

## Service Development Team develops new Participation Strategy

It's no secret that young people's participation sits at the top of the council's agenda – after all “Increasing Young People's participation and engagement “ is one of the 10 priority objectives set out in the forthcoming Children and Young People's Plan.

**But the Early Intervention and Safeguarding Department is leading the way after the successful launch of the “Participation Strategy” at The Customs House on 27<sup>th</sup> October.**

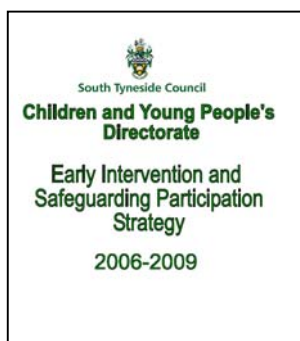


Louise Gray launching the strategy

The Service Development Team and a group consisting of Looked After young people launched the strategy at the event attended by workers from the Early Intervention and Safeguarding Department (previously Children's Social Services).

The message that “professionals need to listen to the views of the young people that they are working with” was loud and clear.

Amanda Bradley, Head of the department spoke about the strategy saying, “ The production of this Participation Policy is an exciting challenge to us all. It embodies the standards for our practice and guides our approach to respecting all children and young people in the work that we do.



Participation is a brave step – brave because it is a sharing of the power that we hold as adults and professionals. Inevitably participation will require us to relinquish some of this control and create a more balanced approach where children and young people are encouraged constantly to communicate their views and wishes. It is my responsibility to ensure that those views can be heard and that an appropriate response is given.

The policy will guide us to provide effective ways to draw on the views of children and young people within our daily working environment and ensure that we create and deliver services, which are truly child focused.”

[To view the strategy use this link.](#)