone knows about them.
- 2 We want to respect all children and young people, no matter who they are.
- 3 We want to listen to and act on children and young people's views.
- 4 We want all children and young people to have positive goals and aspirations for their lives.
- 5 We want to celebrate children and young people when they reach their goals in life.

Aim 1:

We want to respect children's rights and make sure everyone knows about them.

➡ We will...

make sure children and young people:

- have all the support they need to understand and enjoy their rights
- can take part when they want to, and nothing stops them
- are not held back because of their age, culture, belief, or any other reason
- have information that is easy to understand.

We will also make sure adults working across services know about and respect your rights!

🗨️ You should be able to say:

I know about my rights.

I have the support I need to take part.

I have the information I need to get involved and make decisions.



Aim 2:

We want to respect all children and young people, no matter who they are.

➡ We will...

make sure children and young people:

- have opportunities to take part
- know they have the right to be involved
- can take part in Welsh or other languages they choose
- have clear information that is easy to understand and easy to find
- aren't stopped from taking part for any reason
- have support from well-trained staff.



You should be able to say:

I find it easy to take part.

I was told how I could get involved.

I have the information I need.

I can take part in Welsh.

Staff gave me the support I needed.



Aim 3:

We want to listen, understand and act on children and young people's views.



➡ We will...

make sure children and young people:

- are listened to and valued
- can give their opinion and are taken seriously
- have all the information they need to make decisions
- are involved in planning services
- are involved in checking services are working well
- are safe and can say what they think without bullying or harm.

🗨️ You should be able to say:

I feel respected.

I feel safe to say what I think.

I've made a difference.

I'm involved in making services better.

Staff listen to me and value what I say.

Aim 4:

We want all children and young people to have positive goals and aspirations for their lives.

i **Goals and aspirations** — the things you want to be and do with your life.



➡ We will...

make sure children and young people:

- are encouraged to set goals for themselves
- have support from staff that believe in them and want them to achieve
- can develop their skills
- have experiences and opportunities to do things that build their confidence
- have fun and enjoy taking part.



You should be able to say:



I'm learning new skills.



I like taking part.



I have support to reach my goals.



Staff help me see what I can do and encourage me to set goals.

Aim 5:

We want to celebrate children and young people when they reach their goals in life.

➡ We will...

make sure children and young people:

- have respect
- know how they are making a difference
- are told how their opinions have improved services in Wrexham
- are thanked for taking part.



You should be able to say:



It felt good to take part and improve things for others.



I can see how my views made a difference.



I feel valued.



Staff enjoy the process and celebrate when we reach goals.



Taking part was worth it!



Making sure it works

- ✔ We will make sure everyone thinks about your rights when they make decisions.

There are Impact Assessment forms for professionals to use to make sure this happens.

- ✔ We will make sure everyone follows the Participation Standards for Wales.

The Participation Standards are like rules to make sure adults involve children and young people in the right ways.

We will make sure everyone working with children and young people knows about the Participation Standards and follows them.

We will check our work and keep moving towards our goal to get the National Participation Kitemark Certificate.

Thanks for reading this!



Ways to get involved and have a say in Wrexham:

Wrexham Youth Service

Supports young people aged 11 to 25 years and gives them opportunities to get involved in decisions that affect their lives.

✉ Wrexham Youth Service
The Vic, 11-13 Hill Street, Wrexham, LL111SN

📧 youthservice@wrexham.gov.uk

☎ 01978 317952

Senedd yr Ifanc

Senedd yr Ifanc is Wrexham's Youth Parliament. It meets every last Monday of the month and gives young people the chance to have a say.

✉ Senedd yr Ifanc
The Vic, 11-13 Hill Street, Wrexham, LL111SN

📧 youngvoices@wrexham.gov.uk

☎ 01978 317961

Wrexham Young People's Care Council

This has eight young people aged 11-20 in the care system. They meet once a month.

Wrexham Young People's Care Council

📧 youngpeoplescarecouncil@wrexham.gov.uk

☎ 01978 295372, 07808 787777

WCBC Play Development Team

They involve children in planning and developing local play.

✉ Ruabon Youth Centre, Stanley Grove, Ruabon, LL14 6AH

✉ play@wrexham.gov.uk

📧 wrexham.gov.uk/play

Wrexham Healthy Schools

This supports participation across all schools.

✉ Wrexham Healthy Schools

Unit 21 Whitegate Industrial Estate, Whitegate Road, Wrexham LL13 8UG

📧 healthyschools@wrexham.gov.uk

Wrexham Youth Justice Service (YJS)

This service makes sure young people who have come into contact with the Criminal Justice System can take part and have a say in the support they get and how the service works.

✉ WCBC Youth Justice Service

Unit 21 Whitegate Industrial Estate, Whitegate Road, Wrexham LL13 8UG

📧 youthjusticeservice@wrexham.gov.uk

☎ 01978 268140

Other useful contacts

There are other organisations and ways to get involved. To find out more go to:

📧 dewis.wales

📧 yourvoicewrexham.net

📧 youngwrexham.co.uk

