

# LOCAL YOUTH XPERTS

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CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM



CHANGE  
FACTORY

WHERE CHILDREN LEAD THE WAY



# INFORMATION FOR ALL THE TOOLS

## **Who can benefit from the tools**

- decision-makers in the municipal council, the executive committee, the heads of childhood and youth services board, or other main committees
- service managers, headteachers, project leaders, or advisors in the municipal administration

## **Those who are invited must receive understandable, engaging information about**

- what the theme is and what the answers will be used for
- who is wondering about this and why these questions are being asked
- how the answers will be used

## **The responsibility of decision-makers when collecting answers from children and young people**

- ensure that the participants receive a greeting or a video as thanks for taking part
- ensure that the participants know how they can get in touch if they have more to contribute or are wondering about something
- ensure that the participants are told how the answers they have contributed have been used as the basis for the decision and what weight it has been given. This can be done through a text, an audio file, or a video
- publish on the municipality's website or social media how the answers have been used as the basis for the decision and what weight it has been given

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# DECISION-MAKERS MEET CHILDREN IN THE CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM

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## **Purpose of the tool**

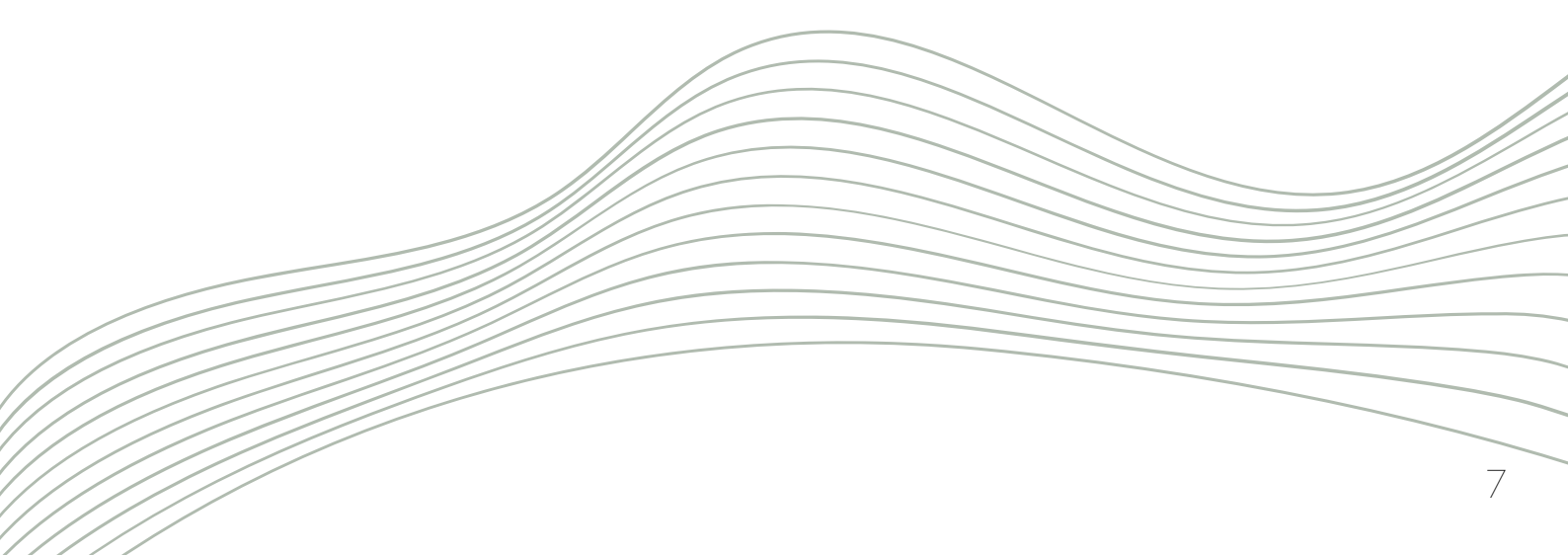
Decision-makers learn directly from children/young people in the Child Protection System by meeting them in sessions. This is preferably done together with a young leisure worker. Alternatively, a group of employees in the municipality/the Child Protection System who have responsibility for feedback collect these viewpoints. The aim is that they receive viewpoints from a group of the children/young people the municipality is obliged to listen to in order to make correct decisions about the Child Protection System.

## **What the tool can be used for**

- Decision-makers can collect viewpoints from children/young people on concrete questions, possibly with deeper exploration, as part of preparing cases for political or administrative decisions
- A group of employees in the municipality/the Child Protection System can collect experiences and advice to evaluate how the Child Protection System works, or as a basis for new initiatives
- The answers ensure that the municipality gains new, local knowledge about the Child Protection System from the perspective of children, as a basis for decisions

## **Which children and young people can take part**

6-18 years old



# USER GUIDE

## **A person who easily gains trust from different children invites**

- The person who is going to invite makes a short video where they explain thoroughly why the children are invited to give advice, who will be present, what the children will be asked about, and what the children's answers will be used for
- The invitation is sent directly to the child as a message, not via the safeguarding person (children/young people in the Child Protection System have different levels of trust in them)

## **Sessions divided by age**

- Different sessions are conducted with children of different ages. A suggested division can be 6-10-year-olds, 10-12-year-olds, 13-15-year-olds, and 16-18-year-olds together
- Separate sessions can also be held with children who have not been moved, children in foster homes, or in residential childcare institutions
- The sessions are divided by age to make it as safe as possible for those who take part

## **Making it safe at the start of the session**

- At the start, the information about why the children are invited, the theme of the session, and what the children's answers will be used for is repeated
- Time is spent on getting to know one another; the adult who leads the session also shares a little about themselves, to make it safe
- Pizza is ordered, or buns/biscuits and juice are bought for the session

## **The children share experiences and give advice**

- The main focus in the session is to hear which viewpoints and advice they have for the Child Protection System
- The session can be conducted using tools such as the children making posters, writing on post-it notes, or working a bit in pairs before explaining to the others

## The questions that are asked

- The questions must be concrete and easy to understand; it is also important that the questions feel important for the children to answer
- Avoid too many “yes/no” questions in order to get in-depth explanations from the children

## Decision-makers' responsibility when collecting answers

- Send a thank-you greeting or thank-you video to those who have taken part
- Send information about how the children can get in touch if they have more advice they want to share
- Send later information, through a text, an audio file or a video, about how the children's answers have been included in the decision

