



## **Norfolk SEND Youth Forum**

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023, 6:30pm – 7:30pm**

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### **Attendees:**

Dawn Jones (SEND & Inclusion, NCC)  
Belinda Coxall (Norfolk SENDIASS)  
Charlotte  
Gabriel  
Lewis  
Katrina  
Isaac  
Alec

Nicholas Demeuzois (Commissioning Officer, Commissioning, Partnerships and Resources NCC)

Hannah Robinson – (Specialist & Complex Commissioning NCC)

Mathew Talbot – (Short Breaks Inclusion Coordinator NCC)

Lorraine Cornwall – (BSL Interpreter for Matthew Talbot NCC)

#### **Apologies:**

Bridget Robinson (Norfolk SENDIASS)  
Reece  
Callum  
Charlie  
Adam Yaxley – Short Breaks (NCC)

### **Welcome to members, guests and introductions**

#### **Professional Consultation - Nicholas Demeuzois and Hannah Robinson**

We welcomed Nicolas and Hannah who came to talk about a review of SEN schools and to ask the members for their experiences and

feedback. The review would ensure that schools ask pupils their opinion, and they involve and support them when making decisions for their education and wellbeing.

Nicholas shared a questionnaire which the members completed during the meeting via the link:-

<https://forms.office.com/e/8cgGg1dEnC?origin=lprLink>

For those who were not in school education Nicholas said they could complete the questionnaire based on their most recent experiences.

There were 12 questions on three main themes:

- ❖ Your experience in the classroom
- ❖ Becoming independent
- ❖ Your voice

Feedback from the Group:-

**Communication** - My school experiences were not good. I think a lot of it was that I didn't know I was special needs/autistic at the time but the grown ups that should've picked up on things didn't. My biggest thing I want to change is I want teachers to listen to the students. Especially young ones when they say what they are worried about as so many things could've been picked up from being listened to and acknowledged but I wasn't old enough to understand what I felt

**Distance of School from Home and Transport issues** - I think it would be better to try to make us more independent closer to home, as sometimes our schools are so far away.

I went to Fred Nicholson and was picked up at 7.00 a.m. but I was able to board a couple of nights a week

**Lack of Inconsistency/Needs** - some teachers said I could do things to help me but then others said no. sometimes teachers weren't told about my needs and then I got told off for something I didn't understand was wrong

Joanne and Nicholas asked the group about their experiences of School Councils. They would be talking to School Councils to get feedback from the students rather than sending a survey.

Nicholas and Joanne to come back and update the group in Spring 2024

## **Visitors: Matthew Talbot – Short Breaks**

We welcomed Matthew Talbot, Short Breaks Co-ordinator who came to talk about school activities and short breaks.

### **Main points made by Matthew:-**

#### **After School Activities**

- After school activities
- To identify the gap in after-school provision in complex schools.
- To identify the issues and barriers linking with after-school provision

#### **Big Norfolk Holiday Fund (HAF)**

- To ensure all provision/clubs to be more accessible & inclusive for all.
- To identify the issues and barriers from C&YP, families, coaches, providers etc.

#### **PFAL (Preparing For Adult Life)**

- To identify the current services providers for 14-17yrs old
- To identify the gaps in transition to adulthood
- To identify the service needs for 14yrs

#### **Short Breaks Kite Mark**

- To develop a kite mark for all communities, clubs etc. that link with Short Breaks services and identify
- Different level = different provision

#### **Feedback from the Members**

##### **After School Activities and Barriers**

- Gymnastics, ice skating, roller blading or trampolining.
- Dancing, a youth club for 18-25, bowling
- Things where people who run and others who go understand me
- Just being able to spend time with people like me
- i like some sports but tried these but they don't understand my needs
- Would like music there was a good youth club but it got took over and not good anymore
- Skiing

- Now i am in adult services activities cost me lots of money
- There are no short breaks for adults at all
- Short breaks not funded after 18.
- Why are the short breaks so expensive?

Matthew would like to come back next year and to update the group.

### **Any Other Business**

- **Christmas Trip** – Christmas Bowling Package booked at Riverside, Norwich on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December from 11.00 to bowl and eat at Riverside Hollywood Bowl. The Bowling Package is for our Young People only and we will buy coffee/tea etc for the parents who are attending. Please note, there is a Norwich City game that day so it might be busier than normal to park etc, but we will be finished before the game starts. Anyone who wants to come please let Belinda know if you haven't done so yet. Belinda to send out email with all information.
- **Update re: SENDFest 2024** – two day event booked on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2024. One of the days will be aimed at quieter activities and a digital festival for those who do not feel able to attend so they can participate.
- Maxine Blocksidge to attend the January meeting and give more information and ask the group for ideas. Maxine to confirm the location of SENDFest City College or Easton College.
- **Practice Week Presentation** – Dawn thanked Katrina and Charlotte as they are contributing to this on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023. Well done Katrina and Charlotte.

**Thank you for all your contributions!**