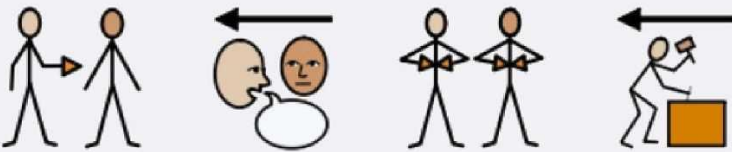




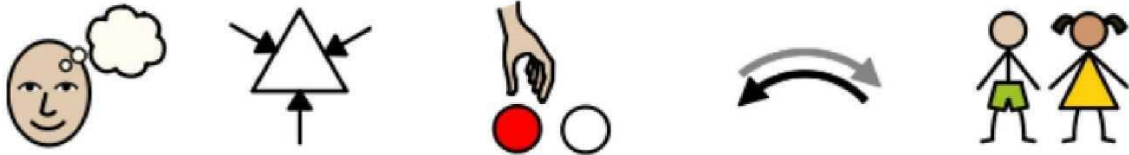
Cyngor **Abertawe**
Swansea Council



Children's Rights and Participation "You Said, We Did" Report 2023



In September 2013, Swansea Council agreed that children's rights should be embedded within the Council policy framework, This means that when Swansea Council make changes or decisions, they must think how those decisions affect the rights of children in Swansea.



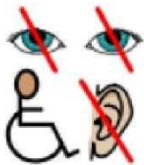
You told us that we should focus on these priorities:



Protecting the Environment



Listening to Quiet Voices



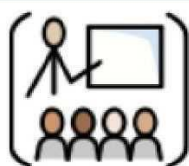
Equality for Disabled CYP



Equality for LGBTQIA+ CYP



Politics



Listening to learners



Young Womens Safety

Protecting the Environment

You Said:

Raise awareness of environmental issues within school and your community and have opportunities to participate in activity that focus on protecting the environment & green spaces.

We Did:



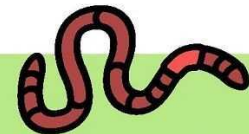
Organised public activity days that raised awareness of the local environment such as bat walks, butterfly surveys, sea shore safaris, and fungi forays.



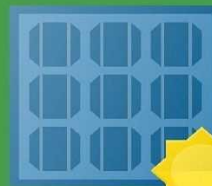
Invited schools to visit local nature reserves and wildlife sites.



Supported initiatives such as Forest School and Swansea Community Farm



Provided volunteering opportunities for Young People in Wild flower and tree planting along with training on how to enhance local green spaces.



Put Solar pannels on lots of schools across Swansea



Swansea Council's Catering Department don't use single-use plastic in primary schools and are working towards less use in secondary schools.



Protecting the Environment



The Nature conservation team run activities that help children and young people learn about their environment.



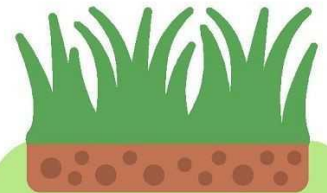
Ran School programs such as Eco Clubs and Trees for Cities.



Worked with keep Wales Tidy and ward members to promote and Support Community Litter Picks.



Schools have been funded, through ERF to join the Energy Sparkes Scheme that will help them monitor their energy use and identify where to save money and carbon



New City buildings and plans include lots of green spaces and living walls.

Developed a carbon reduction strategy to capture a range of workstreams aimed to ensure that school buildings are more environmentally friendly. The School Climate Change Forum shares information, and all schools have access to energy analysis tools and guidance. .



Schools encourage the use of reusable Water Bottles



Quiet Voices

You Said:

Develop systems for listening to children and young people who do not wish to 'speak up' but do want to have their say.

We Did:



Council teams have been spending time in schools, building relationships and providing lots of opportunities for children to have their say on important matters.



Involvement officers visit Youth Clubs regularly to meet the young people that attend, and to find out what's important to them.



Children and Young people have had their say on Human Rights City, Sports and Physical activity, New park developments, and school developments.



Visiting Good Vibes Youth club regularly to support the quiet voices of the LGBTQIA+ community .

Gained feedback from parents/carers, young people and professionals on how to improve the What Matters in Autism conversation to feed into and help shape strategies going forward.



Quiet Voices

Children, young people and providers who are involved in the "When I'm Ready Scheme" share what matters to them regarding life after leaving care.



Early Help Hubs are there to work with young people and encourage them to make their own informed decisions to support life choices.

Swansea Library Service has been working with schools to deliver information, skills and opportunities for young people to talk and express themselves. These are called Empathy Labs.

Empowering the lost voices of young people who have experience of the care system, homelessness or experiencing mental health problems, through The Lost Voices Project.

Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion Team Work with children and families to find solutions with decisions centred around children's needs.



Equality for Disabled Children and Young People

You Said:

Work on making change so that disabled children feel integrated and able to have their voices heard as any other child would.

We Did:

We make sure our events like Worlds Children's day are inclusive and accessible for everyone.



- Staff have been visiting Ysgol Pen y Bryn to support them with embedding Children's Rights and they are supporting us with knowledge and experience of working with children with additional needs.

Currently reviewing support services for children and young people with additional needs and their families and Children's voice is at the centre of this review.

Young people with additional needs designed their own summer program. Opportunities included Surfing, Rock Climbing and more adventurous activity.

Work continues with Swansea Council, Parent Carers, and local businesses to establish improved accessible leisure and social opportunities for children and young people with additional needs.



Equality for Disabled Children and Young People

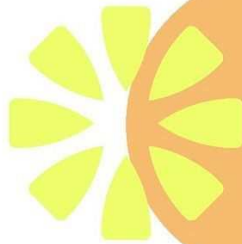


There has been lots of investment in the development of play areas in parks and open spaces. The aim is that all play areas in Swansea will meet this minimum standard to ensure accessibility and integration.



The museum and cultural venues in Swansea regularly undertake access audits and feedback from children and young people is included.

The Partnership and involvement team use Easy Read and Widget symbols in information that goes to Children and Young People.



Organised "What Matters in Autism" conversations through meetings, events and forms - This work will feed into and help shape strategic policy within the Local Authority

The Education Directorate is currently redeveloping its statutory Accessibility Strategy which sets out plans and priorities to improve access to schools for disabled learners.



Equality for LGBTQIA+ Children and Young People

You Said:

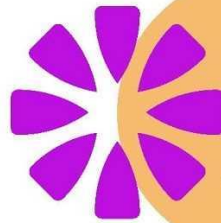
Develop resources that address discrimination and promote diversity and equality for children and young people who identify as LGBTQ+

We Did:



Worked with Young people from the Junior Safeguarding Board who highlighted 'Equality & Discrimination' as an issue and decided to focus on raising awareness and championing LGBTQIA+ rights.

Young People delivered LGBTQIA+ training to decision makers from Swansea and Neath Port Talbot. Training has also been delivered to Participants who work with Children and Young People and offered to all secondary schools.



Developed an LGBTQIA+ resource pack called "Equali-tea" for schools. This included a Quiz, Topic discussion cards, and scribble pads.



Swansea Business Improvement district have offered training to businesses in Swansea around LGBTQIA+ awareness.

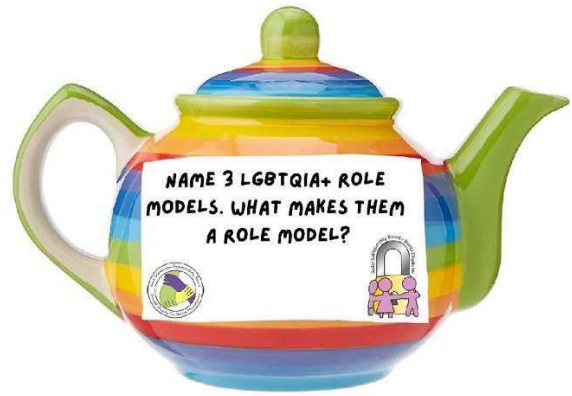
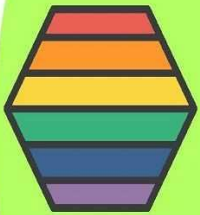


Equality for LGBTQIA+ Children and Young People

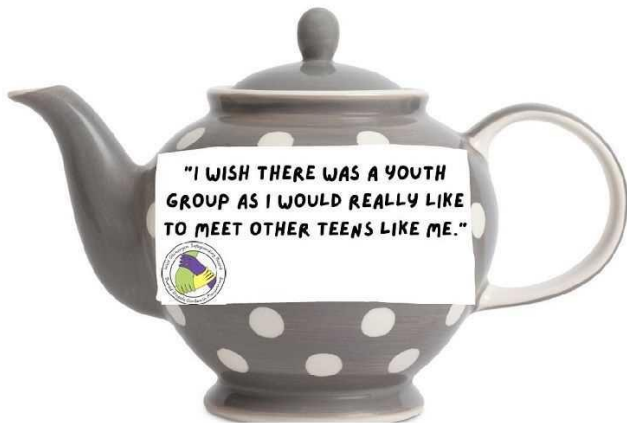


Organised a trip with Good Vibes Youth Club to attend a Queer History tour as requested by the Young People.

A family LGBTQIA+ Summer program was run that included art and crafts activities that looked at themes such as: Safe Spaces, What makes us unique, and Our communities.



Swansea supports equality for LGBTQ+ Children & Young People through the Youth Support Grant. The Projects hosted by Swansea YMCA allows the provision of LGBTQ+ support across Swansea through Schools, colleges and Good Vibes Youth Club.



Politics

You Said:

Develop resources for children and young people to understand what politics is, who local politicians are and how to organise change

We Did:



Swansea Democratic Services and the Partnership & Involvement Team worked together to ensure young people aged 14+ years were aware that laws had changed in Wales enabling young people aged 16+ years to vote in Welsh elections.

A Swansea "Votes @ 16" film was produced bilingually by 30 pupils that showed the voting process from registration to voting.

Swansea MAD were recruited to run sessions to ensure young people had the tools to enable them to a) register to vote and b) understand how to access information about politics and how to participate in the voting process.

19 Young Ambassadors recruited from 10 Secondary Schools as "Votes at 16 Ambassadors" they worked to promote and encourage their peers to register to vote.

Swansea Council are working with Swansea MAD as part of a "Democracy Grant" from Welsh Government to deliver informal sessions on how to register, how to vote, and obtaining a voter ID card.



Listening to Learners

You Said:

Strengthen collective pupil voice across the County, building on good practice currently taking place in individual schools.

We Did:

Hearing the voices of children and young people is detailed as a step to meet the Education & Skills well-being objective in the Corporate Plan 2022/23

Education are asking young peoples views on the proposal to merge Crug Glas and Pen y Bryn. Pupils can feedback in the best way for them.

Pupils in year 10 and 11 and those aged 16+ took part in a learner voice engagement to share their views on the provision available at post 16.

The Local Authority safeguarding audit includes a section on learner voice. Officers meet with children as they complete the audit, which tells us that learners feel safe and have the opportunity express their views clearly.

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Secondary School Network Group which is Led by Bishopston Comprehensive School for pupil voice. The Network meets twice a year with representatives from every secondary school. This network aims to share best practice, pass on key information and discuss pupil voice.

Children are invited to join their school councils, to represent their peers over a number of topics such as Criw Cymraeg or Eco Council and have their say on decisions made in school.



Young Womens Safety

You Said:

The issue of Violence Against Women, Sexual Violence and Domestic Abuse is increasing among younger communities and we would like opportunities to discuss the issues in a safely facilitated, controlled environment with a view to creating lasting change.

We Did:

Regular info/advice points have been taking place in student accommodation blocks with South Wales Police and the council's Community Safety Coordinator.

- Young Women met with the Police and Crime commissioner and the Children's Commissioner for Wales, to urge them to prioritise "Young Women's Safety" and more broadly "Safe Spaces" in their work.

The theme set by the young people for the Junior Safeguarding Board for 2023 is Sexual Harassment. Young people have been working on projects that look at reducing gender-based violence, sexual harassment in schools, and safe spaces.



Safe Place scheme currently running in Gorseinon and Gowerton with plans to expand to cover all of Swansea early in the New Year.

Work has been done with the Universities about improved lighting in the area. For example between Singelton Park and the University campus.



Young Womens Safety

Throughout the Uplands and Brynmill areas new personal safety reporting signs have been put up.



An event was held at Gorseinon college with the Police, Domestic abuse unit officers and Domestic Violence specialists promoting White Ribbon Day and offering a safe space and information for young people.

Teams in Child and family Services are providing training to business in areas to raise awareness of child exploitation.



Continue to promote 'Safe words' for shops/restaurants which allow people to report any concerning behaviour in a confidential way such as the 'Ask For Angela' scheme

Posters have been placed on buses on all Swansea routes encouraging passengers to report any criminal or suspicious activities.

A joint project with Community Safety facilitated a series of workshops with young people to address and explore concerns that young people had raised in relation to Hate Crime, Discrimination and the Safety of Women and Girls.

Two Evening and Night Time Economy engagement sessions have been held to highlight female safety issues at night.



Young Womens Safety

Every year on White Ribbon Day (November 20th) young people are invited to various events to raise awareness. November '21 focused on "All men can" 15 young boys came together to discuss what they could do to reduce gender-based violence.

White Ribbon Day 2022 saw 14 young people from Swansea come together to make a plan and a pledge on what we can do. After a number of workshops young people created a TikTok video displaying silhouette images of themselves with messages around young women's safety.

Funding was received to work with younger teenage boys aged 13-14 to highlight and explore some of the avenues of masculinity (positive and toxic) that young people are exposed to. The 10 young men who participated in the project showcased their learning and displayed the work at an exhibition for White Ribbon Day 2023.



A "Celebrating Similarities and Understanding Differences" (Countering Right Wing Extremism and Hate Crime) was held where 27 young people from across Swansea attended.



If you would like to discuss this feedback further please contact the Partnership and Involvement team on:

UNCRC@swansea.gov.uk

or alternatively call:

07442 839439

