



## Best Interests of Child, Young Person Policy



"I am encouraged to participate and my interests, needs and views are considered."

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### Intent

We give effect to and are guided by the rights and best interests of tamariki in situations involving their safety and wellbeing. We encourage young people to participate in decisions and processes that relate to them and tautoko them to understand their rights.

### Responsibilities

**Management** will support and monitor compliance with this policy in operations.

**Staff and volunteers** will implement this policy in all service delivery.

### Requirements

The following principles will be applied when we are working with children and young people/rangatahi:

**Participation** - encourage and assist tamariki/rangatahi to participate in decisions and processes that affect them and give effect to their wishes, having regard to their age, maturity and cultural needs.



**A child/youth-centric approach**, entailing:

- respect for the child's/young person's rights including those in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and in particular, rights to be treated with dignity and respect and protected from harm
- assisting the child or rangatahi to deal with the impact of harm
- building on their strengths, cultural, social and environmental factors that help them thrive even in the face of negative or adverse experiences
- prioritising the rangatahi need for stability and sense of belonging to whānau, other relationships, hapū, iwi, schooling and community
- protection for and enhancement of the mana of the child, young person (their whakapapa, link to whenua)
- supporting the whānaungatanga responsibilities of family, whānau, hapū, iwi and family group or any cultural equivalent
- decisions made promptly in a timeframe appropriate to the age and developmental stage of the rangatahi
- a holistic approach, treating the child or rangatahi as a whole person with developmental potential.

**Support for a disabled child's right to equality** and their full and effective participation in society.

**Respecting the importance of family, whānau, hapū, iwi and family group** to a young person's mana, self-understanding, identity and need for care and relationships

**Prioritising the child's/young person's best interests** when their safety and wellbeing is in issue or at risk.

## Compliance



Social Sector Accreditation Standards - Level 2, Client-centred services 1.0, 4.0; Community Wellbeing 1.0 -4.0; Cultural competence 1.0

Social Sector Accreditation Standards - Level 3, Client-centred services 1.0; Community Wellbeing 1.0

## Helpful links

[Participation and views of children and young people](#)

[VOYCE Whakarongo mai](#)

[Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)

[Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#)

## Review

Date: May 2020

Next review: by 30 August 2022