

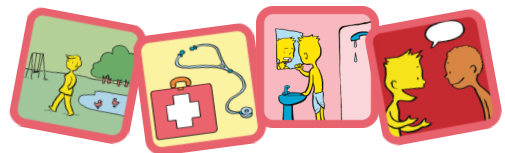
'No decision about me, without me'

The Children and Families Act 2014 and the Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) 0-25 Code of Practice require that children and young people must be involved in 'discussions and decisions about their individual support and local provision', Children and Families Act, 2014.

Under Article 12 of the UNCRC, every child has the right to give their views in matters affecting them. That view should be listened to by those who can influence and bring about the change required to maximise well-being.

Talking Mats is a person-centred communication framework that helps children and adults:

- Think about and express their views
- Have more choice and control in their lives
- Be more involved in decisions that affect them.



It is based on extensive research and designed by Speech and Language Therapists. It uses specially designed symbols and is widely used within Education, Youth Justice, Health, Social Work and Residential settings.

On a Talking Mats Foundation course you will learn how to support the children and young people you are working with to explore and express their views and feelings about a wide range of topics – including their aspirations/goals, and opening up conversations about issues such as those involving mental health/well-being, safeguarding and positive behaviour support.



Course Structure:

- Two training sessions by video conferencing (Zoom/Teams) lasting approx. 2.5 hours and one film feedback session lasting approx. 1 hour. Participants are expected to attend all 3 sessions.

Course Content:

- Presentations, videos and activities to consolidate learning;
- Assignments, including making a short film of using a Talking Mat that will be shared in the last video conferencing session. This will be a smaller group session to allow for in-depth discussion.

