

Taking Control of My Hearing pilot



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our hearings, our voice



Children and young people from the CELCIS Voice and Inclusion Project told us that they can sometimes feel powerless in Hearings because they don't know what will be discussed beforehand and do not feel well prepared.

What we did?

We worked with young experts from Our Hearings, Our Voice to co-design an improved process to help prepare children and young people coming to their Hearing. This includes re-designing the pre-Hearing visits we already offer children and young people to include more in-depth pre-Hearing planning, giving them control over as much as possible.

The young experts also designed a scrapbook to empower children and young people to take control of their Hearing. Launched in November 2023, the scrapbook includes areas for children and young people to write down how they are feeling, to customise their Hearing beforehand and to record Hearing decisions afterwards.

It also contains information about rights in the Children's Hearings System and where to get help and more information.

The scrapbook - which is actually an A5 ring binder - allows children and young people to share pages and there's blank pages if they have extra information they would like to add.

In addition, there's information about Our Hearings, Our Voice and there's a page where children and young people can design their own duck.

Feedback from Our Hearings, Our Voice

"It was a fun and interesting process and I feel so proud to have co-created it!"
Young Board Member from OHOV

"My hopes for the future is that it's something young people feel connected to and it really helps them feel comfortable and safe in Hearings."
Young Board Member from OHOV

What impact has this had so far?

A child was recently excused from attending their Grounds Hearing following a Pre-Hearing Panel. The child's father brought in the scrapbook to the Hearing that the child had almost completely filled in. He advised that she loved the book and was wanting the panel to have the pages 'My decisions' and a blank page that she had wrote a couple of other thoughts on. What she had written really helped the panel with their decision making and were really pleased to have something that had come directly from her. In addition, the father said the child loved the scrapbook. She is able to use the scrapbook for future Hearings just as the young people from Our Hearings, Our Voice envisaged.

What is next?

We will continue our evaluation of the pilot until the end of March 2024. If the success continues we will look at how we can build this new and improved process alongside the scrapbook into every Hearing experience for children and young people.



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