

Child Rights in Early Childhood – The Voice of the Child



30.09.19

A Round Table discussion to explore ways in which listening to young children's voices can ensure their rights are respected and valued. This event was convened by the Best Start partnership in conjunction with Jersey's Children's Commissioner.

Purpose: To bring together those with skills, knowledge and interest in babies and young children to share information, experience, practices and perspectives in promoting the voice of the child.

Attendees: Those around the table

Deborah McMillan – Children's Commissioner

Andrea Le Saint – Participation Officer, Children's Commissioner

Cathy Hamer – Chair, Best Start/NCB Associate (Facilitator)

Alice Bennion – Parent Carer Forum, Jersey Childcare Care Trust

Bronwen Whittaker – CEO Family Nurse and Home care

Helen Jackson – Head of Service, Children's Services

Joanna Driver – MASH Lead Nurse

Jane Bravery – Early Years Area Senco

Lisa Mansell – Jersey Youth Service

Louise Doublet – States Member, St Saviour Deputy

Nicola Mulliner – Head of Early Years, Children, Young People, Education & Skills Dept.

Sarah Stoten - Policy Principal, Strategic Policy, Performance & Population

Tanya Brint – Jersey Early Years Association

Annie Leslie - Administrator, Children, Young People, Education & Skills Dept.

Apologies:

Adam Turner - Head teacher St Luke's

Michelle Vaughan – Principal Educational Psychologist and Head of Service for Mental Health and Well-Being



Children's Commissioner for Jersey
Promoting and Protecting Children's Rights



**Best Start
Partnership**

<p style="text-align: center;">Agenda Item</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Notes (Key highlights from discussion + information)</p>
<p>Welcome, introductions & apologies</p>	<p>Who's around the table? Name, role, pocket treasure</p>
<p>Session 1: Setting the scene</p>	<p>Briefing A: Children's rights as first principles. Promoting democracy.</p> <p>In 20.11.89 the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) was born Illustrated with a game – 42 children rights matching an object to a child's right</p> <p>Discussion: Legislation in Jersey is antiquated and discriminatory in relation to children: Housing law and residency rules forcing children whose parents do not have 5 year residency to live in often inadequate accommodation Right to Health – GP visits not free for teens The Children's Commissioner's team have yet to develop skills and resources to hear children from Portuguese and other ethnic backgrounds, children with disabilities and very young children.</p>
<p>Session 2: What do we know? Approaches, tools, methods</p>	<p>Briefing B: Fostering democratic values and eliciting the voices of babies and young children</p> <p>Discussion: JB - brought resources to assist practitioners and parents to tune in to their young children. Materials and training programmes for the 0-2s have started to run using practitioners from different backgrounds "Facilitating best practice for 0-2 in the prime areas (communication and language, physical development and personal, social and emotional development)"</p> <p>Resource from Oxfordshire "Are you Listening to me?" An interesting and useful tool for practitioners to reflect on their practice. Focuses on environment, tuning in to young children and routines in nurseries: e.g. are they enabling/restricting?</p> <p>AB – working with SEN you are used to tune in a lot more as children are not communicating in the traditional way.</p> <p>SS – Asking children's opinion always seem secondary focused from a political point of view.</p> <p>ALS – People in third sector looking at best practices with children inspired by the 7 principles for UNICEF and WALES. Looking at development of a participation strategy in Jersey and to assist Youth Service, developing an Advisory group.</p> <p>LM – Jersey Youth Service is overwhelmed with the demand to provide children or young people for every consultation. It usually comes at short notice with no</p>

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	<p>preparation and no time for young people to think about the issues properly or discuss with the youth workers in detail. They also are not involved in the formulation of questions.</p> <p>Small group of children are already working and leading work with the Children’s Commissioner.</p> <p>We need to call on the Government on how and when to involve children in the process. This cannot be done in a rush and in one go.</p> <p>LD – Asked what can she do as a States Member and how can she help? Children’s Commissioner is writing legislation for incorporation to be presented in January and continue to lobby the government so that children’s rights are promoted and respected. LD can help by supporting, and campaigning, for this.</p> <p>There is a keenness and a willingness from the Government to make this a priority at the moment so let’s use the opportunity.</p> <p>Feedback and communicating the feedback in a clear way to children is the most important.</p> <p>CH – Suggested we need to move away from consultation to participation on a journey towards co-production.</p>
Session 3: Drawing threads together – gaps and opportunities	<p>Briefing C: Benefits and Barriers</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <p>NM – EYFS developmental areas of learning link with Healthy Child programme Statutory requirements and Quality Framework for registered settings have been revised and are in the final stage of editing, soon to be shared. Safeguarding and evaluation are paramount. Focus on well-being and involvement: relationships, interactions and engagement</p> <p>What is interesting is to look at how areas of learning support children’s rights.</p> <p>BW – Healthy child programme 0-4 health visiting, consistent and universal 5-18 school nursing, big role around training parents, a lot do not understand what is required in terms of communication. There is interactive guidance available such as videos about the way to interact with your baby/young child. Small and simple changes differences can make a big difference.</p> <p>CH - Babies don’t come with a manual.</p> <p>In the Autumn/New Year an E learning package will be launched around Human Rights Education. Another pack will be launched to all civil servants with accreditation.</p>

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	Best Start partnership Think Tank can help delivering key messages to parents
Session 4: Recommendations for actionable outcomes	<p>NEXT STEPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drop Ins with school nursing at schools (BW) • Virtual School nursing service via tech (BW) • Link EYFS to UNCRC Articles • Policy development via agreed participation strategy • Training on participation for Government alongside Children’s rights • Empower parents, carers, practitioners to listen to children and, where appropriate, be the Child’s Voice ensuring feedback to children • Rights respecting School Award – this could be rolled out to EY settings • Have a participation group to advise, develop, and lobby for the Child’s Voice in the early years as part of the Best Start partnership. Link to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Third sector participation group -Youth service -Boards e.g. Children’s Strategic Partnership Board • Develop a clear visual of the principles to show the golden thread (NM) <p>“See all contact with a child as an opportunity to hear their voice”</p>
Session 5: Main takeaway from today	<p>This year sees the ten year anniversary of the Line in the Sand demonstration. To celebrate this anniversary Jersey Festival of Words have teamed up with Nexus Technology Jersey and Highlands College to create a special website called www.linesonthesand.je</p> <p>This website will feature environmentally-themed work and creative output from local children based around the importance of protecting the island’s coast.</p>