

# Accessible local authority budget process

This scenario was developed to help consideration of what a children's human rights approach might look like in practice.

A local authority is looking to make the annual budget process more accessible to children and young people after their budget Child Rights Impact Assessment showed it was not gathering the views of children and young people. The leadership team wanted to ensure that children and young people's views were considered, particularly those whose rights are at risk.

The leadership team assigned local authority workers to:

- design clear outcomes for the process; that children and young people designed the consultation exercise, that the inputs from children and young people would be a material consideration when they set their budget, and that children and young people would be given clear feedback on the outcomes of their participation.
- work with the local Youth Council to design a set of consultation exercises and a survey that would reach large numbers of children and young people.
- run a public survey for three months, promoted through schools and community centres.
- share an activity pack with schools and youth clubs designed to involve children and young people of different ages and capacities in the consultation exercise.
- share the survey and activity pack with third sector partners whose work focused on children and young people whose rights are at risk.
- gather feedback on the survey and activities from children and young people, to improve the design for future years.
- gather all the data together, giving particularly weight to the inputs from children and young people whose rights were at risk.
- use the data to help decide how they were allocating their budget across different services, giving particular consideration to ensuring children and young people who were furthest from their rights were allocated spending.
- include the data, both qualitative and quantitative, in budget reporting.
- give feedback in a variety of formats to children and young people who participated in the consultation.
- monitor the impact of their budget spending to ensure that the outcomes desired by children and young people were being realised.



This resource was developed as part of the UNCRC Framework Scotland project funded by Scottish Government.

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## Reflection Questions

How are the rights of children and young people considered in your budgeting process? Is your budget process participatory? Is your budget and spending information available in a format understandable to children and young people? Are you monitoring the impact of your budget spending to ensure it is producing the desired outcomes?

## Skills and knowledge used

### Embedding

I want to ensure that information is collected and monitored to ensure children's rights are properly respected, including information about groups of children and young people who might experience their rights differently.

I want to understand how child rights budgeting can support children's rights, particularly for children and young people whose rights are at risk.

I would like to know how to build relationships with services working with children and young people who might be able to provide support, contacts, and expertise for my work.

### Equality and Non-Discrimination

I want to learn how to support children and young people to access their rights equally, with a focus on those children and young people whose rights are at risk.

### Empowerment

I want to understand children and young people's evolving capacity.

I want to support children and young people of all ages and backgrounds to express their views on matters that affect them.

I want to take children and young people's views into account in decisions that affect them.

I want to give children and young people information about things that affect them in a way they find easy to understand.

### Participation

I want to ensure that participation is child friendly, with enough time, space, and resources to ensure children and young people feel confident to take part, whatever their support needs.

I want to ensure that children and young people are given feedback on the outcomes of their participation and give feedback as part of the participation process.



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