

**Norfolk SEND Youth Forum**

**Wednesday 17th April 2024, 6:30pm – 7:30pm**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:**

Bridget Robinson (Norfolk SENDIASS)

Dawn Jones (SEND & Inclusion, NCC)

Belinda Coxall (Norfolk SENDIASS)

Laura Back (Norfolk SENDIASS)

Maxine Blocksidge (SEND Adviser, NCC)

Amy Driver (SEND Participation Officer, NCC)

Charlotte

Gabriel

Alec

Katrina

Isaac

Reece

Callum – joined later.

Charlie

**Introductions**

Laura, Amy and Maxine and the members of the Youth Forum introduced themselves.

**Flourish Pledge 2**

Dawn reminded everyone that at the last meeting we talked about Flourish and the first pledge “Family and Friends”.

In this meeting we looked at the second pledge “Learning” which is “children and young people are achieving their full potential and developing skills which prepare them for life”.

Dawn asked how being part of Youth Forum had helped them to flourish for example public speaking, forming friendships and gaining confidence.

Youth Forum responses: -

* It’s about being able to do what I want to do in the best possible ways to make me happy.
* It has helped me gain confidence and helped me learn to unmask and be myself. It’s given me a safe happy place that accepts me for who I am.
* I spoke to people in a meeting without my camera on
* It has given me more knowledge about some of the things that are happening in Norfolk.
* To let me have a go at things.
* The Youth Forum has just made me feel so safe and I have finally found people that want me to be myself and not a “well behaved” masked version of myself.
* It is making me feel better being here meeting with people on the laptop.

Dawn asked what other skills the Group would like to gain. At the last meeting suggestions included childcare, first aid and public speaking.

Suggestions from the Group:-

* Cookery
* Life skills sessions
* Managing money such as learning about banks and all the complicated adult stuff
* Technology
* To help me achieve more in my life as things are harder once you finish school and college.
* Helping me find courses that i can access.

Actions

* Cookery lesson- Maxine offered to provide this
* First aid training- Belinda has a contact for this
* Guidance Advisor for Post 16 – Bridget
* We need to look at when these activities can take place - Bridget

Dawn thanked the Youth Forum for their input.

**NCC SEND Strategy**

Amy is a children and young people’s participation officer at Norfolk County Council and came to the meeting to talk about the Norfolk Area SEND and Alterative Provision Strategy. This document explains the plans in place to support and improve the experiences of children and young people with SEND.

Amy asked the Group for help to make the wording clear so that everyone can access and read and understand the document.

Amy talked about two parts of the document: -

* My family is supported.
* My friends and activities.

**My family is supported**

There are three sections definition, outcome, and key priorities.

**Definition**

Trusted, relevant and accessible information advice and support is made available to families as needed.

**Feedback from the Group**

* Trusted, relevant and accessible – words difficult to understand

**Outcome**

My family know where they can go to get help to meet their needs and mine.

**Key Priorities**

My family feels supported.

My family is supported to know how to access the information, advice and support they need for themselves.

My family can talk to a professional and are confident they will help them feel listened to and supported when they need it.

My wider family, friends and local community is provided with information, help, and supported as needed.

Information advice and support is made available and provided in a way that meets the needs of everyone who needs it.

**Feedback from the Group**

* My family is supported – unsure about the word “supported”.
* Who is a professional – definition of who that is?
* What is wider family – explain the wording?
* Information, advice, and support is made available and provided in a way that meets the needs of everyone – the group asked for examples.

**My friends and activities**

**Definition**

CYP and their families are provided with a wide range of experiences and opportunities and are supported to actively engage with these.

**Feedback from the Group**

* CYP – wanted an explanation of meaning and not use acronyms.
* Wide Range and Actively Engage – unsure what these words mean.

Amy stopped going through the rest of the Friends and Activities outcome and key priorities as we ran out of time in this meeting.

Maxine said that other groups had looked at the document and some of the changes the Group suggested had also been flagged up them.

Amy thanked the group for all their help and will feedback the changes.

**SENDfest**

Maxine attended the meeting with an update on SENDfest 24

**Feedback/Improvements from last year’s SENDfest**

* Wristbands – paper ones so can be easily removed.
* Catering options including ‘free from’ – more options to reduce queues.
* Animal encounters
* Vehicles with tail-lifts – for better access
* Additional exploration options
* Food allergy zone
* Implementation of quieter day
* Marketplace Zone – all in one place
* Car Parking- improved car parking
* Accessibility

**SENDfest 2024**  
**Two Day Event**  
Saturday 1st June - Chilled Vibes'  
Sunday 2nd June - 'Festival Vibes'  
Retro Theming and Digital Festival

**New for 2024**  
Shadow Puppetry  
Coding Workshops  
Yoga Rap  
Lego Explorers  
Deaf Rave  
Sound Bath  
Board Game Café  
Boxercise  
Karaoke Zone  
Bath Bomb Making  
Social media  
Cake Decorating  
Edible East - Workshops and projects combine art, science and horticulture to promote dialogue for a healthy planet and healthy people

* A sensory exploration of all the different parts of a plant using a ‘show and tell’ table and taking that experience on to create your own imaginary collage plant, finishing off with sowing a real plant to take away.
* Draw around stencils of British Sign Language 'handshapes' to tell a visual story of people and creatures in a landscape.
* Watch the visual magic happen - a visual and tactile printmaking activity using real plants. Having fun with colour to create amazing botanical prints! (Take away your own printed t-shirt or bag.)

Circus Skills  
Beauty  
Conductive Music  
Work Experience – if anyone interested in being a SENDfest volunteer to support staff or help on the Youth Forum stall on any of the two days to let us know  
Johnny 5 – Gabriel asked about Jonny 5 theme music. Max confirmed this is in place.

**AOB**

**Ambassador Role**

Bridget asked if anyone would like to be an ambassador to promote the group and make us more well known. The ambassadors would be given training to build their skills to help them do this.

**FLOURISH Awards**

Bridget asked if anyone was interested in being part of a panel to judge the applications for the Flourish Awards.

Date to be confirmed but will be a Saturday in June at County Hall.

Closing date for applications - 3rd May 2024.

Details to be emailed by Belinda

**Thank you for all your contributions!**