



Norfolk SEND Youth Forum - Minutes of meeting - 7th October 2020 5.30-6.45pm

Attendees/apologies:

Belinda Coxall - SENDIASS Business Support, Bridget Robinson - Children and YP SENDIASS Supporter, Dawn Jones - Virtual School for SEND
YP - Charlotte, Eve, Lewis (supported by mum)
Apologies: Euan

Introductions:

Informal introductions were made whilst everyone arrived. Formal introductions followed where everyone told us their name, age and something about themselves.

Zoom icons:

For some of us, we are still getting used to Zoom! Bridget explained the different symbols each of the group can access and use and we all had a go! This also included pressing on chat, to write comments, and raising a hand to speak and contribute to the discussion.

Sharing experiences:

Dawn invited members to describe positive/negative experiences of the support they have received in school/college & training. Discussion around specific adjustments in learning resources, that do not meet specific needs. For example, Eve highlighted how handouts might be enlarged, but the font type and size are not adapted to meet specific needs.

Charlotte explained that often a learner may require further explanation to ensure they are confident in a task they are given, to enable them to be able to do it well.

Lewis provided an example of good practice – he explained that in the past he has had a “Gig buddy” (with MENCAP).

Everyone agreed that more can be done to create a learning experience which is more inclusive; which enables learners to feel more part of their learning community.



Aims and objectives of the SEND Youth Forum:

Members were asked to consider why they had wanted to be part of the group, and what they hoped to achieve. Bridget presented initial ideas for discussion of the purpose of the group. These were:

- Represent views of Young People with SEND
- Opportunity for Young People to have a voice
- Discuss issues
- Engage with decision makers
- Contribute to SEND Services; work towards improving and developing provision

The Forum members said that they agreed with these and were not vastly different to their initial reasons for joining the group. Tracey (Lewis mum) raised the concern that this did not mention the need to make positive changes, which was acknowledged.

Action: Bridget to amend Groups working Aims and Objectives, to include this, for approval by the group at the next meeting.

Ground-rules/code of conduct:

Bridget explained that to ensure that all members feel safe and comfortable in the group, that it was important that the Forum members agreed some ground-rules, so everyone understands what is acceptable, or unacceptable behaviour when we meet. All members were encouraged to contribute their ideas. These were:

- Listen to each other.
- Do not interrupt
- No bad words (swearing)
- Good manners
- Supportive of each other's ideas
- Agree to disagree
- Respect one another
- Avoid conflict/arguments
- Be kind

Action: Bridget to write these down, and for them to be agreed formally at the next meeting. These can be added to as required and will be reviewed at each meeting to remind everyone of them.



Mission statement:

Bridget explained that we needed a “strap-line” to promote the group. Bridget asked them to imagine we were creating a TV advert, and for members to think about a word/ sentence we could use to promote the group. Bridget offered an example, “ SEND Youth Forum – Have your say” but admitted this was a weak effort and hoped that between meetings the members could think about this and offer ideas when we next meet.

Action: Members to have one idea for a strapline to share at the next meeting.

Group logo:

Dawn shared some examples of logos and invited members to use the hand-out (sent after meeting to all participants), to be creative and have a go at designing a Logo for the group.

Action: Members to have a go at designing Logo to share with the group at the next meeting. Please can these be sent to Belinda, via email, before the next meeting, as she can then share her screen and enable visual ideas (pictures/designs) to be looked at and shared.

Final challenge:

Bridget thanked everyone for attending our first SEND Youth Forum, and congratulated Eve, Charlotte and Lewis for being founding members!

Bridget encouraged members to invite a friend to the next meeting.

Action: If you know someone who would like to join the group please ask them to email Bridget or Belinda, so they can be sent an invite.

belinda.coxall@norfolk.gov.uk
bridget.robinson@norfolk.gov.uk

Date and time of next meeting:

Wednesday 25th November @ 6.30pm

Please note that we have agreed to meet later, to provide more time for members to return home. Please email your apologies if you are not able to attend.