



A guide to

Child

and

Youth

**Participation
Supports**



by Tipperary Children & Young
People's Services Committee

2021

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Acknowledgement

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Introduction





Tipperary Children & Young People's Plan, 2018 – 2020 (*Tipperary CYPSC*) had Child and Youth Participation as a priority area to be addressed. The table below lists the priority area, indicator, target and activities that were detailed in the plan

Priority Area	Indicator	Target	Activities
Child and Youth Participation	To develop a CYPSC consultation protocol	Consultation with children & young people is integrated into CYPSC actions	Develop a consultation strategy for CYPSC Ensure that all CYPSC Sub-Groups consider how to listen to the views of children, young people and parents

The working group identified that CYPSC member organisations have varying levels of awareness, knowledge and understanding about Child and Youth Participation.

This guide aims to achieve two outcomes:

- To create awareness about Child and Youth Participation
- To signpost people/services to organisations that can guide and support them as they develop or strengthen their Child and Youth Participation practice.

Child and Youth Participation – Legislative and Policy Context



One of Tipperary CYPSCs objectives is
‘To prioritise the participation of children
and young people in decision-making that
affects their lives, in accordance with
Article 12, UN Convention on the Rights of Children.’



Ireland signed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, on 30th September 1990, and ratified it on 28 September 1992. This means that the Irish State committed itself to promote, protect and fulfil the rights of children, as outlined in the UN Convention. One of the articles of the UNCRC, Article 12, relates to the child’s opinion:

‘The child has the right to express an opinion and to have that opinion taken into account, in any matter or procedure affecting the child, in accordance with his or her age and maturity’².

Child and Youth Participation is also a legislative requirement and a policy commitment as detailed below.

Legislation

- Education and Welfare Act, 2000
- Children Act, 2001
- Thirty-first Amendment of the Constitution (Children) Act 2012 – passed in 2015
- Child and Family Agency Act 2013
- Children First Act 2015

Policy

- National Strategy on Child and Young People’s Participation in decision making; Department of Children and Youth Affairs (2015 – 2020)
- Child and Youth Participation Strategy; TUSLA (2019 – 2023)

The Lundy Model of Participation





Tipperary CYPSC promotes the **Lundy Model of Participation** because it has been endorsed in the following national and organisational policy documents:

- National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making (2015 – 2020)
- Child and Youth Participation Strategy, TUSLA, (2019 – 2023)

The Lundy model was developed by academic Laura Lundy, Professor of International Children's Rights at the School of Education, Queen's University of Belfast. The model, detailed in a 2007 publication in the British Educational Journal, provides a way of conceptualising a child's right to participation, as laid down in Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Lundy Model, highlights the importance to decision-makers of distinct yet interrelated elements of a child's right to participation.

The four elements have a rational chronological order: space, voice, audience, and influence.

Good Participatory Practice

Tusla's Child and Youth Participation Toolkit, identifies good participatory practice as something that 'incorporates activities which positively promote the participation of children and young people in decisions that affect their lives both on an individual level and also pertaining to broader social issues that affect children and young people (collective level).'



Using the Lundy Model in your practice

The **Lundy Model Checklist**, allows an opportunity for reflection, and to consider the various components of the Lundy model, in your child and youth participation practice.

The Lundy Model Checklist uses the four elements of the Lundy Model, which are space, voice, audience, and influence. Each of the four element carries equal weight and to achieve meaningful participation all elements need to be addressed. Under each element you are asked a series of questions. Your response to these questions will determine if there are aspects of your child and youth participation practice that can be developed, adapted and/or improved.



The Lundy Model Checklist

SPACE

HOW:

Provide a safe and inclusive space for children to express their views.

- Have children's views been actively sought?
- Was there a safe space in which children can express themselves freely?
- Have steps been taken to ensure that all children can take part?

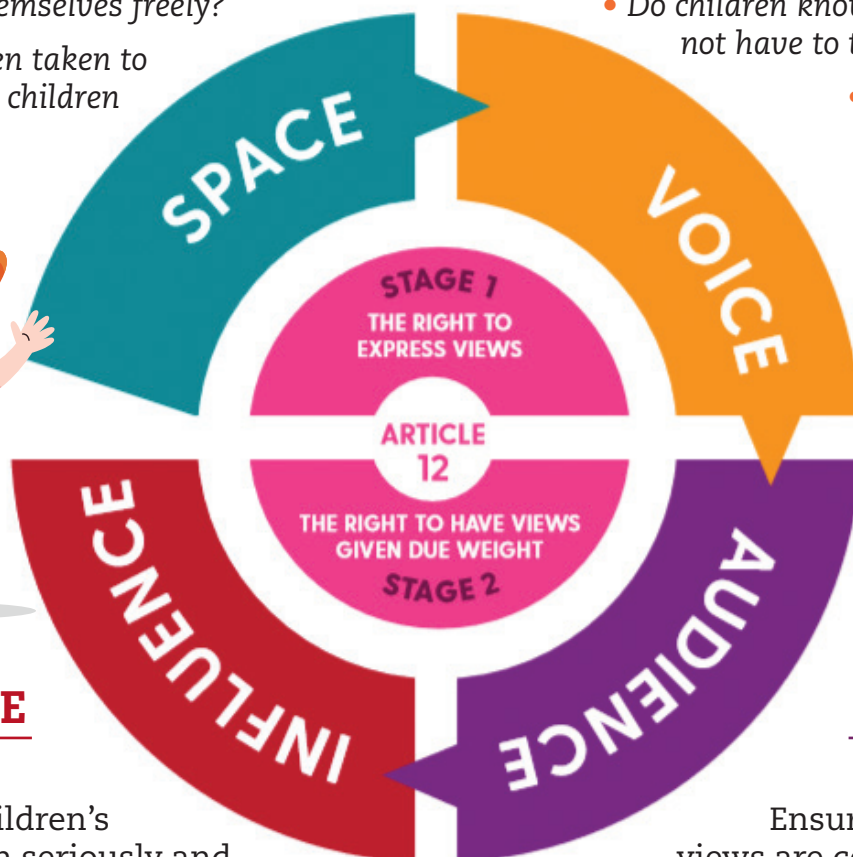


VOICE

HOW:

Provide appropriate information and facilitate the expression of children's views.

- Have children been given the information they need to form a view?
- Do children know that they do not have to take part?
- Have children been given a range of options as to how they might choose to express themselves?



INFLUENCE

HOW:

Ensure that children's views are taken seriously and acted upon, where appropriate.

- Were the children's views considered by those with the power to effect change?
- Are there procedures in place that ensure that the children's views have been taken seriously?
- Have the children and young people been provided with feedback explaining the reasons for decisions taken?

AUDIENCE

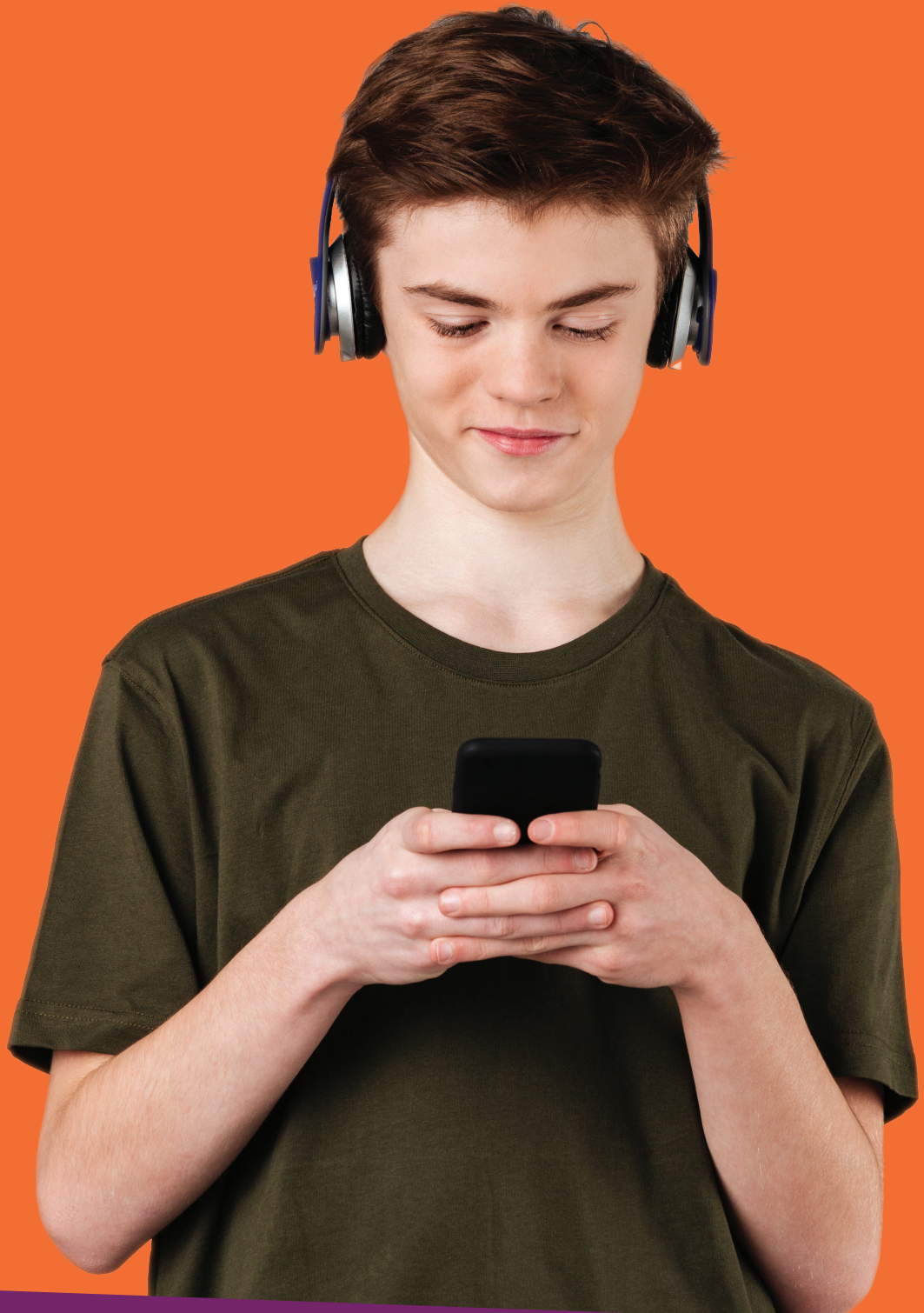
HOW:

Ensure that children's views are communicated to someone with the responsibility to listen.

- Is there a process for communicating children's views?
- Do children know who their views are being communicated to?
- Does that person/body have the power to make decisions?

Acknowledgement: Professor Laura Lundy: from 'Participation Framework: National Framework for Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making' (Hub na nÓg, DCEDIY, 2021)

Next Steps





Once you have read the Lundy Model Checklist, consider how you want to use the checklist. If you are a Board Member/Senior Manager, is the Lundy Model Checklist a tool you wish to use to develop participatory practices in your organisation?

If you are a youth worker/frontline practitioner, is the Lundy Model Checklist a tool you will use to improve your own child and youth participation practice?

Once you have completed the checklist and identified areas that you wish to develop or improve, below are the agencies you can contact for information on training and further support.

1. Hub na nÓg

Name:	Hub na nÓg
Address:	Department of Children and Youth Affairs Block 1, Miesian Plaza, 50-58 Baggot Street, Lower Dublin 2 D02 XW14
Tel:	+353 86 4674816
Email:	hubnanog@dcya.gov.ie
Website:	www.hubnanog.ie
Purpose:	Hub na nÓg is the national centre of excellence and coordination on children and young people's participation in decision-making. It was established in June 2017, to support the implementation of the National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision Making (2015 - 2020).
Work with:	The Hub supports Government Departments, State Agencies and non-government organisations to give children and young people a voice in decision-making on issues that affect their lives, with a particular focus on those that are seldom heard.
Work:	The Hub develops documents and disseminates innovative international practice on children and young people's participation in decision-making, which includes a database of best practice publications and resources.

2. Tusla

Name:	Túsła Participation and Partnership Officer (WEST)
Address:	Ms. Jacqueline Concannon, Participation and Partnership Officer for Prevention, Partnership and Family Support, West Tusla Regional Offices, 2nd Floor, Finance Building, Merlin Park Hospital, Galway
Tel:	087 123 8198
Email:	Jacqueline.concannon@tusla.ie
Name:	Túsła Participation and Partnership Officer (SOUTH)
Address:	Claire Redmond Túsła, Johnstown Business Park, Johnstown, Waterford X91 KW88
Tel:	087 751 5188
Email:	claire.redmond1@tusla.ie
Website:	www.tusla.ie/services/family-community-support/tusla-child-and-youth-participation/
Purpose:	The aim of the TUSLA Child and Youth Participation Office, is to ensure that every time a decision is taken that directly affects a child or young person (or children and young people collectively), their views are taken into consideration in the decision-making process (Child and Youth Participation Strategy 2019 - 2023).
Work with:	Tusla and Tusla Funded Services,
Work:	Share evidence of good participatory practice initiatives, develop Child and Youth Participation training, Promote and support the investing in Children Award.



3. Tipperary Childcare Committee – Supporting Early Childhood Care and Education

Tipperary Childcare Committees offers a wide variety of services for stakeholders involved in early years care and education in the County.

Name:	Tipperary Childcare Committee
Address:	2nd Floor, Civic Offices, Friar St., Cashel, Co. Tipperary
Tel:	062 64200
Email:	info@tccc.ie
Website:	www. tipperarychildcarecommittee.ie
Purpose	Tipperary Childcare Committee Ltd. Mission statement is: “To encourage and co-ordinate the development of child-centred, flexible, accessible childcare in Tipperary that offers a choice of a high quality service for all in a stable, secure environment.”
Work With:	Tipperary Childcare Committee works, with childcare providers who provide childcare and afterschool care to those aged 0-15 years of age.
Work:	The childcare Committee provides information, advice and support to early years care and education providers on a range of areas including national funding schemes, curriculum, operating procedures and continued professional development.



Child and Youth Participation Resources





Sligo/Leitrim CYPSC Children and Young People's Participation Lab

Local participation practice guidelines

www.cypsc.ie/_fileupload/Executive%20Summary/Local%20Participation%20Practice%20Guidelines.pdf

Hub na Nog Library

www.hubnanog.ie/library

Tusla Child and Youth Participation Toolkit

[www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Tusla_-_Toolkit_\(web_version\).pdf](http://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Tusla_-_Toolkit_(web_version).pdf)

References



1. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Children's Rights Alliance, (2010) p.1
www.childrensrights.ie/sites/default/files/information_sheets/files/SummaryUNCRC.pdf
2. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/lundy_model_of_participation.pdf
3. Tusla Child and Youth Participation Toolkit, P. 13
www.tusla.ie/services/family-community-support/tusla-child-and-youth-participation
4. Túsula Child and Youth Participation Strategy 2019 – 2023. P 7
www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/tusla_child_and_youth_participation_strategy-2019-2023_1.pdf
5. 'Participation Framework: National Framework for Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making' (Hub na nÓg, Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Inclusion & Youth, 2021)





Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council



etb
Bord Oideachais agus
Oiliúna Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary Education and
Training Board

