

## Appendix 2: Potential benefits of involving children

- Young people benefit as they are able to develop communication, negotiation and teamwork skills (Participation Works, 2007; Carnegie UK Trust, 2008); express themselves, develop new skills, acquire a sense of achievement, increase their self-esteem (Kirby, 2004; Participation Works, 2007; The National Youth Agency, 2007)
- Public Services benefit as it has been recognised for some time that the most beneficial method of ensuring that services are appropriate to the client group is to consult them (The National Youth Agency, 2007; Carnegie UK Trust, 2008)
- Organisations benefit as they are able to learn from children and young people, collecting evidence about their views and demonstrating that children are central to the service and that the goals of documents such as Every Child Matters (DfES, 2004) and the UNCRC (1989) are being met (Participation Works, 2007)
- Society benefits as involvement provides the opportunity for children and young people to work with other groups of society (Kirby 2004; The National Youth Agency, 2007; Carnegie UK Trust, 2008)
- Research and development benefits as children and young people can provide an alternative perspective to the professional, offering advice in relation to research methodology and the development of research tools; participation may extend to, for example, the conduction of peer interviews. In addition, children will gain more insight into service development and are more likely to develop an 'on-going dialogue' with adults (Kirby, 2004).
- Research dissemination benefits as presentation of findings, by children and young people, may have a greater audience impact (Kirby, 2004).