

## Language Leaders: Because what we hear in Hearings matters

The language that all children experience impacts on their wellbeing, sense of self and ability to thrive. Our overall **aim** for language in the Children's Hearings system is that:

Everyone involved will recognise the power of language and use words, tone and body language in a way which supports children to feel **safe, included** and at the **centre** of their Children's Hearing.

To meet this aim, we must fulfil each of these language **principles** in the Children's Hearings system:

- Words will be **personalised** to meet the individual needs of the child, including taking account of the child's own wishes and use of language
- All language used will be clear, easy to understand and will support children to be **involved** in decision making
- Reports, letters and discussions will reflect the strengths and positives in children's lives, ensuring they are **balanced** against any challenges and risks
- Only language which is **non-stigmatising** and protects children from blame or distress will be used

The language principles interact with each other and have equal importance, as can be seen in the language diagram below:

