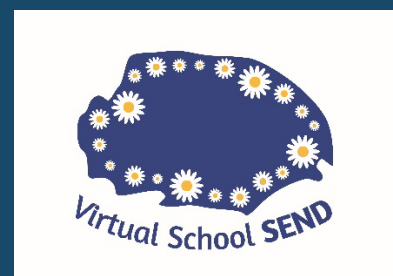


Norfolk SEND Youth Forum

UPDATE REPORT 2022

Norfolk SENDIASS
Written by: Bridget Robinson, CYP Supporter



Introduction

The Forum began in September 2020. There has been a total of X17 one-hour meetings to date, all of which have been on-line.

All meetings have an agenda, and minutes are produced after each meeting and shared with members and posted on the SENDIASS website.

Updates on current themes and issues are now shared in the SENDIASS e newsletter which is distributed to all schools and colleges in Norfolk.

All members are offered additional support from SENDIASS (CYP Supporter). Currently X1 member has been supported through the EHCP process and is at Draft plan stage.

Key Aims of the YF

Discussed and agreed by members

- Represent views of CYP in Norfolk
- Provide an opportunity for CYP to have a voice and be heard
- Discuss issues
- Engage with decision makers
- Contribute to improving and developing SEND services for CYP in Norfolk
- Create real change for CYP with SEND

CYP survey

- 133 young people accessed the survey
- 64 of those (48%) expressed an interest in the Youth Forum
- Higher % of male respondents - 2:1
- Greater response from 11- 16 cohort, but coverage of all age groups from 11-25

Membership of the group

- X29 YP have completed registration forms since September 20
- We have 11 regulars who attend the meetings (that is including the three new YP).
- We have had 3 regular members leave due to university, youth club etc.
 1. X2 YP moved on to university in Sep 21.
 2. Age range of current participants 11-26
- Range of additional needs - global development delay, dyspraxia, sensory difficulties, dyslexia, ADHD, Down syndrome, ASD, visual and hearing impairment, Developmental trauma, Learning Difficulties, Anxiety Disorder, Attachment Disorder.
- Adaptations/adjustments are discussed with CYP prior to joining to ensure they can access and participate fully, and support/phone calls provided to build confidence to attend meetings if needed.
- With the exception of X2 all our members are actively supported to access and participate in meetings by their parent/carers.

The wider context

Norfolk

- Written Statement of Action (WSOA)
- Norfolk Area SEND Strategy
- Norfolk Accessibility Strategy
- Norfolk Youth Participation Strategy

National

- Council For Disabled Children (CDC)
- “Making Ourselves Heard” Participation Forum
- KIDS Participation Network

What happens at monthly meetings

- Regular meetings (monthly from September 2021)
- Agenda co-produced with CYP
- Meetings online and Development of on-line Pinboard
- Fun activities – building trust and developing positive relationships
- Professional consultations
- Space for YF members to raise issues of concern
- Encourage social interaction and break down social isolation
- Focus on ownership - CYP developing the Youth Forum to be what *they* want it to be
- Celebration and sharing sessions

What we have achieved so far

- First meeting October 2020
- 8 meetings held October 2020 – July 2021: monthly from Sept 21 (X9)
- Solid core of regular members
- Terms of reference and Code of Conduct agreed by members
- Logo and strapline created by members
- Agreed protocol in place for professionals to engage with the Youth Forum
- A virtual blackboard or 'graffiti wall' is in place (members only access)
- Links established with CDC participation forum and KIDS
- Opportunities shared to attend regional and national participation events

CDC National Conference – 2nd June 2021

https://youtu.be/o1HQ8Yyr6_0



Professional Consultations so far

- Kick the Dust



- NASS (ongoing)
- Transition Booklets (Norfolk School)
- Accessibility Strategy (NCC)
- Mental Health and wellbeing support (MAP)
- Local Offer CYP pages (NCC)
- Provision Expected at SEN Support (PEaSS)
- Post-14 health checks (Health)
- Home to school Transport (NCC)
- JON /Healthy Child Programme (Health)
- Transition
- Norfolk SEND Participation strategy

Scheduled consultations

- Help you Choose (Review on-line information)
- CCN Additional Needs & Disability Degree (Review content)
- Social Care/EHCP
- SEN Operational Team – EHCP Letter Review

Professional feedback

All professionals are invited to return for a second visit to inform members of how their views have been listened to/acted upon. From September 22, we will also be introducing a pre meeting with them to guide them on how to present information to the group and access feedback from them with consideration of member's needs, and an evaluation form for professionals to complete, to formalize and document the process further.

However there has been very positive feedback without this requirement, please see a sample below:

RE: Just One Norfolk Web-site - CYP

"Firstly, can I say how good it was to join the young people and yourselves again last night we really appreciate their time. Fabulous lively group and fun sessions.

I cannot again apologise enough to the young people regards the mood boards and the need for them to point out regards imagery and inclusivity, it should not be necessary!!

Thank the young people for being open and honest and reassure them that this is exactly why it is important they are involved throughout all the stages of development and their views truly valued.

I have sent the mood boards back to the digital team with a request to change images and be more inclusive regards SEND and about the 3rd board being very female orientated regards pictures.

I will then send these through to you to share if this is ok.

I want to show the young people we do mean it when we say we are listening, and we can and will respond to their feedback and make relevant changes as we go along - their voice is valued.

Great comments regard the colour psychology - have fed this back too as think could be really relevant when considering the subject matter of the page - maybe vibrant colours when sharing fun /motivational activities and calmer /pastel colours for e.g., emotional wellbeing pages.

Thank everyone again and look forward to joining you again soon. "

Michelle Williams – Healthy Child programme, May 22

RE: Kick the Dust Project (Norfolk museums Service)

“Just a quick update: It seems a long time ago that Bethan and I first met with the forum to discuss accessioning toys that represent disability into the Museum’s collections, but the wheels have been slowly turning in the background! The good news is that as a result of our consultation with the forum Bethan and I have successfully lobbied for the inclusion of a fidget spinner to represent neurodiversity and a Lego figure in a wheelchair to represent physical disability. Both should be in the collections in time for the launch of the Nothing About Us Without Us exhibition in Disability History Month this year. I aim to have Bethan and the Forum credited in the official museum records for this!”

Rachel Duffield – Norfolk Museums Service, Kick the Dust Project, July 21

RE: 14 + LD Health Checks

“It was a great experience for me and happy to provide anything else needed to the group if I can and relates to the NHS health.”

***Mark Gower, Designated Clinical Officer (SEND), February 22
NHS Norfolk and Waveney Clinical Commissioning Group***

RE: School Transition booklets

“This is lovely- please thank the two participants for me- really useful insights. I have passed them along to the schools writing the new booklets this year for their consideration!”

Best wishes

Emma

***Emma van Deventer, April 21
NOA Transition Project Manager***

RE: Norfolk Accessibility Strategy

“And please just thank them all for their support – this is the result of their work and contributions, and I certainly couldn’t have done it without them 😊”

Steph Askew, November 21

Issued raised by members

Accessibility

To be explored further as part of ongoing consultation on the Accessibility Strategy (Steph Askew)

CAMHS service and access to timely mental health support

Requested a representative from MAP to attend. Discussion around 1st draft of the Youth in Mind mental health charter and opportunity to feedback via survey <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/CYPMentalHealthServiceCharter/>

Promotion/recruitment

- Local Offer
- SEND ebulletin
- SENDIASS website, E newsletter and social media
- SEND Forums
- Family Voice Q & A
- Visits to settings

What do our members say?

“It’s really good that we are coming together and making new friends.”

“Before high school, students need someone to teach them to learn to stand up for themselves and demand what they need, but at times, if they are a young child talking to a teacher in authority, it’s not that easy.”

“No-one can do this (create meaningful change) by themselves.”

“A group of people like you, that feel like you”.

“It’s a great social group and the chance to share opinions and experiences. We are all unique and all brilliant”

“If you are looking for a safe place with a community of incredible understanding and chats for people with, SEND this is the place. It is the most accepting group and a breath of fresh air, and the meetings have helped more than I could explain, it is awesome.”



What stops you being involved?





The best thing about the group:

- I like seeing other people
- I appreciate our group's sense of community and support for one another
- My favourite thing about our group is how open and honest everyone is
- I love how the group members support each other
- I absolutely adore that it's such a loving accepting community and I always feel so inspired and happy here
- It's amazing that we can feel we are making a change and people are so kind towards us here
- I feel valued
- It is fun and I always enjoy coming

I feel listened to when:

- I share my thoughts and opinions
- Others are accepting of what I say and show an interest in my views and thoughts
- People care about how I feel
- People notice and care about what I have to say

When I have an impact, I feel:

- Proud
- Valued
- Motivated to continue
- Powerful
- Like I have a purpose, like everything I went through was worth it
- Respected



What next?

Longer term...

- Member's survey (on-line poll) for members July 22 (Evaluation).
- Identify ways to broaden the participation base (explore the best ways to reach out to more CYP e.g., through participation networks, educational settings, community groups)
- Input into CYP pages on SEND Local Offer (lived experiences)
- Develop resources and cascade good practice guidance and practical tools to help education settings and other groups working with CYP to develop authentic participation
- Continue to link up with other professionals and groups working on participation to develop and share good practice and to provide opportunities for members to be involved in initiatives and consultations at a local, regional, and national level
- Develop marketing/promotion materials – working with John Nice, NCC to produce professionals' videos.
- Animation video (SENDIASS)



Challenges

1. Funding /Resources– currently PT CYP supporter post within SENDIASS Service (Permanent) and working in partnership with Dawn Jones (Inclusion).

However, we would like to work towards obtaining resources to offer face to face opportunities, as well as rewards/renumeration for attendance at meetings and interim contributions. Ideally all Participation groups would have a standardised and supported system of rewards for participation.

2. Membership – On-going work to promote the group and encourage growth in membership. Some original members have moved on as access University.

We have had a larger number of CYP register to join than who subsequently attend on-line meetings. Follow up work has established that in most instances it is the parent/carer who has registered the CYP, and the CYP have not wanted to participate.

3. Structural support

We have had meetings with John Nice and Christina Fox (NCC) to move this forward. Whilst in conjunction with our members we are confident that through supported facilitation we can access and obtain content, we would like to access the expertise required to produce professional comms, videos, podcasts etc to both promote the group and increase membership, as well as share the experiences and views of our members to a wider audience. Our members are keen to co-produce and be involved!