Funky Dragon, Wales, UK
Child participation case study

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Background

- Devolved government for Wales in 1998
- Opportunity to develop its own Assembly
- Expose of serious physical and sexual abuse of children in care homes in Wales dating back many years
- Failure to listen to children had contributed to the silencing of abuse and its continuation
- Recognition of the need to address the problem in Wales – and give children a voice
Measures introduced to promote children’s participation

- Funky Dragon, (National Children and Young People’s Assembly for Wales)
- Youth forums at municipal level
- School councils
How these initiatives relate to the Assessment Tool

School councils

- **Indicator 1:** legal framework
- **Indicator 8:** represented through own organisations in consultative mechanisms
- **Indicator 9:** public service feedback mechanisms

Youth forums

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Funky Dragon

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How did it work?

- Children elected to school councils
- Members of school councils elected to youth forum
- 3 youth forum members elected on to Grand Council of Funky Dragon
- Grand council meets 4 times a year
- Develops plans and activities
- Implementation of activities
- Feedback to councils and forums
Role of Funky Dragon

- Contribute to policies affecting children and young people
- Raise awareness of children’s right to participation as set out in the UNCRC;
- Enable children and young people to have a voice in the Welsh Government;
- Enable the collective voices of children and young people to be heard nationally by Ministers;
- Promote meaningful and effective participation through the sharing of good practice.
Illustrative examples of activities

- Research with children 7-10 years for CRC report
- Research into children’s experience of bullying
- Production of accessible and attractive materials on rights for children of different ages
- Communication with children and young people through Youtube, Twitter, Facebook
- Training for children and young people on CRC
- Regular meetings with Ministers and parliamentarians
- Feedback of proposed government policy and legislation
Examples of impact of Funky Dragon

- Development of regulations requiring all schools in Wales to establish school councils
- Pupil complaints procedure support (Indicator 5)
- Contribution to the sexual health strategy
- Help with travel costs for students
- Introduction and development of anti-bullying strategy
Current situation

Funky Dragon closed after funding withdrawn October 2014

Why?

- Government wanted to make cuts
- Indicator 1 not complied with – no legal status
- No security of status
- Vulnerable to government change of heart
- Highlights importance of compliance with all indicators in assessment tool