

## Information sheet for parents/carers/guardians

**Stronger voices, stronger protection:** Understanding children and young people's views and experiences of local rights and participation services

### Background:

Medway Council has asked a children's rights charity, [Article 39](#), to carry out a consultation with children and young people to help the Council **understand how to improve four specific rights and participation services: Advocacy; Medway Children and Young People Council; Independent Visiting (Befriending); and Volunteer Appropriate Adult.**

The consultation will run until early September 2021 and will focus on **understanding the experiences of children and young people aged 12 to 24 years who have accessed one or more of these services, as well as those who were unable to access them for any reason.**

The focus will be on the quality of rights and participation services, not on children and young people's personal or family circumstances.

### The consultation:

Children and young people can take part in different ways:

<b>Short, anonymous online surveys</b>	Open to young people aged 16 to 24 years The surveys will remain open until the end of August and can be completed here: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <a href="#">Advocacy</a></li><li>▪ <a href="#">Independent Visiting (Befriending)</a></li><li>▪ <a href="#">Medway Children and Young People Council</a></li><li>▪ <a href="#">(Volunteer) Appropriate Adult</a></li></ul>
<b>Group workshops via Zoom</b>	Open to children and young people aged 12 to 24 Facilitated by Article 39 - small groups, up to 10 young people £20 voucher for each participant as a token of appreciation
<b>Individual 'chats' (informal interviews) via Zoom</b>	Open to children and young people aged 12 to 24 Facilitated by Article 39 £20 voucher for each participant as a token of appreciation

Our focus is on collecting feedback which will be produced in a report for Medway Council. All contributions from children and young people will be anonymised and non-attributable. We will also work with a small group of children and young people to produce an accessible summary of the report and a short video.

**Safeguarding and consent arrangements:**

The information sheet for children and young explains the circumstances in which Article 39 would inform Medway Council about safety or welfare concerns and the process for doing so.

All children and young people taking part in Zoom chats will be asked to sign consent forms prior to taking part; for participants aged 12-15 years, consent will be additionally sought from the child's parent/guardian/social worker.

For Zoom small group workshops, consent will be recorded at the outset of each session. For participants aged 12-15 years, consent will be additionally sought from the child's parent/guardian/social worker ahead of the session.

The consent form for children and young people can be found [here](#).

The consent form for parents/carers/guardians/social workers can be found [here](#).

**Contact the project lead:**

If you have any questions or if you know children and young people who would like to take part in a Zoom chat or workshop, please get in touch with Karolina Kozlowicz, Programme Manager (Advocacy Services), Article 39:

[karolina.kozlowicz@article39.org.uk](mailto:karolina.kozlowicz@article39.org.uk) / 07309 689385.

If you would like to talk to someone from Medway Council about this project, please contact Rathini Mills, Senior Commissioning Officer, Medway Council:

[rathini.mills@medway.gov.uk](mailto:rathini.mills@medway.gov.uk) / 01634 332644

**Thank you for your help!**