



<b>Policy No:</b> SJD/YP/31	<b>Authorised by:</b> Davina Powell	<b>Review Date:</b> 20th October 2023
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<b>YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION</b>		

## Policy Statement

It is our belief that an essential part of the paramount success of a placement with SJD Homes is the active participation of a young person throughout their journey with us. In order to promote this, we ensure that, wherever possible, every young person is involved in decision making from the outset. Where it is feasible, a young person will be invited to visit their proposed placement prior to admission so they can make an informed decision as to whether the placement is right for them. Following admission, the young person will be encouraged to attend their placement agreement meeting where, in conjunction with their social worker or personal advisor, their day-to-day routines will be agreed, the desired outcomes from the placement established and any additional resources needed to support the young person will be identified.

The wishes and feelings, hopes and aspirations, of the young person are considered to be a crucial element in this process, because set targets and expectations of the placement need to be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound) if they are to be effective. If it is safe and appropriate to do so the 'wants' of the young person will be incorporated into their internal care plan. At the placement agreement meeting the young person will be provided with a guidebook which explains the 'house rules' and other important information, and also includes the complaints procedure available to young people if they have any issues or concerns relating to the placement.

Every young person is allocated a specific keyworker who will engage their key child in keywork sessions on a regular basis. Progress in achieving targets will be discussed during these sessions and the young person will be given the opportunity to raise any areas of concern, areas for further development and any additional support needed will be identified.

Young people are supported in attending and participating in their reviews and other meetings. Regular 'house meetings' are held in our homes where more than one young person is accommodated. In these meetings the young people living in the placement are given the opportunity to discuss ways in which their experiences could be improved. We are clear that our homes are the young people's home, and staff are there to facilitate a positive living experience.

Young people are provided with a 'Passport to Successful Independent Living' book in which their progress in attaining the skills essential for life are detailed and recorded. This improves their levels of self-belief and self-esteem and adds to the positive experience.

Young people are given the opportunity to provide feedback on their overall experiences by the use of internal online surveys and, for those young people who live at SJD Homes. The information obtained through such surveys is used to consistently improve the services we provide. We aim to achieve an ethos of mutual respect between our staff and the young people in our care to enable open and honest discussion and for young people to feel confident in raising issues in the certainty these will be promptly and appropriately addressed.

In summary, we believe in and encourage the active participation of every young person during the time they spend in our care and our ultimate aim is to enable them to grow and achieve and go forward knowing they are able to live their 'own lives' with confidence — armed with the necessary life skills.

