

B&NES Children and Young People's Network

Mission Statement

The Children and Young People's Network aims to raise the voice and profile of the local voluntary and community sector (VCS) and empower voluntary and community groups to use their collective influence for the benefit of the children, young people and families they serve.

The network aims include:

- Advocating that council strategic processes and procedures that are inclusive of the VCS.
- Raising the profile of VCS organisations and the services they provide
- Promoting human rights and justice for all children and young people in B&NES
- Promoting equality and diversity at the heart of any activity
- Promoting inclusion and equal access to services
- Working collaboratively where possible and
- Challenging effectively when these aims are not met

The network is open to all groups based or operating in B&NES regardless of size. We aim to support the sharing of knowledge, information and skills so that the sector can develop its' capabilities and peers can support each other. As the needs of children and young people are at the centre of our work, we are also committed to true participation at all levels.

We aspire to be:

- open, transparent and non-judgemental
- respectful of all colleagues and communities
- grass-roots and communities based and
- guided by the voices of children and young people

Keeping children and young people safe is woven through all our meetings and we actively promote the development of robust child protection policies and procedures in our members. We believe that early intervention is more effective than crisis response.

The network would also like promote an increase opportunities for children and young people living in disadvantaged communities or belonging to groups and identities protected by the law (*BME/'race', disability, LGBT, gender re-assignment, gender, religion and belief*), so that everyone can fulfil their potential.