



Use of the participation framework

The Violence Against Women Strategy Group wish to develop their policies and activities using the voices of children and young people affected by gender based violence, to embed consultation within the day to day practices of service providers and to make the consideration of intelligence from service users a standing item in all governance structures.

A proper evaluation of the benefit of the service to the children and young people can only come about through ongoing review of service users experiences. The objective of the service is to improve the outcomes for children and young people and therefore they must be seen first and foremost as individual young people.

The consultation with young people requires to access their experience across four key areas, children who experienced domestic abuse, children who have themselves suffered gender based violence, children of parents who are sex workers, and because of the invisibility of certain groups, there is a need to include a general population of children who may have first or second hand experience of gender based violence.

Where	All areas of service must be used for review.
Why	Service user voice is fundamental to the effective development of services.
Who	<p>All children and young people receiving a service who wish to contribute a view. This will include all children who access any service for any form of gender based violence and also include a general population of young people who may or may not be affected by gender based violence.</p> <p>Accessing the views and experiences of children under five years will require particular care to be effective and beneficial to those children.</p> <p>Children's support workers in the VAW services, who the young people know and trust, will be key to gathering this information.</p>
When	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Young people should be encouraged to note "things that are working well/ not working so well for me" in a simple and confidential way. Equally this information may be heard by the workers in their day to day engagement with young people. These should form part of the routine information gathering system of the VAW working groups and should be considered at regular policy and practice review meetings. 2. Exit interviews from any part of the service should be undertaken. 3. Routine consultation with children and young people, using the SG wellbeing indicators, on a frequency and demographic distribution agreed by the VAW Strategy Groups as part of the SLA process with service providers. 4. All review of policy and practice should involve consultation with service users including children and young people. 5. Reviews with previous service users; the reflection of young people who have used the service can be a valuable tool in measuring service change and impact <p>In each case the timescale for the consultation requires to be realistically set so that it can be properly considered in the review structure.</p>
What	The resources required to sustain the participation of children and young people will depend on the model adopted.
How	The consultation tools available to be used to engage with children and young people are detailed in the Forum's report and are accessible via www.highlandchildrensforum.org]