

Appendix 15 - Principles of C4Y

C4Y aims to improve the quality of life of children and young people in Brighton and Hove by:

- **ENCOURAGING** a co-ordinated approach to children and young people's participation and consultation in Brighton and Hove
- Actively **PROMOTING** children and young people's participation in their communities, neighbourhoods and across the city.
- **INFORMING** them about their rights and the strategies and decisions that affect them
- **CHAMPIONING** their views, issues and rights to decision-makers and service providers.

(For full document including values and commitments see **Appendix 17** Declaration of Purpose).

C4Y has worked hard to actively involve children and young people in a range of exciting projects, consultations, creative activities, groups and conferences including, a young people's 'Etc' diary, young volunteers group, young people's monthly Argus page, Voice4Youth forums in Woodingdean and West Hove, and an extensive range of work in primary and secondary schools, linked to the involvement of children and young people in the Children's Fund and the UK Youth Parliament. The team has developed a range of skills, expertise and resources which they contribute to both local and national practice and debate about democracy and children and young people's involvement.

C4Y advocates a **bottom-up** approach to children and young people's involvement where they are supported to set their own agenda for change. C4Y believes that in order for young people to be heard and listened to and for their views to make a difference, the organisations and individuals they work with have to make a **commitment to action**. All C4Y's work relies on the active involvement of **children and young people, front line professionals and decision-makers**.

C4Y works in partnership with others who have already developed relationships of trust with young people and who want to increase children and young people's participation in their own organisation, or who want to consult with their users. Consequently, C4Y has worked with a range of issue based groups, communities of interest groups, neighbourhood based groups and workers in particular services from the statutory and voluntary and community sectors, who have contact with children and young people.

Through this work C4Y has developed good practice around involving children and young people in decision-making which it has promoted both in Brighton &

Hove and nationally. C4Y wants to build on the knowledge that already exists within organisations about children and young people's concerns and issues and does not want to duplicate work that has already been done or contribute to consultation fatigue which can lead to cynicism and real disappointment.

Over the next year C4Y will be working with Brighton & Hove City Council to agree a more sustained funding strategy. In order to move towards achieving the vision of developing a City wide model for the active involvement of children and young people which can properly influence decision-making and retain credibility with young people and those that work with them.