



Norfolk SEND Youth Forum

Wednesday 18th October 2023, 6:30 pm – 7:30pm

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Charlotte	Belinda Coxall (Norfolk SENDIASS)
Gabriel	Bridget Robinson (Norfolk SENDIASS)
Lewis	Dawn Jones (SEND & Inclusion, NCC)
Charlotte	Maxine Blocksidge (SEND Adviser, NCC)
Katrina	Rebekah Wakefield (Participation Officer, NCC)
Isaac	
Alec	
Reece	
Callum	

1. Welcome to new members and introductions.

2. Visitor: Maxine Blocksidge

Max shared a presentation about NCC SEND Survey 2023 and shared some of the results from this.

For example:

In 2022, only 62 children and young people in Norfolk completed the SEND survey.

In 2023...

381 children and young people completed the survey!

Questions:

Q1: What actions do we (the council) need to take?

Group Feedback:

- *“More people need to be educated on SEND and autism. Especially healthcare providers. I’ve had so many unhelpful comments and blocks in the road from people that don’t understand or try to help.”*
- One member talked about a friend who is on a 2-year waiting list to get some help with their mental health, and the need for help to be made available more quickly, including more community support.

Q2: How would you (children & young people) like to be involved?

Members agreed they would be happy to meet with Maxine again to help NCC, to identify the priorities for children, young people, and their families with SEND, and to work towards improving services to support them.

Q3: How should we share the results with children and young people?

Members made some useful suggestions which were:

- On-line
- Video
- Posters
- Leaflets

Visitor: Rebekah Wakefield, CYP Participation Officer, NCC (Youth Parliament.)

Rebekah explained that she supports young people to get involved with Youth Parliament, and the Norfolk Youth Parliament Forum.

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/your-local-councils-and-mps/norfolk-youth-parliament>

Norfolk Youth Parliament forum

The Norfolk Youth Parliament forum meets at least once a month, and anyone aged 11-18 years old can join.

As a member, you'll get the opportunity to:

- Meet with other young people from Norfolk.
- Discuss the big issues young people are facing right now.
- Provide support for Youth Parliament Members
- Take part in campaigns to tackle issues facing young people.
- Attend regional and national events where you'll meet young people from across the UK.

It's free to join the forum. We will provide support with things like transport to make sure you can attend meetings and events.

If you would like to join the forum, email ymp@norfolk.gov.uk.

We have had further discussions with Rebekah; if you would like more information about this, or would like to join the Youth Parliament Forum, please let us know and we will support you to do this.

4. Discussion around Community Safety

(Members views will be added to feedback from other young people who attended a one-day participation event in August at Eastern College on this theme.)

- Lewis always feels safe because he is always with someone who he can trust.
- Reece feels safe in his room watching TV.
- Gabriel said 'safe-Home-College-Unsafe Dodgy Crossing on Car park access road (have to cross when main traffic lights are green which is only a few seconds)'.
• Karina doesn't feel safe when its dark
- Charlie feels safe at school.
- Charlotte feels safe with grandad and some other people. But unsafe with noisy cars because they come up and she must put her hands over her ears. Sometimes she walks in the road and mum must stop her.
- Katrina says she can't cope with the cars noise either.

- Gabriel says, 'I HATE the Occasional Boy racer racing down our road at 40+MPH at night! little to no trick or treaters in the last few years probs due to this.'
- Charlotte says she feels unsafe in crowds.

What can help with feeling safe?

- Being with someone you trust.
- Having a torch.
- Lewis says friends make him feel safe.
- Gabriel says 'poorly lit street and road is lit with purple streetlight followed by nothing until in village (around 0.3 mile walk to village centre down a non-pavement road that is very badly lit in the village direction) (hazard). And street racing is very unsettling. Need at certain busy times a police car parked up (especially around the towns Christmas lights switch on as its boy racers galore as high street is closed till 8PM)'

AOB

- Christmas Outing – We asked members to tell us about their preference for a Christmas outing, and bowling and food seemed to be the most popular choice. Date of outing is 9th December, venue and times TBC.
- A huge thank you to Katrina, Charlotte, Isaac and Charlie, who made up a Young Person panel on behalf of Norfolk SENDIASS, to recruit X2 Advice and Engagement Officers in October. They took turns to ask each candidate a question and were thoughtful and perceptive in their observations and feedback.
- Katrina and Charlotte have volunteered to work with Bridget on the theme of Friends & Family, for a presentation during Practice Week for Childrens Services staff, on 23rd November 5.30pm – 6.30pm. **ACTION:** Bridget to contact both to discuss and prepare for.
- Anti-bullying conference 16.11.23 Thetford – theme neurodiversity <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/norfolk-youth-against-bullying-conference-2023-tickets-703364922417>

Thank you for all your contributions!