

# 01 Background



A number of SCRs in Lancashire have found that children's voices were not heard, creating an environment where no-one knew what was actually happening to the child. SCRs LB and LE demonstrated this issue. If you would like to read them, follow this link:

[www.lancshiresafeguarding.org.uk/resources/serious-case-reviews.aspx](http://www.lancshiresafeguarding.org.uk/resources/serious-case-reviews.aspx)

Why is the Child's Voice important?

- Children feel listened to
  - When children are involved, plans are more successful
  - We can see their experience, from their point of view
- Children can develop their own story about what is happening in their lives

# Why it matters 02



When they are not listened to:

- Children are less safe
- Children are less happy and have lower wellbeing
- Children become less visible and adult needs can dominate
- Assumptions are made about children's lives
- Knowledge about children is limited to their relationships with adults
- Professionals make mistakes in their assessment of risk

# 07

## Questions

How happy are we that we always capture the child's voice?

How skilled do we feel in speaking to children?

# 03



## Information

What Children and Young People have told us?

- Get to know us; spend time with us and give us your attention

# 06



Who can you always talk to?

Who do you go to when you feel scared?

Who would you never go to when you feel scared?

Who do you go to when you feel sad?

# Voice of the Child

## What to do

Speak to children about meaningful issues. Knowing their favourite colour and meal is interesting, but does not get to the meaningful relationship based information or how safe they feel.

Using attachment-based questions such as

Who do you like to spend time with most?

Who do you miss when you are not with them?

Who can you always count on?

# 04

- Don't get us to repeat our story over and over again

- Keep us at the centre of the decisions you make

- Be honest with us and explain in a way we can understand

- Let us make some decisions about our own life

- Don't make assumptions about our thoughts and feelings



# 05