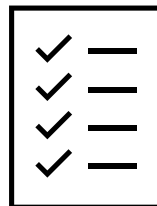
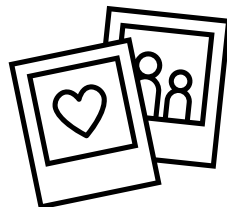
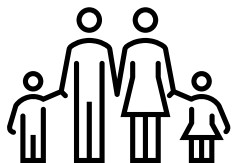
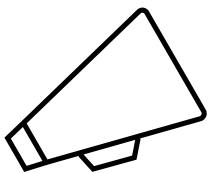


## Background:

In November 2023, a dip sample audit was undertaken to assess how well the multi-agency workforce are obtaining and acting on the Voice of the Child. The sample of children included children who were looked after, children on a Child in Need Plan and children subject of a Child Protection Plan. The children were aged between 7 and 17.

## Good Practice

- Schools demonstrated a lot of positive practice in obtaining the Voice of the Child. It was clear that the schools involved in the audit use a range of tools to obtain the child's voice and record these, enabling the Child's views to be included in multi-agency meetings.
- The voice of the child was included and acted on in the Looked After Reviews we considered as part of the sample.
- Children's Services case notes for some of the children and young people were detailed and informative. It allowed the auditors to get a real feel and understanding of what life was like for the child from the young person's perspective.



## The audit findings remind us to:

- Ensure a Child's voice is not lost within a sibling group, particularly when siblings have additional needs.
- Ensure the focus remains on the child and that the voice of parents/carers does not dominate direct work.
- Ensure the positive work undertaken to obtain the Child's voice is included in multi-agency meeting.
- Consider a wide range of tools to obtain the Child's voice, paying attention to the child/young person's age and ensuring tools are age-appropriate and engaging.
- Ensure children and young people are aware of why services are involved (where appropriate) and empower young people to attend multi-agency meetings about them.
- Ensure record keeping is up to date and accurate which includes being able to retrospectively understand when and how the Voice of the Child has been obtained.