

Accessible local authority budget

This scenario was developed to support learners to consider 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 highlighted it was not gathering the views of children and young people. The leadership team want to ensure that children and young people's views are considered, particularly those whose rights are at risk.

The leadership team assign 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 inform the budget, and that children and young people would be given clear feedback on the outcomes of their participation.
- Work with the local authority Youth Council to design a set of consultation exercises and a survey that would reach large numbers of children and young people.
- Run the 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 focuses 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 particular weight to the inputs from children and young people whose rights are at risk.
- Use the data to help decide how they are allocating their budget across different services, giving particular consideration to ensuring budget is allocated for children and young people who are furthest from their rights.
- Include the data, both qualitative and quantitative, in budget reporting.
- Give feedback in a variety of formats to children and young people who participate in the consultation.
- Monitor the impact of their budget spending to ensure that the outcomes desired by children and young people are being realised.

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 for children and young people?

