

**Norfolk SEND Youth Forum**

**Wednesday 16th October 2024, 6:30pm – 7:30pm**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:**

Bridget Robinson (Norfolk SENDIASS)

Belinda Coxall (Norfolk SENDIASS)

Dawn Jones (Inclusion & SEND, NCC)

Gabriel

Alec

Isaac

Reece

Charlotte

Charlie

Lily

**Apologies:** Katrina and Callum

**Welcome and introductions**

Everyone introduced themselves and talked about what they had been doing recently.

**Flourish Award Ceremony - 25th September 2024**

Charlotte, Charlie and Dawn represented the Youth Forum at the Flourish Award Ceremony on 25th September 2024.

Charlotte and Charlie updated the group about the ceremony, and they had a fun night, really enjoyed themselves and met lots of different groups of people. Dawn shared a photo of a framed certificate the Youth Forum were presented with.

The Youth Forum did not win their category, but it was a massive achievement for them to be a finalist.

Charlotte and Charlie were fantastic ambassadors for the Youth Forum and we are very proud of both of them for representing us on the night.

Link for the ceremony and the winners: -

[Flourish Awards 2024 celebrates exceptional contributions to children and young people in Norfolk - Norfolk County Council](https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/62557/Flourish-Awards-2024-celebrates-exceptional-contributions-to-children-and-young-people-in-Norfolk)

**Practice Week 18th – 22nd November 2024**

Some members are taking part in practice week and in preparation for this Bridget asked for their views based around opportunities for young people and what barriers get in the way.

The theme is Opportunity - ‘Children and young people develop as well-rounded individuals through access to a wide range of opportunities which nurture their interests and talents’

**Question 1:** **Can you tell us what gets in the way (barriers) from accessing new opportunities** **- college/school/training/employment**

* Risk assessments at schools too restrictive and do not always cover young people with SEND.
* Schools need to be more patient with us and be prepared to make extra help for us. Previous schools I’ve been to have sometimes been too lazy to do things for young people with additional needs.
* Schools do not listen to me.
* School did not allow me to take my wheelchair on a trip even though needed it. I took the wheelchair with me and when I used it the school said it was a good job, I bought it even they had said I didn’t need it. School did not listen to me.
* Work experience - Automatic response from most schools - my so called "work experience" opportunity was only one thing working in a charity shop or help with woodland maintenance and I wanted to work with children.
* Wanted to be a volunteer at the hospital but not given chance after training due to epilepsy. They raised my expectations but left me disappointed and frustrated as was not offered opportunity to be a volunteer after the training.
* When I was trying to get volunteering/work, the man wasn't listening to what I wanted to do.
* Want to attend places such as social clubs on my own and be independent and can be frustrating as have to rely on parents/carers.
* Find it difficult to travel by myself as I need to keep safe but want to be more independent.
* The effort needed when you have additional needs is more exhausting for us than other young people.
* I need prescription medication for my ADHD which can result in me not able to access certain job opportunities that I would like to do.
* Having no prior information about an event can cause anxiety, and I worry about things. The barrier is there is not enough information so I can be prepared.

**Question 2:** What needs to change to enable young people with SEND to access new opportunities?

* I think people need to be more understanding and help us when we need it, but also not "baby" anyone and approach problems in the right way that makes us feel listened to and supported.
* People need to be more educated about SEND and treat everyone as an individual.
* i think it’s also disappointing in a way when we do get supported in the right way because it shows how let down, we have been in the past.
* People do not see hidden conditions
* It is getting harder as we get older.
* Want to be independent and see other people doing what they want to do but I can’t

Bridget will collect the comments and use them to form the basis for the presentation.

**Christmas Trip - Saturday 7th December 2024**

The group were asked to vote for their preferences for the Christmas outing: -

* Crazy golf at the Castle Mall
* Cookery party

The voting was very close and Crazy Golf was the preferred choice.

The cookery party will be booked for our next social event which will be on 29th March 2025.

The Crazy Golf outing details will be talked about at the next meeting.

**Flourish Youth awards for Volunteering and Participation**

This was talked about at the last meeting and being part of the Youth Forum counts towards gaining the volunteering and participation certificate.

Charlotte, Charlie, Gabriel and Lily were interested in completing this.

Bridget will do the paperwork and contact those interested.

**NCC - Youth Voice Day**

Bridget received information about the Youth Voice Day workshops on October 31st, 2024, at The Jubilee Centre at Easton College. The theme this time is ‘Education and Learning’.

Bridget said Jo Thompson from SENDIASS will be there to support any members as Dawn and Bridget are unable to attend.

Gabriel, Charlotte and Lily interested, and Bridget will email the details.

**Free Workshop Young People and Employability**

Bridget shared information about a free workshop by Young NCB focusing on Building Skills for Employment, which will take place on ­­Wednesday 23rd October 4.30pm to 5.45pm on Zoom**.**

Charlotte, Gabriel and Lily interested, and Bridget will email details.

**Norfolk and Norwich Hospital Service improvement audit**

Bridget shared a flyer (attached with the minutes) from Tara Webster, Learning Disability/Autism specialist nurse at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital.

An audit is being done and the hospital is looking for volunteers aged 16+ who have a diagnosis of a Learning Disability and/or Autism to tell them what they think of the A&E department. The audit is in the early stages of planning and there will be workshops to prepare and brief everyone who wishes to be involved within the next few months.

If you are interested contact Belinda and your details will be passed on to Tara.

**Joint trip with Article 12 Gamers Group**

Bridget received an invite from the Article 12 Gamers Group for the Youth Forum to join them on for their Christmas event on 18th December at High Altitude Trampolining.

The group wanted to attend but as the activity was not inclusive for all members they decided to say ‘no’ this time but would like to consider any future events.

**Professional Consultation**

Bridget asked the group about a professional consultation request looking at an initial global development delay diagnosis and having no additional checks or support after that.

The group agreed to this professional consultation and one of the members had the same issue so will share their experiences.

**SEND Events**

Dawn shared a link on the Local Offer about SEND events and activities which were took place each month and may be of interest to the group.

[Things to do for children and young people with SEND - Norfolk County Council](https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/40557/Things-to-do-for-children-and-young-people-with-SEND)

**Any other business** (AOB)

There was no other business.

**Thank you for all your contributions!**