

Minutes of SEND Youth Forum – Norfolk SEND Partnership (NSP) & Virtual School for SEND



Date: 20th January 2021

Time: 6.30 pm – 7.30 pm

Attendees:

Belinda - Business Support – NSP

Bridget - Children & YP Supporter, NSP

Charlotte

Eve

Lewis (supported by carer)

Bethan - (Kick the Dust Youth Engagement Programme)

Shane

Jack

Apologies:

Dawn Jones – Virtual School for SEND

Agenda

1. Introductions: Informal introductions were made whilst everyone arrived. Formal introductions followed where everyone introduced themselves. We welcomed X2 new members, Shane and Jack, to the group.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting. Everyone (except Shane) confirmed that they had received and read the minutes of the previous meeting and had nothing to add or change.

Due to time, Bridget suggested that we do not follow agenda items in order and go straight to Bethan's update.

3. Update from Bethan – “Kick the Dust” Project

Bethan explained that original plans to view and choose artefacts from Norfolk Museums service, as a part of the project has had to be adapted due to COVID and the current lock-down, which have inevitably impacted on the project. Bethan explained that her and Rachel have provided the curators with ideas/prompts when seeking artefacts on their behalf.

Bethan provided examples of these prompts e.g. accessibility aids, something made by a disabled person, something which may represent a disabled person, something which has been given significance such as a wheelchair symbol. Bethan also explained that some objects may contain a hidden story/narrative.

The group supported Bethan's ideas and approach, and there was further ideas offered/discussion. Lewis' supporter suggested a public appeal for hidden artefacts in people's homes and surveys e.g. life as a disabled person in Norfolk. Bethan thanked everyone for their contributions and said she would discuss these ideas further with Rachel, from the Museums Service.

4. Norfolk SEND Strategy – Bridget explained that Norfolk has a SEND strategy, which is currently under review, and asked the group if they were aware of this, and its purpose. It was clear in discussions that this is not something young people are

aware of, but further discussion confirmed that this is an important document that YP should be consulted on.

ACTION: Bridget will access the reviewed strategy (Summary) to share with group and to seek their feedback.

5. Agree protocol for professionals seeking to consult with the group:

Bridget explained that she has received several requests from professionals within Norfolk, to seek the views of the group. Bridget shared a document she had sourced from another Youth Forum, as a starting point, to enable the group to see how other Forums manage enquiries/requests to meet with the group.

Further discussion revealed a general agreement that the group want to ensure that they are listened to and respected. Eve was clear that they would like to represent all young people with SEND, as this is a group which has been marginalised and misunderstood; ***“help all of us not just some of us”***.

The group agreed that the example could be used as a starting point for professionals to request access to the group, and that the group will look at every request received.

Agreed that any requests need to identify the outcome of any contribution/input that the group offer.

Bridget advised the group that it would be useful to publish the results/outcomes of any consultation on the website (NSP).

Further discussion around **needs** of the group, and how we communicate these to professionals, (the Forum members SEND), to enable them to consider and implement appropriate adjustments when required, so that information and opportunities are accessible to all members of the group.

Bethan suggested an anonymised list (to keep it general), e.g. “this is what people in the group will need”, a bit like a “Rider” for a performer when they provide a list of their needs when they are back-stage.

ACTION:

Bridget to amend working document to include suggestions made by the group.

Bridget to contact all participants individually to discuss individual needs and adjustments/adaptions which may need to be made to move this forward.

6. AOB

Bridget thanked everyone for attending and their valuable contributions to the meeting.

The group wished Lewis a Happy Birthday and sang “Happy Birthday”!

Bridget encouraged everyone to send in ideas for the next meeting and reminded everyone that she would contact them before we next meet in March 21. Bridget asked group if we could try to meet every X6 weeks, which was agreed.

Some ideas for discussion at the next Meeting (as ran out of time to discuss):

- **Roles and Responsibilities** (For example, as a group would you like to take on a specific role e.g. Chairperson, Secretary, Marketing, Public Speaking etc with support from Bridget or Dawn).
- **Graffiti Wall** (Website development)
- **Incentives for participation** (For example: Training courses, References on request, Certificate for

participation, Youth Awards, Thankyou letters, Expenses paid, prizes/gift vouchers).

Action: If you know someone who would like to join the group please signpost them to the Norfolk SEND Partnership website, to complete a Registration Form:

<https://www.norfolksendpartnershiass.org.uk/registration-page/>

Alternatively, ask them to email Bridget or Belinda:

belinda.coxall@norfolk.gov.uk

bridget.robinson@norfolk.gov.uk

**Or call Norfolk SEND Partnership Main Telephone Number:
01603 70 40 70.**

Date and time of next meeting:

Wednesday 3rd March 6.30pm – 7.30pm

Future Meeting dates (for your diaries!)

14th April 2021

26th May 2021

30th June 2021

14th July 2021

Please email your apologies if you are not able to attend.

Thank you for your enthusiasm, commitment, and contributions!

