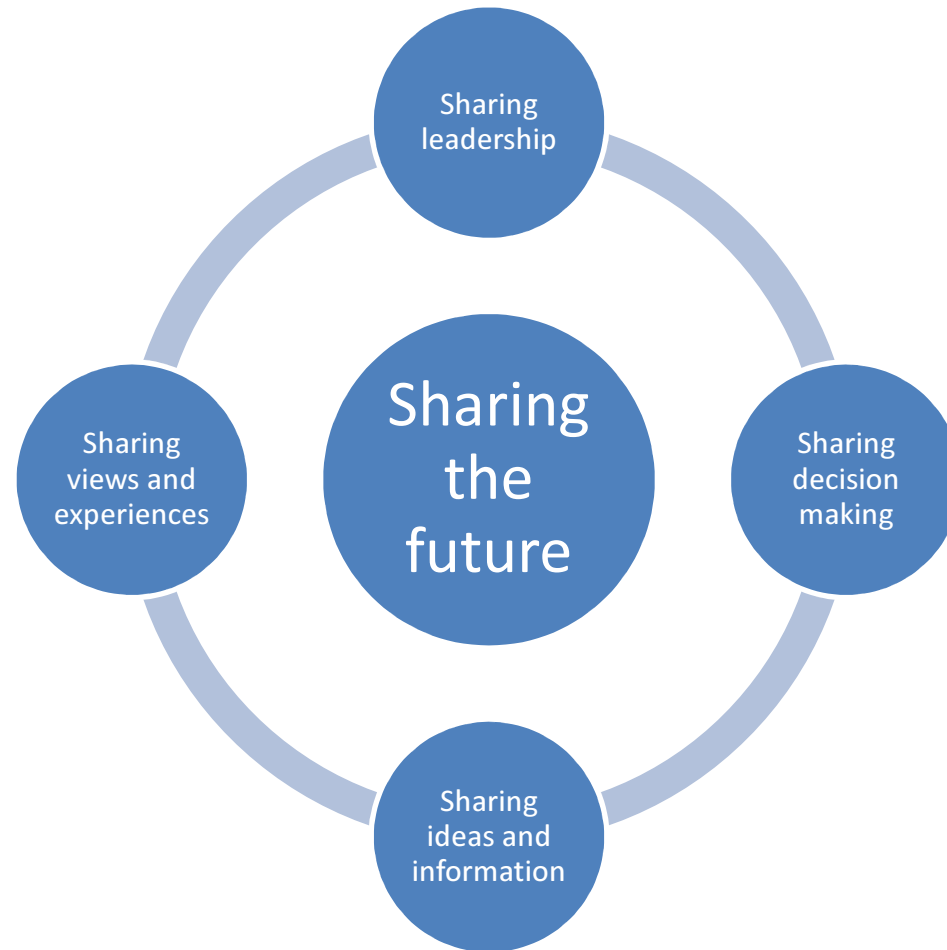# Sharing the Future

Use Sharing the Future to…

- Engage, enable and empower children and young people
- Provide strategic direction and vision to participation projects and plans
- Plan practical participation activities, plans and processes
- Monitor and manage participation plans during the process
- Assess the outcome of participation after the process
- Develop children and young people's skills, knowledge, confidence, thinking skills and leadership capacity
- Develop workforce skills and confidence
- Inspire a culture of participation and shared decision making with children and young people within your organisation

Sharing ideas and information

May include… activities and processes to exchange information about who people are, where they live and what they do with their lives; how and why things work; ideas about what might happen in the future and what future needs will be. Consideration of local, national and global change factors, societal developments, new policies and innovations. Exchange through informal and semi-formal engagement, creative activities, games and play, experimentation and performance, using virtual and traditional means.

For example, children and young people might participate in:

• *Play, youth and community events, festivals, learning centre visits, open days, pop up shops, street level engagement*

• *Lectures and talks, exhibits, demonstrations*

• *Creative performances, art, music and drama activities and exhibitions*

• *Visits to and from providers, fact finding activity, role models and mentoring, peer to peer learning activities*

Sharing views and experiences

May include… activities to enable people to freely exchange views and experiences about their lives, their aspirations and barriers; what things people need in life and what they use to get what they need; looking at how the products, services, systems and processes that exist to support people have benefited them or not; identifying what people want from the future and their ideas for change.

For example, children and young people might participate in:

- *Creatively-based group exploration activities and information exchange*
- *Focus group interviews, attitudinal and experiential surveys, behaviour discovery workshops, fact finding activity*
- *Public gatherings, meetings and forums, group discussions, citizen councils and juries, youth parliaments*
- *Stakeholder conference events, service and product -specific development, reference groups, monitoring and review activities*

Sharing decision making

May include... active citizen involvement in the process of deciding how strategies, plans, products and services are defined and developed; involvement in the implementation, delivery and review of these. Making decisions throughout the design, planning and production process, co-producing as equal stakeholders and shared beneficiaries of change.

For example, children and young people might participate in:

- *Group decision making activities, co-production groups, planning for real activity, participatory budgeting*
- *Reviewing work, making assessments and recommendations for change*
- *Developing specifications for new products, services and commissioning frameworks*
- *Participation in stakeholder voting and product/service approval processes*
- *Citizen conferences making recommendations and issuing directives*

Sharing leadership

May include… visible citizen involvement in leadership activities, at home, in the community, in education, work and training and throughout civil society, government, public, voluntary and private sector organisations. Regular, sustained involvement and participation in steering, oversight and governance structures and in all forums for public representation.

For example, children and young people might participate in:

- *Peer to peer demonstration, information sharing, dissemination activity*
- *Youth leadership volunteering, role modelling, citizenship, peer mentoring*
- *Involvement in project steering groups, panels and partnership forums*
- *Youth parliaments, cabinets and councils, youth mayor and MP projects*
- *Citizen ambassador, change-maker volunteer programmes, public speaking*
- *People's councils, community forums, citizen panels*
- *Governance boards and strategic-level partnerships*