

# GATESHEAD SEND PARTICIPATION STRATEGY 2023-2026



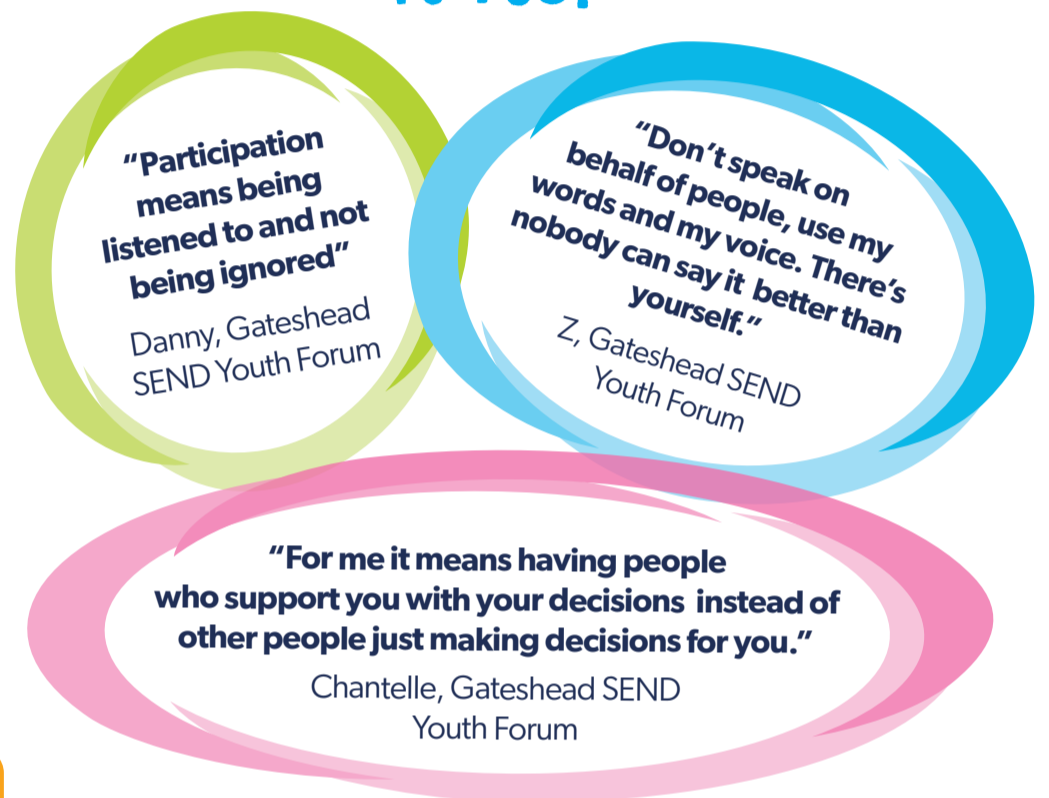
**We want you** - the children, young people and families of Gateshead - to have the opportunity to express your views, feel heard and be actively involved in decisions that affect you. We want your views about anything the council are involved in and the council services you use.

This strategy is our plan for how we will achieve this. Within our plan we will help you to understand how you can get involved to help make Gateshead a better place for you, your friends and family to live and thrive.

## WHAT IS PARTICIPATION?



## WHAT DOES PARTICIPATION MEAN TO YOU?



## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BEING INVOLVED?



## GETTING INVOLVED MEANS...

- ✓ WE LEARN WHAT YOU THINK AND WHAT YOU NEED.
- ✓ WE GET TO HEAR NEW IDEAS FROM YOUR POINT OF VIEW.
- ✓ WE CAN USE YOUR VIEWS TO HELP US IMPROVE OUR SERVICES.

## YOUR RIGHTS...

You have the right to be involved and have your say in any decisions that will have an impact on your life. This is confirmed by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

The agreement contains 54 principles called 'articles', of which the following are most important in relation to participation:

### ARTICLE 2

All children have these rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what language they speak, what their religion is, whether they are a boy or girl, whether they have a disability, or whether they are rich or poor.

### ARTICLE 12

You have the right to give your opinion, and for adults to listen and take it seriously.



### ARTICLE 13

You have the right to find out things and share what you think with others unless it harms or offends other people.

### ARTICLE 23

You have the right to special education and care if you have a disability, as well as all the rights in this convention, so that you can live a full life.

## DID YOU KNOW?



- Gateshead has a population of **196,100** people
- **27%** of the population is **under 25**. That's **52,900** people
- In 2020/21 **26.3%** of Gateshead's children lived in absolute low income families – **9,183** children. This is an increase of 11.6% since 2015/16.
- In January 2022, **4859** Gateshead pupils were reported by schools to have a special educational need or disability - that's **15.9%** of the school population. Of these, **25.5%** had an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan and **74.5%** were categorised as 'SEN Support'.

# OUR PLEDGE:

To help give you every opportunity to get involved we will make sure that participation is...



## TO ACHIEVE 'OUR PLEDGE' WE WILL:

### INCLUSIVE

- Welcome views from all
- Promote equal opportunities through a variety of communication techniques
- Provide opportunities to engage in a way that is meaningful to you

### RESPECTFUL

- Listen to you and take your views seriously
- Treat your views with care and respect
- Ask you your opinion and not edit or change your words

### ENJOYABLE

- Help you to get involved and work hard to ensure you have a positive experience
- Use a variety of interesting ways to involve and listen to you

### REWARDING

- Celebrate your achievements
- Make sure that our activities help to build your confidence and skills

### MEANINGFUL

- Listen to you and tell you what we have done with your feedback
- Be honest about what is possible and what is not
- Look for opportunities to work with you to design and deliver services

## HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

There are a number of ways you can make your voice heard in Gateshead...

- Gateshead SEND Youth Forum
- Gateshead Youth Assembly
- Gateshead Parent Carer Forum
- One voice Youth Network
- Gateshead Young Inspectors



To find out more visit [www.gateshead-localoffer.org/](http://www.gateshead-localoffer.org/) or scan the QR code

If you want to get involved or would like any more information, we would love to hear from you...

Email: [senteam@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:senteam@gateshead.gov.uk) Phone: 0191 433 3626



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