

Child and Family Services
Annual Participation Report 2019



When adults are making decisions that affect children, children have the right to say what they think should happen and have their opinions taken into account

Article 12 - Respect for the views of the child - United Nations Convention on the Rights the Child (UNCRC), 1989.

“We are more interesting than our paperwork” EW,
Swansea Corporate Parenting Challenge 2017

Participation and Corporate Parenting

Corporate Parenting
Timeline

December
2018
Big
Conversation



January 2019
Annual Report
and Objectives



April 2019
Objective
Progress
Update



July 2019
Objective
Progress
Update



October 2019
Joint Corporate
Parenting
Board

Participation Forum
Timeline

December
2018
Big
Conversation



January 2019
Agree Priority
Areas



April 2019
Involvement in
Participation
Activity



July 2019
Involvement in
Participation
Activity



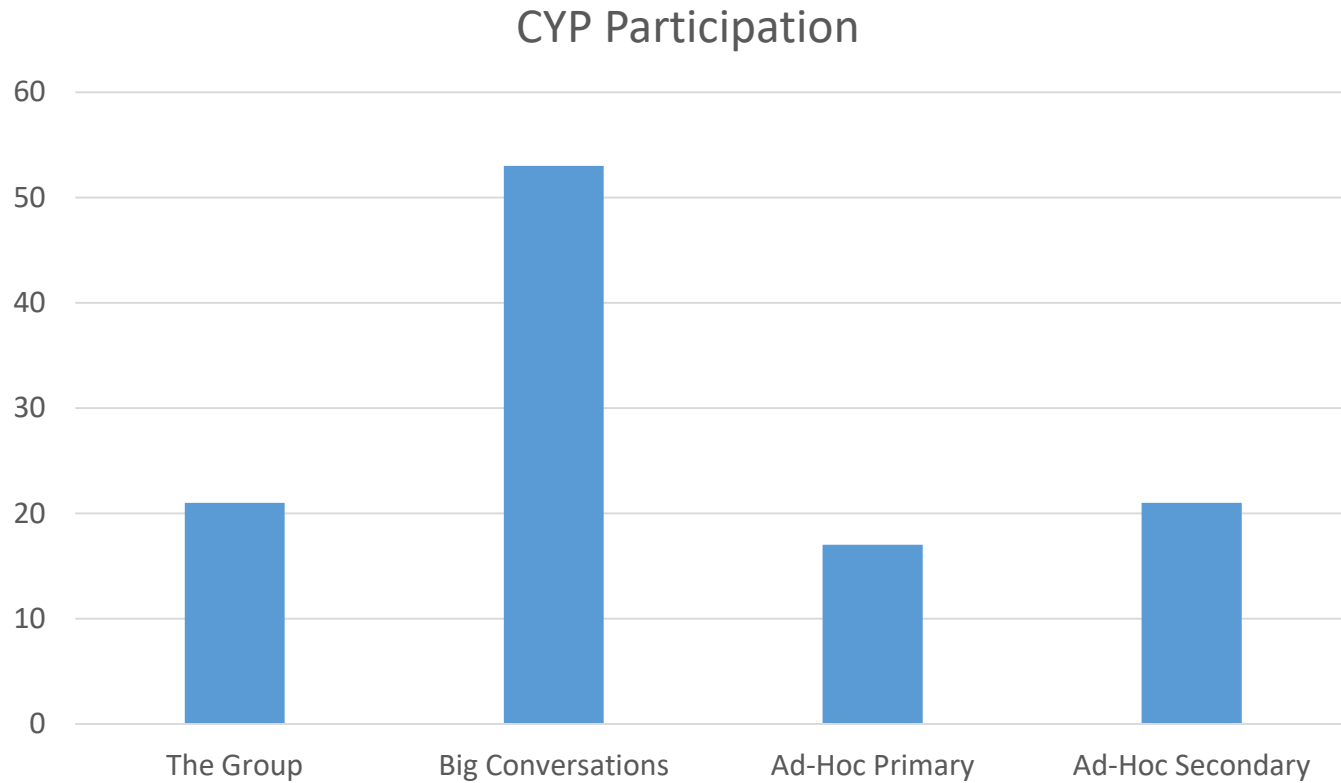
October 2019
Joint Corporate
Parenting
Board

The Participation Work Plan



- Information – Swansea Care’s Pack
- Welsh Government Consultation – Education Attainment
- Bays 16+ Participation
- Delegated Authority
- Book Start Project
- Film Making
- LAC Art and Design Project
- Big Conversations
- Senior staff recruitment

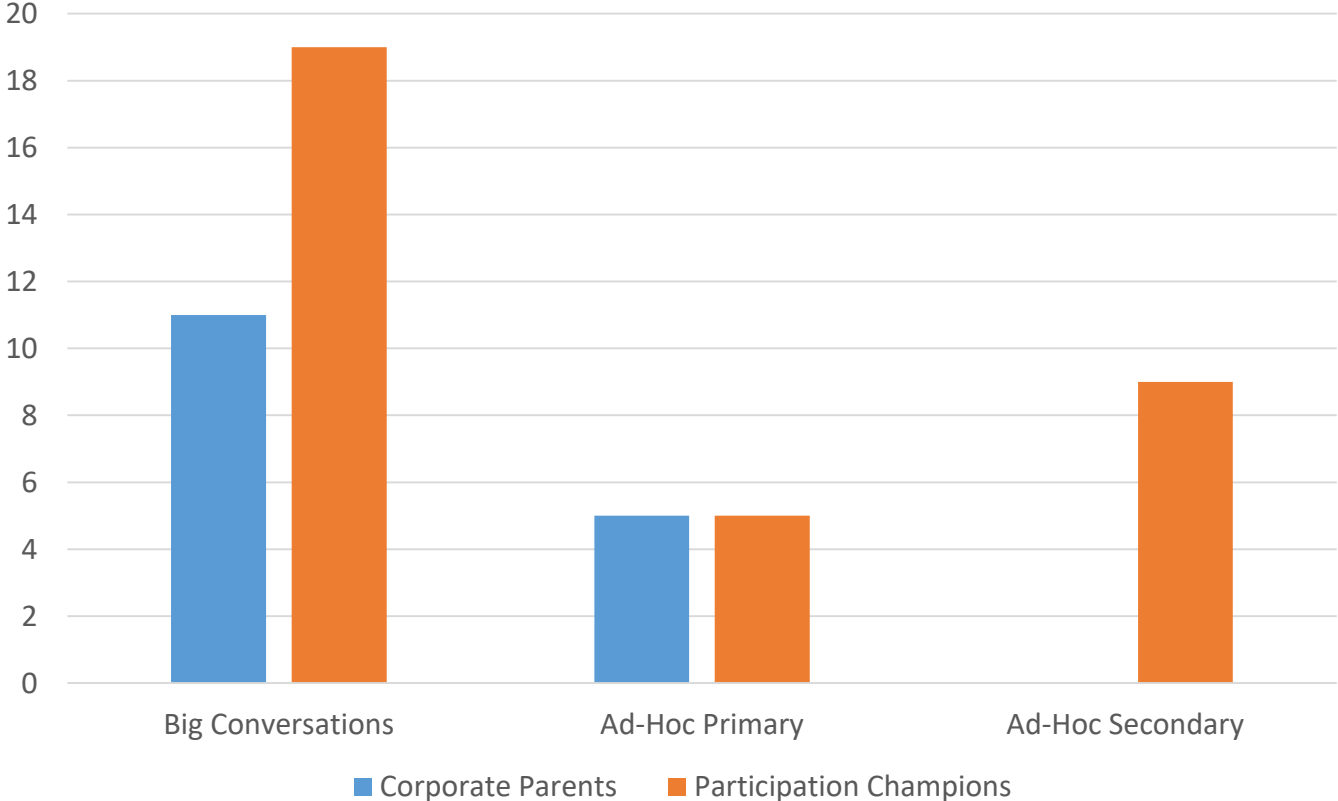
Participation with Children and Young People



- Group work
- 4x Big Conversations
- Book Start Project
- 'Our Identity' Project
- Film Work

Wider Support and Engagement

CP and Champion Support



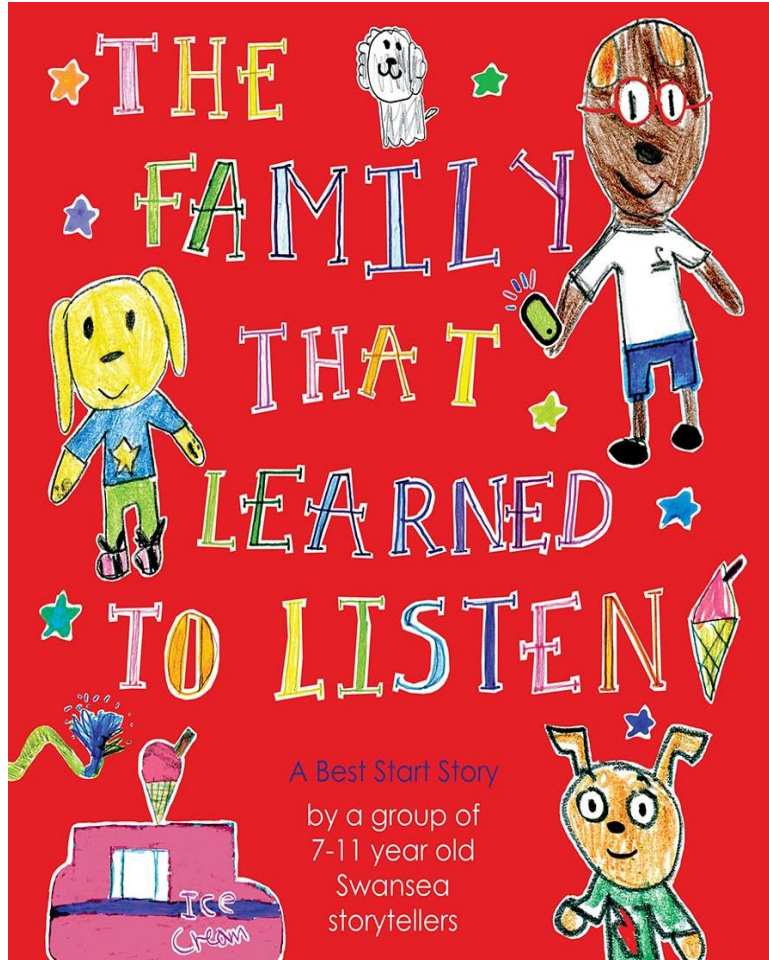
- 4x Big Conversations
- Book Launch
- Film Work

Big 'Your Info' Conversation



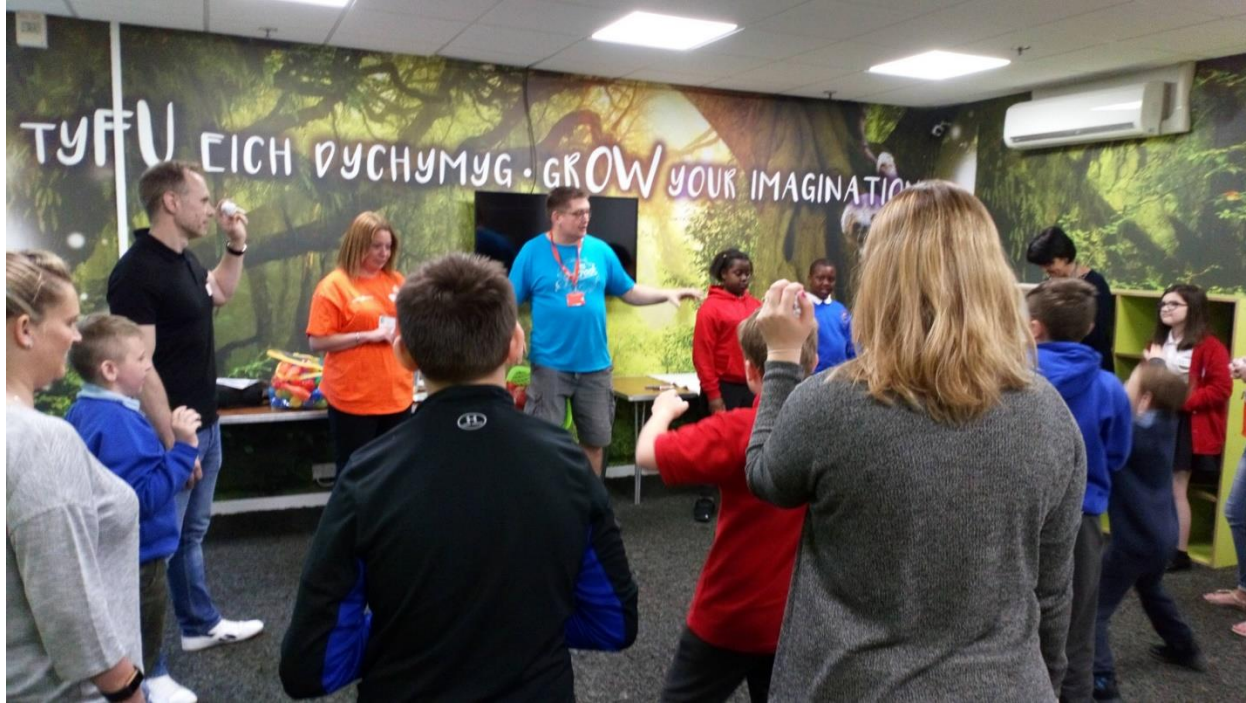
- Provide up to date, honest and accurate information.
- General information about services, the support CYP can expect to receive and their rights.
- Access to appropriate personal information via a secure area (i.e. personal plans and documents).
- Use appropriate language that is understandable.
- Utilise wider engagement tools such as social media and video's

The Best Start Book Project



- 17 Care Experienced children and young people aged between 7 and 11 were involved in producing a children's book.
- The book will focus on the importance of children being listened to and having their voice heard.
- 400 copies of the book have been published initially.
- The book was formally launched with a reading from the children involved. Amongst the audience was a select group of Parents/Carers, Officers, Teachers and Corporate Parents
- It complements the Signs of Safety Framework and is now being used as a direct work tool.

Big 'Your Service' Conversation



- Support to understand different choices and what the implications of those might be.
- Be honest about limitations.
- Provide notice for visits from professionals.
- Build good, honest relationships with children and young people.
- Keep in touch.
- Encourage independence through service provision.

Bays+ 16-25 Offer



- BAYS+ have been working hard to develop their participation offer for young people aged 16+.
- Supper club – providing young people with a chance to meet with staff and shape the design of the vision for the service.
- Service Feedback - The Social Work team have embedded young people's feedback about the service they have received from BAYS+ in to the closure meetings for any young person turning 18.
- Mummy/Daddy and Me Sessions – aimed at developing a new engagement and participation forum for young people with babies.

Big 'Your Paperwork' Conversation



- Ensure the voice of the child or young person is clear through the use of paper work.
- Provide good, clear information that is understood by the young person.
- Use paperwork as an opportunity to bring professionals, young people and families together to make decisions collaboratively.
- Share information sensitively.
- Be flexible with then paperwork as needs, ages and stages change.



Cymuned Gwelliant
Parhaus Cymru Gyfan
All Wales Continuous
Improvement Community



Good News

- 'The Group' our participation task and finish forum were nominated and shortlisted for the 'Working Together for a better Wales' award at this years All Wales Continuous Improvement Awards.
- 'The Group' developed a video to support their entry. The young people involved wanted to ensure that the video could be used to advertise the group to other looked after children and it is envisaged that this video will form part of the new Swansea Cares website.
- The Participation team was nominated for their work with young people to improve and embed participation across Child and Family services.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1so5z3lhOteaJjeF23cE_n9ljqph01K72/view

The 'Our Identity' Project



- Secondary aged children were invited to discuss identity and how that is reflected in the services they receive.
- Work focused around the LAC Statutory Social Care Team.
- The group worked on creating their ideas of what the LAC Team identity could be through the use of art work.
- There are plans to develop this work in the new year which will conclude in a formal exhibit to showcase the work.

Joint Corporate Parenting Board

Forward Look



Forward Look

The information discussed and agreed as part of this session will provide some of the content for our annual Corporate Parenting Board which will be presented to the board towards the end of the year.

Our Big Conversation in December will share this report with 'The Group' and set the focus of 'The Group's' conversations for 2020.

Contact us for more information

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- Video was created by young people to support a workshop at Corporate Parenting Board.
- Young people discussed issues such as Social Work, Schooling, Family, Safety and Corporate Parenting.
- Corporate Parenting Board considered the responses from young people.
- Themes were created to identify action plans and priorities for next year which were built on at the Big Conversation in December.

Big 'You Said, We Did, What Next...' Conversation



- A joint Big Conversation was held between Children and Young People, Participation Champions and Corporate Parents.
- Themes focused around Safety, Schooling, Health, Activity and Friends.
- Young People told us how they liked to make friends, what helped them feel safe, who they felt could support them with particular issues and what they liked about school.
- Their feedback will be used in the annual Corporate Parenting report and will help inform the action plans for next year

- **Strong Relationships - professionals, friends and family**
- **Geographical areas i.e. specific places and locations**
- **Awareness and networks**
- **Boundaries**
- **Support – managing anger, saying no, finding alternative solutions**
- **Respect**



- **Inclusion, happiness, safety and security**
- **Time with friends**
- **Trusted adult**
- **Know the support options**
- **Coping strategies**

- **Bullying**
- **Children's Rights**
- **Relationships with teachers and pastoral leads**
- **Friendships and peer support**
- **More choice – subjects, teachers, uniform**
- **Face to Face support and contact**



FEEDBACK



- **Mutual respect and honest**
- **Inclusion and equal treatment**
- **Kindness**
- **Care**
- **Control in sharing information about the past**

- **Variety of choices to stay fit and healthy**
- **(over?) use of mobile technology and online gaming**
- **Links to emotional wellbeing and mental health**
- **Friends to 'go' with**
- **Performance, drama and the arts**
- **Healthy eating and other habits**



Welsh Government Ministry Advisory Group

Improving Outcomes for Children

Corporate Parenting Task and Finish Group

- Cabinet Paper
- End Youth Homelessness Group
- Voluntary Charter
- Legislation



Next Years Plan

Themes that include

- Safety
- Schooling
- Health
- Friendships
- Leisure and Activity



Actions and Next Steps

- Agree themes with Corporate Parenting Board
- Develop specific actions using feedback from Children and Young People
- Identify next priority areas for Children and Young People
- Create new identity for the LAC Team and launch at a formal art exhibition in February
- Provide Young People with an opportunity to discuss their schooling and how Welsh Government support can be better utilised
- Launch the interactive Swansea Cares website
- Funding for Passports for Children Looked After
- Fully launch the Virtual School
- Work with the Welsh Government Corporate Parenting Task and Finish Group

