

## Summary: Chapter 11 - Parent participation - getting more involved

“Participation” means the advice that children and their parents can give to local authorities to help develop effective policies, plans and services.

Good participation practice includes the Authority giving clear information and support to children and families and offering them a chance to be consulted at all stages of planning and service development.

Parents (and children) need to be able to influence plans for their child. If this happens successfully, they will probably be more confident to help the authority to plan at a strategic level.

Parents know their child best. Because of this, they might come up with good ideas that professionals would never have considered. They should be offered lots of different ways to share their ideas, and support to take part in planning.

Supportive Parents can help parents to feel confident and well-informed.

Parents of children with SEN can come to our Vol Reps meetings. These meetings offer a chance to meet with senior officers from the Local Authority and discuss general issues and concerns about SEN provision, policy and practice in North Somerset.